

INSTITUTE FOR
Conflict Analysis & Resolution

George Mason University

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Alumni Relations Newsletter
 Volume 2, issue 1

October 9, 2006

From the President

Mary Rose O'Brien

Dear Alumni,

I am very proud to announce that our Alumni Chapter has been reactivated this summer. Our goals this year are to increase alumni social and networking events and chapter visibility. To this end, we have planned numerous events to allow alumni to connect with current professors and other alumni. Furthermore, the ICAR Alumni Chapter is working on an alumni speaker series, creating alumni-student mentorship and partnering with other local universities to put on joint alumni events.

Please join us at our upcoming events such as: faculty lunches, brunch with Director Cobb, and the ICAR Fall Open House. We also have ICAR t-shirts and pins on sale for you to show your ICAR pride! We would love to hear from you, so please email us your ideas for events and comments to: icaralum@gmu.edu.

Sincerely,
 Mary Rose O'Brien, M.S. '05
 ICAR Alumni Chapter President

New Alumni Chapter Officers

Thanks to all that voted for Alumni Chapter Officers. Along with the elected officers, we are hopeful that other alumni will join in planning events and activities throughout the year.

2006-2007 ICAR Alumni Chapter Officers

President: Mary Rose O'Brien, M.S. 2005

Secretary: Lindsey Ensor, M.S. 2006

Treasurer: Lou Kerestesy, M.S. 2005

We have received wonderful input from many former Alumni Chapter officers and members. We are always looking for suggestions and ideas to ensure Alumni Chapter activities are relevant to you.

Up-Coming Events

ICAR's webpage now has a quick and easy way to see a calendar of upcoming ICAR events.

Visit <http://icar.gmu.edu/Events.htm> for information on academic, social, alumni, career and student events and further details on the events below.

Thursday, October 12

Breeding Black Widows: The Atrocities of War in Chechnya

Making Gender Accessible - Brown Bag Presentation
12:00 - 1:00 pm
Room 666A (Truland Bldg. 6th floor)
Contact: [Erica Sewell](mailto:Erica.Sewell@gmu.edu)

Friday, October 13

Parents of the Field - Interview & Presentation

10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Room 555 (Truland Bldg. 5th floor)
Contact: [Erin Ogilvie](mailto:Erin.Ogilvie@gmu.edu)

Tuesday, October 24

Alumni Faculty Lunch

Faculty Attending: Karyna Korostelina, Maura Schoeny, Ho Won Jeong
12:00 Noon
RSVP: Icaralum@gmu.edu

Thursday, October 26

Making a Difference, Making a Living

Africa Working Group Event
4:00 - 6:30 pm
Room 555 (Truland Bldg. 6th floor)
Contact: [Vandy Kanyako](mailto:Vandy.Kanyako@gmu.edu)

Sunday, November 5

Alumni Brunch with the Director

11:30 am - 1:30 pm
RSVP: Icaralum@gmu.edu

Tuesday, November 14

ICAR Open House

6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Truland Bldg. Room 555
Contact: Icaralum@gmu.edu

Tuesday, November 14

Alumni Faculty Lunch

Faculty Attending: Solon Simmons & Tiffany Howard
12:00 Noon
RSVP: Icaralum@gmu.edu

Thursday, November 16

The Sounds of Silence: Women's Use of Silence as it Attributes to South Africa's Reconciliation

Making Gender Accessible - Brown Bag Presentation
12:00 - 1:00 pm
Room 555 (Truland Bldg. 5th floor)
Contact: [Erica Sewell](mailto:Erica.Sewell@gmu.edu)

Thursday, November 16

Oliver Moles: Studies of the Fairfax County Peer Mediation Program

ICAR Brown Bag Presentation
4:30 am - 6:00 pm
Room 555 (Truland Bldg. 5th floor)
Contact: [Erin Ogilvie](mailto:Erin.Ogilvie@gmu.edu)

Alumni Directory

In the next few weeks you will be receiving a request for information for an Alumni Directory. We are trying to build a directory that can be sent out to you, ICAR Alumni, so that you can easily stay in touch with each other. As part of this we are also hoping to find out if you are willing to be contacted by alumni or students for

informational interviews and if you are interested in presenting on what you do to the ICAR community. The directory will also allow Alumni outside the DC area to connect with other alumni near them.

SO stay tuned for more info on the directory, coming soon....

Alumni Listserv

Want weekly summaries of ICAR events?
Want to know what the ICAR Alumni Chapter is planning?
What to know about Dissertation Defenses?

The ICAR Alumni Listserv provides a quick, frequent method of communication from ICAR to alumni as well as allowing alumni to post time sensitive information they want to share with others.

To subscribe e-mail icaralum@gmu.edu.

Going to the ACR Conference

Interested in knowing which other ICAR alumni are going to be there? E-mail icaralum@gmu.edu. We'll put together a list of those going and get it back out to you so you can meet up at the conference. Make sure you wear your ICAR so other alumni can identify you.

ICAR Open House

Join us Tuesday, November 14th from 6 pm to 9 pm for the ICAR Open House. This gathering of alumni, faculty, staff, students, advisory board, and ICAR friends is a great opportunity to get to know someone new and find out about new initiatives, events, and opportunities happening in the ICAR community. This wine and cheese event is informal, so please feel free to drop by for as long or as little as you are able. To get an idea of a count we would appreciate RSVP's at icaralum@gmu.edu, but please feel free to stop by even if you haven't RSVP'd.

Alumni Mentors

Graduate Students in Conflict Studies (GSCS) and the ICAR Alumni Chapter are hoping to link up current students with Alumni mentors. The method of connecting and the amount of time it would require would be up to the mentor and mentee. If you would be interested in mentoring a current ICAR student please e-mail icaralum@gmu.edu.

Brunch with the Director

Dr. Sara Cobb is inviting alumni to join her for brunch at her house in Northwest Washington on Sunday, November 5th at 11:30 am. If you are interested in attending please RSVP to icaralum@gmu.edu and we'll send directions.

Thanks Are In Order

ICAR alumni are an exceptional resource to the ICAR community. Alumni participation in career services events, alumni chapter activities, information sessions, teaching, mentoring and advising is instrumental in creating a vibrant ICAR community.

Below are just a few of the folks who have enriched the community through the last year with their time, energy, and enthusiasm.

Lou Kerestesy, Sezai Ozcelik, Dave Alpher, Rob Scott, Nicole Rowsell, Jackie Vavra, Rachel Barbour, Susan Shearhouse, Les Schoene, Mary Rose O'Brien, Ann Carr, Craig Zelizer, Scott Deyo, Lindsey Ensor, Geoff Drucker, Cynthia Irmer, Bruce Englebert, Sagi Leizerov, Lindsey Ensor, Tiare Cross, Deborah Hersman, Tannaz Haddidi, Sandy Ruckstuhl, Mike West, Karen Wiebelhaus, Suzanne Ghais, Gary Willoughby, and Shayne Julius

Thank you for your support and help.

Alumni-Faculty Lunches

Our first Alumni-Faculty lunch with Dr. Dennis Sandole and Dr Susan Allen Nan was a hit. We have three more scheduled for the fall and spring and will probably add one more. This is a great opportunity to get to know a new faculty member or reconnect with one you already know. During this month's lunch a lot of good networking and collaborative ideas really inspired the group

The upcoming lunches are:

Tuesday October 24th at Noon
with Dr. Karyna Korostelina, Dr. Mara Schoeny,
& Dr. Ho Won Jeong
at Taste of Morocco,
3211 Washington Blvd, Arlington, VA 22201

Tuesday, November 14th at Noon
with Dr. Solon Simmons & Dr. Tiffany Howard
Location TBA but it will be in DC

Tuesday, February 13th at Noon
With Dr. Richard Rubenstein & Dr. Marc Gopin
At Ellie's
20th and N St. Washington, DC

Based on your feedback, we will try and schedule one in the spring on a different day of the week and keep a balance of locations.

Mary Lynn Boland Award Winners

The Mary Lynn Boland Award for Outstanding Student Service is given annually by the ICAR Alumni Chapter to students who have made outstanding contributions to the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution and its academic program in terms of time, involvement, dedication, and service. The award winners are individuals who excel at collaborative problem solving. Their contributions to the ICAR community have enriched the Institute and those surrounding them. This year we honored three students, who have exemplified the qualities so appreciated in Mary Lynn Boland.

Lindsey Ensor

Lindsey has made two significant and lasting contributions to ICAR. The first as co-president of Graduate Students in Conflict Studies (GSCS) during 2004-2005. In that capacity, she represented graduate students to ICAR faculty and administration. She promoted joint activities between GSCS and the working groups (the first time this had been done) thereby positioning the council in the leadership role it was designed to have. A second major contribution has been as co-chair of the Africa Working Group (AWG). The AWG is the most active one at ICAR with nearly 30 members. Last year, the activities that AWG has promoted have succeeded because of her organizational and leadership skills.

Paul Snodgrass

Paul's contributions to the ICAR community come in a variety of areas. Two in particular stand out. First, his effort, dedication, and enthusiasm for getting ICAR's John Burton Library organized, cataloged and usable. As the librarian for ICAR over the last two years he was responsible for significant improvements in the organization of the library as well as identifying and finding the materials to make the library a more comprehensive reflection of the work done at ICAR. Secondly, as part of the International Criminal Court APT project last year, he was instrumental in moving the project forward through his leadership, teamwork and dedication.

David Alpher

Dave's contributions to ICAR have spanned the spectrum of ICAR's activities. As co-president of GSCS last year, he was an effective leader and instrumental as a liaison between students and faculty. His tenure at the front desk of ICAR provided a go-to person, accepting a wide variety of challenges along the way. His mentorship and guidance to other students is a vital resource for all of us, and his thoughtful and optimistic perspective and willingness to spend hours with prospective students have made significant contributions to ICAR's recruitment efforts. Not least, as an alumni as well, his enthusiasm and efforts have been a significant part of revitalizing the alumni organization.

Parents of the Field: Interview and Presentation

For some time now Professors Chris Mitchell and Jannie Botes (ICAR Ph.D. 1997) who teaches at the University of Baltimore, have been pursuing a project they call "Parents of the Field"—videotaped interviews with our founding fathers and mothers. This is invaluable work, and they are almost at the end of the interview phase.

With just the right amount of arm-twisting needed to overcome his modesty, on October 13 it will be Chris's turn. Jannie and Chris have decided to hold the interview at ICAR, and have graciously invited interested students, alumni and faculty to be part of the event. This is your chance to hear a bit of living history recounted.

One can think of the event as an extended morning-long seminar and brown-bag lunch in one. The taping is normally about 2 hours long, with short breaks after each hour. (Audience members are asked, so far as possible, to enter the room on time and not leave till the breaks.) Around 12:30 the formal part of the interview will come to a close, and a Q and A session will commence. Questions can be asked of Chris, but also about the "Parents" project in general. Here is when the brown-bags atmosphere comes out.

I thank Chris and Jannie for opening up this event to the entire ICAR community, and join them in inviting your presence and participation.

Kevin Avruch

Friday, October 13th, 10:00am - 2:00pm
Truland Bldg. Room 555

For more information:

Contact: Erin Ogilvie eoogilvie@gmu.edu 703.993.1300

Observation Opportunities for Students

We are always looking for opportunities for ICAR students to observe ICAR alumni in action. If you would be willing to allow an ICAR student/s to observe practice you do please let us know. They can also be involved in the design or implementation of your intervention if you're willing. Opportunities could be just a few hours or on-going, the biggest thing is just getting to see practice in action. If you would be willing to have them along please e-mail icarjob@gmu.edu with info on the opportunity and any limitations or specifications you may have.

Alumni Chapter Merchandise

The Alumni Chapter is pleased to announce that there are now ICAR Alumni T-shirts and Pins available. The Lapel Pins are a great way to recognize each other at conferences and events, and the shirts are just plain fun. Proceeds from pin and shirt sales go to support ICAR Alumni Chapter Events and Activities.

The pins are about ¾ inches and look like:



The shirts use the pin design on the front and this graphic on the back:



Pins are available for \$5 and Shirts for \$15. We have Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large, and Youth Medium. They can be purchased by sending a check made out to the "George Mason Alumni Association" with "ICAR Chapter" in the memo line to
ICAR Alumni Chapter
3401 Fairfax Dr. MS 4D3
Arlington, VA 22201

Or they can be picked up at ICAR or the Open House. Questions contact Julie Shedd at 703-993-3650.

New ICAR Faculty

This year ICAR is pleased to welcome three new faculty members.

TIFFANY HOWARD, Ph.D., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution and Public Policy.

Research interests: Forced Migration, International Refugee Policy, International Conflict and State Failure.

MARA SCHOENY, Ph.D. George Mason University. Assistant Professor.

Research and practice interests include conflict resolution training and education, dialogue, nonviolence, structural violence, and U.S. race relations.

SOLON SIMMONS, PhD. University of Wisconsin. Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution.

Research interests: Quantitative research methods, structural approaches to conflict, and class and race within the US context.

New Book

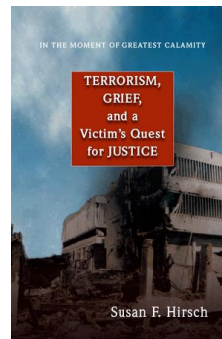
Dr. Susan Hirsch, who joined ICAR in 2004, has recently published a new book "In the Moment of Greatest Calamity". We'll be celebrating the launch later this fall so stayed tune for word on when.

In the Moment of Greatest Calamity

TERRORISM, GRIEF, AND A VICTIM'S QUEST FOR JUSTICE

Susan F. Hirsch

On August 7, 1998, bombs exploded at two United States embassies in East Africa. American anthropologist Susan Hirsch and her husband Jamal, a Kenyan, were among the thousands of victims, and Jamal died. From there, Hirsch went on to face Devastating grief with the help of friends and families on two continents, observing the mourning rituals of her husband's community to honor him. When the alleged bombers were captured and sent to New York to stand trial, she witnessed firsthand the attempts of America's criminal justice system to handle terrorism through the law.



In the Moment of Greatest Calamity is her story--a tale told on many levels: personal, anthropological, legal, and, finally, political. The book's central chapters describe Hirsch's experience of the bombing trials in a Manhattan federal court in 2001, including a behind-the-scenes look at the investigation leading up to the trial, encounters with some of the FBI's leading terrorism

investigators, and many moments of drama from the proceedings themselves. Hirsch reveals the inner conflict that results from her opposition to the death penalty and concludes that the trial was both flawed and indispensable.

Hirsch's story of this tragedy and its legal aftermath comes to life through--and is enhanced by--her skills as a social scientist. Her unique viewpoint makes it unlike any other story about terrorism.