Teaching peace to new generations

From the Director

Those of you who follow the Kroc Institute through our website, blogs, Facebook, Twitter, or even old-fashioned human interaction know that our primary vocation is teaching. Our work includes research, fieldwork, publications, conferences, policy, and outreach—but we are teachers, first and foremost. Nothing is more important to us than shaping new generations of peacebuilders, peace researchers, and advocates for justice and human rights.

In this report on academic year 2009–10, you’ll read updates about our thriving new doctoral program (page 8), master’s program (page 7), and undergraduate peace studies program (page 5). Of course, we teach year-round, as faculty and administrators from colleges and universities across the nation come to the Kroc Institute each summer for an intensive week of study and planning on teaching peace.

Who does all of this teaching? To answer modestly, the world’s best peace studies faculty. Recent additions such as Ernesto Verdeja, Catherine Bolten, Christian Davenport, Madhav Joshi, and Patrick Mason have allowed us to expand educational offerings and increase time spent mentoring students. Accomplished educators such as award-winning teacher George A. Lopez and peerless mentor Bob Johansen now find themselves surrounded by many gifted colleagues who aspire to similar heights of achievement in the classroom. And new forms of media make the wisdom of faculty available to our ever-expanding audience worldwide.

It is a great privilege to teach and mentor peacebuilders, peace scholars, and peace teachers at Notre Dame and around the world. Many thanks to you—our advisors, supporters, and friends—who accord us that privilege by making the Kroc Institute’s work possible.

Scott Appleby
Professor of History
John M. Regan Jr. Director of the Kroc Institute

2009–10 The Year in Review
2009 – 10

Highlights

Policy

Religion and foreign policy

Awards

Lifetimes award
Robert C. Johannes, senior fellow, professor of political science, and director of doctoral studies, received the Outstanding Lifetime Contribution to Peace Studies Award from the Peace and Justice Studies Association, the North American affiliate of the International Peace Research Association.

Distinctions

Strategic peacemaking
Oxford University Press published Strategic Peace: Transforming Conflict in a Violent World, a collection of essays that explore peacemaking after genocide, civil war, and terrorism. Edited by Scott Appleby, John Paul Lederach, and Daniel Philpott, the book is the first in a series of volumes focused on the Kroc Institute’s signature concept of strategic peacemaking. Other Kroc faculty contributors include David Cortright, Hal Culbertson, Larissa Fast, Robert C. Johannes, John Paul Lederach, George Lopez, Gerard F. Powers, Andrew Schlesinger, and Peter Wallenstein.

Peace Policy

The Kroc Institute launched Peace Policy, an online journal that offers research-based insights, commentary, and solutions to the global challenges of violent conflict. Edited by David Cortright, director of policy studies, issues during the year addressed themes such as the role of the U.S. in Afghanistan to security in a world without nuclear weapons. Peace Policy is available at peacepolicy.nd.edu.

Distinguished alumni

Irene Pareanza, M.A. ’91, of Panama, received the Kroc Institute’s 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award. A long-time human rights advocate and educator, Pareanza is director of international organizations and cooperation for Ciudad de Saber (City of Knowledge) in Panama City, which connects organizations focused on human rights, peace, conflict resolution, and human development.

Strategic peacebuilding
The University of Notre Dame selected Contending Modernities: Catholic, Islamic, Secular: as one of 10 projects to receive support from the University’s Strategic Research Investment initiative. Contending Modernities is the Kroc Institute’s multi-year research and public education project to examine the dynamic interaction among Catholic, Islamic, and secular people and communities in the modern world.

Summer institute

The second annual “Teaching Peace in the 21st Century,” directed by George A. Lopez, provided a week of intensive training in peace studies program development to 60 educators from 19 colleges and universities. Kroc Institute faculty and staff serve as consultants to small teams of faculty and administrators working to launch or expand their own peace studies programs.

Read more at kroc.nd.edu/
The undergraduate program in peace studies continued to shine, with 199 students pursuing a major or minor in peace studies by the end of spring 2010. As always, peace studies attracted outstanding students with wide-ranging academic interests. Twenty primary majors—ranging from political science, anthropology, economics, history, sociology, psychology, and biology to music, engineering, theology, accounting, English, and architecture—were represented among peace studies students during 2009–10.

Undergraduate peace studies students combine their academic accomplishments with a passion for changing the world, and this year was no exception. Among 69 peace studies students who graduated in 2010, nearly 30 percent graduated with Latin honors. Nine graduating seniors were selected for induction into Phi Beta Kappa, and 17 were elected to honor societies in their major fields of study.

During the year, six peace studies students were named International Scholars in the Kellogg Institute’s International Scholars Program, and many others presented papers at conferences, contributed to published articles, served as editors or sat on the editorial boards of external publications, or won grants for summer research and service related to peace and justice. A large number completed internships, research projects, or service learning programs, and many seniors incorporated these experiences into their peace studies capstone essay or senior thesis.
Among the many senior stand-outs were Jenna Knapp (anthropology/peace studies), who was awarded a $10,000 grant from Davis Projects for Peace for a project to improve disaster prevention efforts in El Salvador. Jenna, recipient of the Kroc Institute’s Yarrow Award, went on to win a Fulbright Scholarship to conduct post-graduate research in El Salvador. Sarah Cline (theology/peace studies) was one of 10 students selected to be a 2009 Campus Climate Leader by the United Nations Foundation and Sustainable Endowments Institute. Jeffrey Lakusta (science/business/peace studies) traveled and spoke as head of the Eyes on Africa Foundation, the non-profit college-student-run organization he founded to provide relief in Africa.

A highlight of each year is the Student Peace Conference, planned and organized entirely by undergraduates. The 2010 conference attracted nearly 300 students from 22 colleges and universities in the United States, Canada, Colombia, and the United Kingdom. Students ran workshops, presented papers, and networked with other student peacebuilders. This year’s conference featured a keynote address by author and human rights activist John Prendergast, co-founder of Enough!, a project to end genocide and crimes against humanity.

The M.A. Program

Called the master’s program continued to attract students from around the world, with wide-ranging interests and work experience related to peace, justice, and human rights. During 2009-10, master’s students arrived from Canada, Germany, India, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Turkmenistan, Uganda, and the United States. Students included a physician, a lawyer, a human rights observer, several researchers, and a Fulbright Fellow.

International internships continued to be a high point of the program, with most second-year master’s students working for five months at Kroc field sites in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. During the year, master’s students worked for a range of respected nonprofit and civil society organizations in Jerusalem; Kampala, Uganda; Cape Town, South Africa; and Mindanao in the Philippines.

As always, master’s students benefited from the opportunity to make connections and collaborate with other young professional peacebuilders. This year, in response to a call for proposals from SPIRIT (Students Participating in Resolving International Tensions), a partnership of the United Nations and Columbia University, five master’s students developed an innovative proposal to advance peace in Colombia. The proposal impressed the SPIRIT organizers, who arranged for the students to present their plan to a panel of experts at the United Nations.

Also during the year, the Kroc Institute made significant revisions to its curriculum to ensure that master’s students are well-prepared to take on leadership positions in peacebuilding. The new curriculum emphasizes breadth of knowledge—in the history, concepts, and methodology of peace studies.
The Ph.D. Program

ince the Kroc Institute established its ground-breaking doctoral program in 2008, the program has admitted 13 students. These young scholars are being trained in interdisciplinary peace research as well as in the research methodologies of history, political science, sociology, and psychology. The 2009–10 academic year also saw the approval of a new doctoral program, in theology and peace studies. The Ph.D. program in peace studies has attracted outstanding students, including nine who now hold special University-wide fellowships. In just the first two years of the program, students have attracted notice for exceptional achievements. Douglas Ansel (political science/peace studies), won a grant from the National Science Foundation to study the impact of elections and political agreements in countries emerging from civil wars. Alexander Dukalskis (political science/peace studies) published a scholarly article on obstacles to democratization in Burma/Myanmar in the peer-reviewed journal Democratization.

Doctoral students also have collaborated with faculty on a range of research projects. For example, Laura Taylor (psychology/peace studies) is working with Mark Cummings, Notre Dame Chair in Psychology, to assess and study the impact of violence on children and families in Northern Ireland and in Vukovar, a deeply divided city in Croatia. Alex Dukalskis worked with Robert C. Johansen, professor of political science and director of doctoral studies, to develop more accurate and politically influential ways to evaluate how and why national governments support the International Criminal Court’s efforts to enforce laws against genocide and war crimes. Jessica Brandwein (political science/peace studies), Ashley Johnson (history/peace studies), and Alma Gottlieb-McHale (political science/peace studies) are working with Christian Davenport, professor of peace studies, political science, and sociology, to develop a global “Index of Peace.” Ana Wolfitzko (sociology/peace studies) worked with Jackie Smith, professor of sociology and peace studies, and Christian Davenport to understand the influence of social movements on democratization and globalization.

The Mullen Family Fund, which supports Ph.D. students through endowed fellowships, has been a great source of strength to the program. Jack Mullen ND ’53, chair of the Kroc Institute’s Advisory Council, and his family, have given generously to support doctoral students. Mullen Family Fellows include Alex Dukalskis, Laura Taylor, Douglas Ansel, and Jessica Brandwein. Katherin Kranz (political science and peace studies) and Shinku Lee (political science and peace studies) have been named Mullen Family Fellows for 2010–11.

The interdisciplinary field of peace studies—as well as depth of expertise in a peace-building career path. Incoming students now choose one of three professional tracks: conflict analysis and transformation, for students who aim to be on-the-ground peacebuilders; organizational leadership and management, for students who will take positions in nongovernmental organizations; or policy analysis and political change, for students who intend to work in government or international organizations.

The class of 2010—with students from Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, the Philippines, Republic of Macedonia, Tajikistan, Uganda, and the United States—graduated and joined the nearly 500 graduates of the master’s program working in more than 90 countries around the world.
Kroc Grants to Faculty and Fellows

Viva Bartkus (Mentorata College of Business) received a Kroc Faculty Fellow Research Grant for a project in which she and Notre Dame MBA students investigated the role of business in post-war reconstruction efforts in Lebanon, Uganda, and Kenya.

Cynthia Mahmood (anthropology) received a Kroc Faculty Fellow Research Grant for a book on the Anabaptist roots of socialist-pacifist success in Reading, Pennsylvania. The research draws on documents and artifacts from Mahmood’s father, Elwood Keppley.

Daniel Philpott (political science and peace studies) received a Kroc Faculty Research Grant for a workshop on his manuscript “Staff and Unjust Peace: an Ethic of Political Reconciliation.”

New Faculty

Larissa Fast (peace studies) received a Kroc Faculty Research Grant to develop a searchable global database of violent events interfering with the delivery of emergency and development aid. The database is intended to improve security for those working to prevent and minimize the suffering caused by violence.

Madhav Joshi (Ph.D., University of North Texas) joined the Kroc Institute as research assistant and associate director of the Peace Accords Matrix. In this new position, Joshi is responsible for collecting, evaluating, and coordinating the review of data for the Peace Accords Matrix. He also contributes to collaborative research on peace accords and processes.

Faculty Fellowships

Asher Kaufman, associate professor of history and peace studies, completed a fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., where he researched the causes of and prospects for resolving border disputes in the Arab-Israel conflict.

Daniel Philpott, associate professor of political science and peace studies, completed a fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture at the University of Virginia, where he worked on a book on political reconciliation.

Visiting Fellows Research

David Backer, assistant professor of government at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, focused on transitional justice in West Africa, South Africa, and Latin America. He assessed the prevalence of human rights violations responded to post-conflict measures.

Claudia Baumgart-Ochse, research fellow at the Peace Research Institute in Frankfurt, Germany, focused on the Democrats’ Peace theory, religious actors’ ambivalent role in armed conflict, and the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Thomas Burkmann, research professor of Asian Studies at the State University of New York at Buffalo, explored new methods for establishing social harmony among Korea, China, and Japan. His project addressed multilateral approaches to peace processes and examined the role of religion.

George Wachira, Ph.D. candidate in peace studies at the University of Bradford in the United Kingdom, examined emerging transitional justice practices in Africa, focusing on truth and reconciliation commissions.

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The University of Notre Dame's Kroc Institute is one of the world’s principal centers for the study of the causes of violent conflict and strategies for sustainable peace.