



International Peace & Conflict Resolution NEWSLETTER

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IPCR Says Goodbye to Program Coordinator



Zen Hunter-Ishikawa

IPCR would like to bid farewell to alumnus and Program Coordinator Zen Hunter-Ishikawa (IPCR MA '03). Zen has accepted a new senior management position at the El-Hibri Charitable Foundation (ECF), where he will be responsible for the management of the ECF building as well as reviewing proposals and identifying new funding opportunities for ECF. In addition to his duties at ECF, Zen will be providing support for the Karamah Foundation, an ECF beneficiary. Zen served as the sixth Program Coordinator for the Division of International Peace and Conflict Resolution from January 4, 2006 to November 16, 2007. IPCR Director Ron Fisher noted Hunter Ishikawa's contributions to the IPCR program. "Zen brought the Program Coordinator's office of IPCR to a new level of operation in terms of scope and activity, with initiatives in networking, fundraising and communicating with prospective and current students and alumni. Many of the developments that he has spearheaded will become a continuing part of IPCR's work, and will enable us to serve students and the field of peace and conflict resolution in a broader and more effective manner."

IPCR ALUM Named to Maryland Legislature

On October 2nd of this year Kirill Reznik (IPCR MA '98) was appointed to the Maryland House of Delegates in District 39 (Montgomery County). Reznik is a member of the Health and Government Operations Committee, which handles issues ranging from immigration, to professional standards, to health care reform. Reznick has

always interested in politics, but had not planned on running when the seat became available. However, when the opportunity arose he decided to seek the seat through the district Democratic Central Committee. He just completed his first session, and is particularly proud of health care legislation drafted in his committee that extended health care coverage to an additional 100,000 uninsured residents of



Kirill Reznik

Maryland. In addition to committee and legislative work, a Delegate also works with constituents and promotes upcoming bills to the public. Reznik's interests include: immigration, human rights, hate crimes, and economic development for small and minority owned businesses. Reznik has found that his training at IPCR has been valuable in helping him with his legislative work. "Being able to discern issues and assess situations has been incredibly valuable in doing what I need to accomplish for my constituents," he notes. In a more general sense he feels that peace and conflict resolution study is preparation for any field, "it gives you a tremendous skill set to live life. We deal with conflict every day; usually it is mild, but being able to deal with it is a great skill."

Students interested in Maryland legislative issues or who are interested in interning at in the House of Delegates can contact Delegate Reznik at kirill.reznik@house.state.md.us

Businessman donates \$25,000 to endowed SIS chair

Izzat Majeed, chief executive of Alyph Limited, an investment company based in the United Kingdom, presented a \$25,000 check to School of International Service (SIS) professor Akbar Ahmed last Wednesday to benefit the Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies in SIS, which Ahmed holds. Majeed, right, who held various teaching posts prior to his business career, also chatted with graduate students in Ahmed's "Dialogue or Clash of Cultures" class about the current political turmoil in Pakistan.



Izzat Majeed, right, addresses SIS students.

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State Awards \$1.5 Million to Center for Global Peace

AU's Center for Global Peace has been awarded \$1.5 million from the U.S. Department of State to continue its work on human rights in Iraq. The 18-month grant will continue the work begun by the center establishing a human rights commission and enable it to work effectively in Iraq's challenging circumstances. Carole O'Leary, director of the Iraq Human Rights Commission Program, is optimistic the commission will be established by the end of this year. The center has also designed a capacity-building program to assist the commission when it launches its work. The AU team has been working to build bridges among key human rights institutions in Iraq, including the human rights ministry and the parliamentary committee on human rights.

The center's previous \$900,000 grant enabled the team to conduct training and capacity building for Iraqi leaders in Amman, Jordan, which "gave them a psychological break from the violence," O'Leary said. The center also has worked closely with key leaders to create a human rights commission and has designed a document to ensure that the human rights institutions are clear on their roles. In addition to O'Leary, the Iraq Human Rights Commission Project team includes faculty members Julie Mertus, School of International Service (SIS); Mary Gray, College of Arts and Sciences; senior advisor and coprincipal investigator Abdul Aziz Said, SIS; Kathy Guernsey, adjunct faculty, SIS; Janet Lord, human rights expert and lawyer; Betty Sitka, Center for Global Peace; and project manager Chris Argyris, a graduate student at SIS.

"Hot Topic" Dialogue Series

Where else on campus can you have an ongoing and honest conversation about stereotypes of Arabs and Americans, misperceptions of Islam, discrimination against Muslims in America and abroad in a safe and comfortable space with a group of people you've never met before? The Dialogue

Development Group's sustained dialogue on Islam and the US, offered me the rare opportunity to gather together with fellow students, alumni and AU staff to engage in an honest dialogue about such "hot topics." As an IPCR student interested in dialogue processes, but also as an involved dialogue participant, I found great value in developing a relationship with our dialogue group over many weeks—bringing our weekly conversations to new depths of exchange and transformation.

The Dialogue Development Group (DDG) is a student-run organization founded in the fall of 2006 with the goal of engaging the AU community in dialogue on social identities, differences, inequalities and social change. Dialogue as DDG defines it, is "a sustained, collaboratively structured conversation where participants from one, two, or more 'social identity groups' speak from their personal experience and explore both the differences and the common ground that exist among them." This fall, DDG hosted five dialogue sessions, co-facilitated by trained graduate students and alumni, on the following topics: Islam and the US, Light-Skinned and Dark-Skinned Men, Women and Power, Immigration, and How Do Our Faiths Unite and Divide Us?

Over 75 participants enrolled in the sessions, more than double the number of participants from the previous semester. DDG is pleased with the increase of participants from a diverse mix of AU students, staff and alumni and is currently in the process of planning the spring semester dialogue topics, with hopes for an ever larger body of participants. In addition to participating in a unique dialogue experience, many students (both undergraduate and graduate) are able to fulfill course requirements through their participation in a dialogue series.

Elli Nagai-Rothe is a first year M.A. student in the IPCR program, and a DDG member.

For more information on DDG dialogue sessions, please contact Emily Siegel: ddg@american.edu and/or visit www.aupeace.org/ddg

Caitlin Burnett

Caitlin Burnett is a second year student in the Ethics, Peace and Global Affairs Program.



Caitlin Burnett

Her concentration is in

environmental justice and she is particularly interested in ideas of distributive justice. Caitlin is a native of Williamsburg, Massachusetts, and attended Ithaca College where she received her BA in psychology and politics in 2005.

This summer she was a Peace Fellow for The Advocacy Project, working with the Blind Education and Rehabilitation Development Organization (BERDO), a partner organization in Bangladesh. Since 1991, the organization has been working for the development and protection of the disabled community in Bangladesh. Founded and run by individuals living with blindness themselves, BERDO's programs include rehabilitation, building a Talking Library, scholarships, job placement, health

services and disability prevention. As a peace fellow, She worked with BERDO to describe their work, get out their message, and build a constituency of supporters at home and abroad.

For more information on the Advocacy Project please contact Amy Burrows at aburrows@advocacynet.org

Daryn Cambridge

Daryn Cambridge is a graduate student and assistant pursuing both a Master's Degree in In-



Daryn Cambridge

ternational Training and Education in the School of Education, Teaching and Health and a certificate in International Peace and Conflict Resolution. He wants to develop, promote, and implement global peace education curricula for high school students in the United States that connects them with communities across the globe. Recognizing the growing interdependence amongst diverse peoples across the globe he sees an increasing need for young people to

develop a global perspective on issues that impact their lives, to build skills to resolve and transform personal, domestic and international conflicts, and to learn in an environment that engages them as agents of peaceful change. In addition to being a student, Daryn works full time as the Assistant Director for the Democracy Matters Institute, an organization that trains college and high school students on how to do grassroots organizing around efforts to strengthen our democracy, particularly with the issue of money in politics and clean elections. He is also a consultant for Project Agape, the Internet start-up that brought the "Causes Application" to the Facebook platform. Daryn graduated from Middlebury College in 2003 and has worked for a variety of other youth-focused organizations. He was a crew leader with the Student Conservation Association, a teacher with Putney Student Travel, and an instructor and supervisor with the Close Up Foundation, the nation's largest civics education and engagement organization. He lives in Falls Church, VA with his wife, Alyson Lipsky and their dog, Reginald.

Matthew Schultz

Matthew Schultz is a peace educator at the Kids for Peace Foundation where he holds the position of Peacemaker Youth Leadership Director. His work there involves developing curriculum, facilitating discussions, and organizing events that educate and mentor youth ages 6 to 16 about world cultures and issues of peace and justice. Past activities included training sessions on conflict resolution, the International Committee of the Red Cross's curriculum on International Humanitarian Law, as well as dialogues with the Hispanic immigrant community, and lessons on sustainable development. He also recently organized a Youth Summit on Darfur and Southern Sudan with guest presenters from USIP, World Relief, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, and Friends of Sudan.

Matthew graduated from Towson University in 2005 with a Bachelors of Music in Jazz Composition and a minor in Spanish. His interest in the peace and conflict resolution field was sparked during college by his study abroad experience in Argentina where he began learning about Latin American history. After graduating, he spent four months in El Salvador working with and observing the Nobel Peace Prize nominated Lutheran Bishop Medardo Gomez and his community development, education and empowerment projects. He now does freelance work composing pieces of music and theatre that advocate for or open dialogues about issues of peace and justice. His most recent performance was a work for the Naga-American Council in the Canon Office Building of the US Capitol raising awareness about the human rights violations against Naga tribal group in Northeast India.

In January of 2007 he will begin the International Peace and Conflict Resolution masters program at American University where he wants to strengthen his understanding and experience in the field in order to inform his peace education work.



Matthew Schultz

Nawal Mustafa awarded Said Scholarship

The Center for Global Peace's Abdul Aziz Said Phi Epsilon Pi Scholarship for Diversity supports the academic development and community outreach of an undergraduate student who has shown a



Nawal Mustafa

profound understanding of and commitment to enhancing a culture of diversity at American University. The 2007-2008 recipient is Nawal Mustafa, a senior in the School of International Service.

A Palestinian-American whose paternal grandparents were refugees from the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, Nawal says that her humble beginnings and bi-cultural background led her to think about diversity, her place in the university, and how to create her own special niche. As a Boren scholar studying at the American University of Cairo in 2006-2007, Nawal gained invaluable insights on the prospects for and implications of diversity in the university experience. As a student of Professor Said and later his student assistant, Nawal was inspired by his teachings on Islamic peace to pursue the research project which is the core service component of the diversity scholarship named in Professor Said's honor by the Phi Epsilon Pi fraternity.

Phi Epsilon Phi was established at American University in the fall of 1957 as the first fraternity open to all male students. Professor Said helped bring the fraternity to the university and served as its first faculty advisor. Phi Ep was the fraternity of diversity on campus, and their commitment to open membership attracted some of the most active and high achieving students on campus, involved in varsity sports, student government and academics. Many alumni of the fraternity have continued their service to the uni-

versity after graduating, including members of the Board of Trustees.

Nawal's research project will incorporate interviews with faculty and staff with a survey of a cross-section of students from underrepresented minorities. Her goal is to identify both the strengths and the short-comings in the university's efforts to foster a culture of diversity and pluralism. Nawal hopes her recommendations will contribute toward improving both cultural pluralism and demographic diversity at the university. She will work with faculty mentors as well as Center for Global Peace Associate Director Betty Sitka and Scholar-in-Residence Professor Carole O'Leary to develop her methodology, to link theory to practice and produce a substantive report on her research findings.

To illustrate the timeliness of this project, strengthening the university's "commitment to diversity in all elements of our campus community" is one of the five over-arching goals for the 2007-08 academic year, set by AU President Cornelius Kerwin.

President Kerwin's goals can be viewed at his website: <http://www.american.edu/president/statements/2007goals.html>.

Sarah Jakiel Named Coordinator for Polaris Project

Sarah Jakiel graduated from AU with a degree in Ethics, Peace and Global Affairs concentrating broadly within the field of human rights. Her research interests were dominated by issues pertaining to gender, youth and conflict, and human trafficking. In October 2007 she joined the Polaris Project, an international organization based in Washington DC that works to combat



Sarah Jakiel

human trafficking and modern day slavery through a comprehensive bottom up, top down approach. Polaris project offers direct client services and case management, operates a residential housing facility for trafficking survivors, maintains an innovative direct and indirect outreach program and also works on local, state and federal policy work and grassroots initiatives. She was brought on at Polaris to help run a newly expanded, Training, Technical Assistance, and Strategic Planning (TTASP) team. As the National Coordinator for this team, she works with other staff members to offer training and technical assistance to a wide variety of audiences including government agencies, local organizations and NGOs, law enforcement, community groups and individuals.

The overarching goal of the TTASP program is to raise the standards of the anti-trafficking field through the development and dissemination of new and cutting edge strategies, best practices, improved levels of coordination and capacity building through practitioner-based training and technical assistance. Specifically, the program offers on-site trainings and presentations, consulting services, review and revision of third party materials, peer-to-peer assistance and in December 2007 they will begin to operate the 24-hour National Human Trafficking Resource Center. This centralized resource center houses a comprehensive database of state by state anti-trafficking service providers and organizations, task forces and coalitions, research initiatives, law enforcement agencies and contacts, as well as an up-to-date national calendar of anti-trafficking activities and information on relevant state policy and legislation.

Students interested in volunteering or joining the Fellowship Program, should email sjakiel@polaris-project.org.

Send your news and updates to
aupeace@american.edu

Call for Conference Submissions

Conference on the Future of Catholic Peacebuilding, April 13-15, 2008, University of Notre Dame. Since the U.S. Catholic Bishops' 1983 peace pastoral, "The Challenge of Peace," called for further work on the development of a theology of peace, peacebuilding has received much greater attention in both secular and Church circles. This conference will showcase and contribute to efforts to develop a conceptually coherent, theologically accurate, spiritually enlivening and practically effective approach to Catholic peacebuilding that can begin to match the sophistication of Catholic thinking on the ethics of war and peace. The conference is sponsored by the Catholic Peacebuilding Network. To link directly to conference materials and registration, please go to: <http://cpn.nd.edu/>.

Assistant Professor **Anthony Wanis-St. John** gave a guest lecture on the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations to Prof. Christian Maisch's Washington Semester class in November and followed it up with a simulation on the Palestinian-Israeli peace process. He also invited Dr. Ted Feifer of the United States Institute of Peace to campus for a guest lecture on his work in setting up the Israel-Lebanon Monitoring Group, an innovative mechanism which helped prevent violence against civilians and military escalation. Dr. Feifer lectured to the SIS 611 International Negotiation class in November. He was also part of the facilitation team for three workshops in September and October sponsored by the United States Institute of Peace, which brought together US military, development and diplomatic personnel who need to coordinate their work in humanitarian emergencies, counterinsurgency and other 'complex operations'. The purpose of the workshops is to identify the education and training needs of USAID, State Department and military working together in the field.

The **Peacebuilding & Development Institute** is proud to announce its **2008 Summer Institute**, running June 2nd through June 20th, 2008. Students can earn two credits for each of the nine one-week courses while working alongside international NGO practitioners and professionals in peacebuilding and development fields. In 2007, IPCR students fostered practical skills with colleagues from Iraq, Darfur, Nepal, Sierra Leone, and thirty other countries. Some of the course options include Religion & Culture in Conflict Resolution, Youth, Conflict & Peacebuilding, and Conflict-Sensitive Monitoring & Evaluation. More details will be coming soon.

For more information about the Institute and its courses and instructors please see <http://www.american.edu/sis/peacebuilding/2008.htm>

Liliana Anaya (IPCR MA) has published an essay on Columbia's efforts to reintegrate ex-combatants into civil society in the professionally refereed Intervention: International Journal of Mental Health, Psychosocial Work and Counselling in Areas of Armed Conflict (volume 5, Number 3, November 2007). Liliana has been working at the Center for Restorative Justice in Virginia since her graduation. She just returned from Canada where she completed her studies for an International Diploma in Restorative Justice at Queen's University, and has been certified as a Mediator in Virginia.

Arshi Saleem Hashmi (IPCR MA) has published an essay titled "Use of Religion in Violent Conflicts by Authoritarian Regimes: Pakistan and Malaysia in Comparative Perspective," in the Journal of South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (Summer 2007). Arshi is currently both a Research Analyst at the Institute of Regional Studies and a Visiting Faculty member of the Department of Defense and Strategic Studies at Quaid-e-Azam University in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Julie Mertus coauthored with Tazreena Sajjad, "Human Rights Post-September 11th," book chapter in Rhonda Callaway and Julie Harrelson-Stephens, eds., Exploring International Human Rights: Essential Readings.

Abdul Karim Bangura has published his new book African Peace Paradigms. He has also published "Women in Sierra Leone," in the Mabayla Review: A Sierra Leone Literary and Social Journal, vol 1, no 2, 2007. He has been appointed a Founding Board Member for the McGovern Center for Leadership and Public Service, Dakota Wesleyan University, South Dakota.



Jason Woodle (IPCR MA) was appointed the first Neighborhood Coordinator for the Knoxville's new Office of Neighborhoods on October 24, 2007. The body is charged with developing ideas for how the city can be more responsive to its neighborhoods. The new office is part of the City of Knoxville's Community Development Division.

Akihiko Kimijima appeared on Press TV's news analysis program "Four Corners," for commentary and analyses on the resignation of Japanese Prime Minister Abe in September.

Anthony Wanis-St. John completed the editing of an upcoming special issue of the journal International Negotiation, which will be published in 2008. The theme of the issue is civil society, secret negotiations and peace processes, and includes one paper on Sierra Leone authored by IPCR masters candidates and alumnae, Maria Jessop, Betsie Chacko and Diana Aljets.

Susan Shepler presented a talk entitled "Post-War Trajectories for Girls Associated with Fighting Forces in Sierra Leone" at a conference at the University of Pennsylvania entitled "Gender, War, & Militarism" on 25 October, 2007.

Carole O'Leary was invited to an Iftar dinner, hosted by the Secretary of State, at the U.S. Department of State in October.

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World of Good is looking for an exceptionally bright and highly motivated person to lead our company in the Mid-Atlantic Region. The Regional Sales Account Director helps create economic opportunity for artisans by increasing points of distribution for our products in their region of the United States, growing sales through customer education and creative promotions, and building relationships with retailers serving socially-conscious consumers.

For more information please visit <http://www.worldofgood.org/>.

Project Director – Venezuela - Mexico City, Mexico

Freedom House is an independent non-governmental organization that supports the expansion of freedom in the world and functions as a catalyst for freedom through its analysis, advocacy and action. Freedom House seeks a Director for its Venezuela Human Rights Defenders project to be based out of Mexico City, Mexico. The Project Director will take the lead role in directing and implementing the Venezuela Human Rights Defenders Program and managing the local staff and office. The Project involves extensive travel to Venezuela and other parts of Latin America. The assignment is for 12 months and future employment will be contingent on funding, availability, and performance.

For more information please see <http://www.freedomhouse.org>.

Program Officer

IFES is an international, nonprofit organization that supports the building of democratic societies. IFES provides targeted technical assistance to strengthen transitional democracies. IFES is seeking a Program Officer to provide administrative and programmatic support to its Caucasus Programs.

To apply visit the careers website at http://www.ifes.org/dc_employment.html.

Peacebuilding & Development Institute Spring 2008 Internship and Volunteer Positions

The Peacebuilding & Development Institute, within the School of International Service and the International Peace & Conflict Resolution program at American University, is offering several exciting internship and volunteer positions for undergraduates and graduate students. The Institute fosters knowledge, practical experience, and skills for scholars and practitioners involved in conflict resolution, peacebuilding and development. The keystone of the Institute is a world renowned summer training program. The Institute also facilitates year-round trainings, symposia and capacity building programs on issues such as children in armed conflict, development and conflict, curriculum development, reconciliation, mediation, dialogue and conflict sensitive humanitarian practice within and among communities from troubled regions and in Washington DC. Internships are unpaid and may be taken for academic credit. PDI is actively seeking its first wave of Spring 2008 interns; the first deadline is Monday, November 26th. We will, however, continue to accept applications for some positions through early January. Please apply early to secure your Spring 2008 internship.

Please visit us for more information at <http://www.american.edu/sis/peacebuilding>

Executive Director

The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect is planned to begin operations early in 2008 in New York City. The Executive Director will exercise primary decision-making authority for the newly established Centre. He or she will be the principal public face of the Centre, ensure liaison with and assist senior officials in the United Nations, regional organizations, governments, and civil society and bear principal responsibility for fundraising.

Vacancies Contact: executive-director-search@GlobalCentreR2P.org

Facilitators for T.A.L.K. (Taking Action to Learn About "Kulture")

T.A.L.K. is an eight week seminar program geared towards American University undergraduate students (both U.S. and international students) which seeks to bring about meaningful dialogue between participants on a number of cross-cultural issues and to create greater cross-cultural understanding on campus. The program is sponsored by International Student & Scholar Services at American University, and has run for many years on campus with very positive feedback from both participants and facilitators. The T.A.L.K. program currently has volunteer facilitator positions open for the Spring 2008 Semester T.A.L.K. program. This is a great opportunity to get hands on cross culture training experience! Facilitators are paired and co-facilitate each of the 8 two-hour sessions. Priority will be given to current AU graduate students, recent alumni, and AU staff.

Please contact Kristina Thompson in International Student & Scholar Services at kthomps@american.edu or Heidi Ashton in SIS (hashton@american.edu).

Spring Intern

Bridging Nations, a partner organization of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, is seeking to hire an intern for the spring semester (January through April/May) to provide research support, policy analysis, and event coordination for its Washington, DC office. Bridging Nations focuses on three countries and one multilateral organization: the United States, China, India, and the United Nations. The intern conducts research and drafts reports for a range of projects related to geopolitical and economic policy, and technology and performs public relations. Internships provide opportunities to attend events at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and around Washington. The internship is unpaid and starts in January with the possibility for a longer commitment.

Contact (202) 741-3875 or info@BridgingNations.org for more information.



Zen Hunter-Ishikawa with Archbishop Desmond Tutu

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