



Humanities and Western Civilization Program

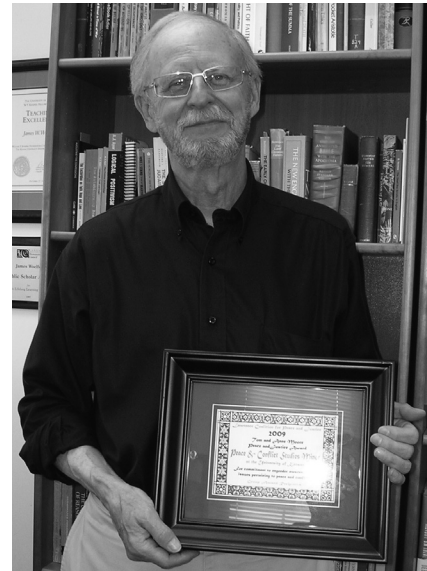
Spring 2009

Director's Letter

We're highlighting our Peace & Conflict Studies program in this issue of the Newsletter. In my column I want to say something about the program today, its brief past, and its bright future. I begin by noting with pride that P&CS is the 2009 group recipient of the Tom and Ann Moore Peace and Justice Award from the Lawrence Coalition for Peace and Justice "for commitment," the citation reads, "to engender awareness of issues pertaining to peace and conflict." I had the pleasure of receiving the award on behalf of the program at the LCPJ dinner and award ceremony on April 23.

Peace & Conflict Studies is a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary program that examines the origins and nature of conflict within and between societies and the various ways in which humans seek to resolve conflict and create conditions of peace. International in scope by its very nature, P&CS offers courses ranging from international law and organizations to the history of conflict and peacemaking efforts in specific regions of the world. A dozen faculty representing ten departments came together to create the program in 2002, inspired by KU events in the fall of 2001 celebrating 100 years of the Nobel Peace Prize and sharing with people everywhere the shock and bewilderment of the attacks of 9/11. The Peace & Conflict Studies Minor was approved in 2003, and the Graduate Certificate in 2005, adding KU to the large and growing number of colleges and universities that offer peace studies. Today there are 27 P&CS minors, and a smaller group of graduate students who are either enrolled in the graduate certificate program or taking specific graduate-level courses. The P&CS Steering Committee includes five HWC faculty associated with the program either as instructors or as advisers, and five faculty representing the Departments of Anthropology, History, Political Science, Religious Studies, and Sociology.

Humanities & Western Civilization included Peace & Conflict Studies as one of our top priorities in our 2007 strategic planning statement, and P&CS was featured among the areas of growth and development in the College's strategic planning goals. We reaffirmed and elaborated our commitment to this "growth area" in our 2008 self-study. As the Peace & Conflict Studies program looks to the future, we have completed work on a proposal for a major that will be submitted to the College and university approval process in 2009-10. Development of the major



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has included the exploration of expanded opportunities for students both in service learning and in peace studies research. Our other top priority is being able to hire a new tenure-track faculty member in the HWC Program whose teaching and research will be entirely in Peace & Conflict Studies. We're hopeful that Peace & Conflict Studies, as an international, interdisciplinary program devoted to the study of one of the most central and urgent of human issues, will take its place as a vital contributor to educating KU students for the 21st century world.

Peace Studies Scholar and Activist Lectures at KU

A highlight of the academic year was the campus visit of our 2008-09 Peace & Conflict Studies Lecturer, **David Cortright**. An internationally distinguished peace studies scholar and peace activist, Dr. Cortright is the president of the Fourth Freedom Foundation and Research Fellow at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame. He is a Vietnam veteran who participated in the organized movement of soldiers who opposed the war. In 1978 he became executive director of the Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy (SANE). He was an organizer of the largest political demonstration in U.S.

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Election Fever Affects Students in HWC Semester Abroad Program

by Debra Thimmesh, Director, Fall 2008

As anyone who has taught for or directed the semester-long study abroad program knows, the preparatory phase can be extensive, detailed, and time-consuming. The fear of forgetting something is only partially assuaged by the somewhat reassuring knowledge that virtually anything one might omit to pack can be found—usually with little effort—in Florence or Paris. Indeed, I found myself providing such reassurance to students in response to their nervous emails, reminding them to attend to the truly vital details such as passports and plane tickets, to make lists, and to relax as much as possible.

As we prepared to leave in early September, I added one important item to the checklist: a reminder to register for their absentee ballots as the U.S. Presidential election would be taking place while we were abroad. Our group would spend the last weeks leading up to the election in Florence and then, only one day following our arrival in Paris, voting Americans everywhere would cast their ballots. **Andrea Craig Gruenbaum**, the Art History GTA remarked “It was wonderful to be able to participate in the election using an absentee ballot. I am very grateful that no matter where I am in the world, I am always able to vote.”

When we arrived in Florence we were provided with information by the Accent staff regarding various U.S. Presidential election-related activities taking place there. I believe that we were all surprised, at least on some level, by the Italians’ interest in our own presidential race. **James Quinn**, the GTA for the European Studies course observed:

I do not think any of us were prepared for how closely Europeans would follow the U.S. election. So many people in France and Italy would bring up the topic as soon as they learned you were American... Europeans feel very connected to developments in the United States. They know that even though the election was happening thousands of miles away and that they would have no say in the results that everyone in the world would be effected. Experiencing a presidential election abroad brought home how interconnected the world is, and how events in America hold the attention of people across the globe.

Indeed, our European hosts had been swept up in the very tangible—even thousands of miles from the epicenter—excitement of the impending election.

In my Western Civilization course, discussions frequently turned to the presidential race. During a particu-



Students on Omaha Beach

larly lively discussion of the candidates’ differing stances on major issues, the students decided as a group to meet the following week at an appointed time and walk together to the U.S. Consulate in Florence to cast their votes in advance. That seemed to me to be a symbolic turning point for us as a group. Regardless of which candidate one supported, there was a sense of excitement and mutual respect for differing views as we watched events unfold in the U.S. from our vantage point on distant shores.

We had the opportunity to watch next-day screenings of the debates at Syracuse University’s campus in Florence, situated on the rather austere Piazza Savonarola. While the events were hosted by Democrats Abroad, a clearly partisan organization, the screenings were refreshingly non-partisan and our students, who were admitted free of charge, all claimed they felt quite comfortable. “The week leading up to the election,” wrote James Quinn, “Obama, Biden, Palin and McCain were on all over the Parisian news stands.” We learned of election watch parties and other related events taking place all over the city. James chose one of the most traditional spots for poll-watching Americans in Paris: Harry’s bar, just off of Avenue de l’Opera. He recalls, “On election night I walked down to Harry’s and found the entire block sealed off by French police for an all night election watch. There were several hundred people collected outside and the first results would not be announced for another five hours.”

There was a vibrant, jubilant air in Paris the next day. With tremendous excitement regardless of their feelings about the outcome, our students exclaimed that they had never felt more proud to be Americans and to participate in such a landmark election in a unique way. They related enthusiastically their own experiences on election night and interactions with Parisians following the announcement of election results. Despite being miles and miles from home and their fears about standing out as foreigners, for them, the day following the election was a day they felt completely comfortable displaying their American-ness!

PCS Lecturers Teach for Peace

As a ten year old **Marike Janzen** lived in Capetown and was quite aware of the divided world of South Africa. At seventeen she was in Berlin when the Wall fell. Today, Kansas-raised Dr. Janzen brings to her Peace and Conflict Studies courses an understanding of human rights as informed by her travels, scholarly accomplishments, Mennonite background of service and belief in nonviolence, and fluency in German, Spanish (Latin American), and Portuguese (Brazilian). She earned her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of Texas at Austin and returned to Kansas in 2007, having taught as Assistant Professor of German at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Marike teaches PCS 565, The Literature of Human Rights, as well as HWC's Masterpieces of World Literature courses. She is also a lecturer in the Spanish and Portuguese department and is an active volunteer. Her current research interest is in issues of solidarity and the individual voice within the diverse cultural contexts of Cold War Literature. She and her husband, Ben Chappell, who is an Assistant Professor in American Studies, have two young sons.

Martha Rabbani says that the students in her classes have a desire to serve and see themselves as citizens of the world. "My hope for a better world and to give meaning to my life" are the sentiments Martha expressed as her reason for dedicating her professional career to Peace and Conflict Studies. This desire, formed as an undergraduate in her native Brazil, led her to the European Peace University in Austria with a full scholarship available to third-world students. There she earned an advanced diploma in peace and conflict resolution with the "Father of Peace Studies," sociologist and peace activist Johan Galtung. Martha returned to Brazil and received a master's degree in Education followed by a doctorate in humanities "with distinction" from Universidade Jaime I in Spain.

Dr. Rabbani developed the course, Introduction to Peace Studies, for HWC and also teaches a course on peace education, a senior seminar, and a research seminar for graduate students seeking a certificate in Peace & Conflict Studies. Consulting, writing, and research round out Dr. Rabbani's professional life, and her domestic life is full as well as she and her cardiologist husband raise their young daughter and son.

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Peace Studies Scholar and Activist Lectures at KU

history, the rally in New York's Central Park in 1982, which numbered almost a million people, to "freeze and reverse the arms race." Dr. Cortright has served as a consultant to agencies of the UN, international think tanks, and the foreign ministries of Canada, Japan, and several European countries. He has written extensively on nuclear disarmament, multilateral counter-terrorism, the use of incentives and sanctions as tools of international peacemaking, nonviolent social change, and most recently a history of the peace movement. In 2004 he received the Gandhi Peace Award for promoting enduring peace.

David Cortright presented the Peace & Conflict Studies Lecture on March 5 on "The Power of Nonviolence," an empirically well-grounded, well-argued case for the practical effectiveness of nonviolent strategies in alleviating present conflicts in crucial areas of the world with specific attention to counter-insurgency efforts in Afghanistan. This was the sixth in the annual P&CS lecture series.

Save the Date

Tuesday, October 20

22nd Annual James E. Seaver Lecture
Marta Caminero-Santangelo, Associate Professor,
Department of English, University of Kansas

See Our Expanded Website for:

- faculty bios
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- upcoming events
- courses and course materials
- Study Abroad opportunities
- how to donate to HWC
- GTA application materials
- the complete Student Writing Guide

www.hwc.ku.edu

A CHANCE TO GIVE

The Humanities & Western Civilization Program has touched us all. As students, we've been challenged to think critically, speak and write articulately, and to display intellectual and cultural breadth. As faculty members we have had the privilege of sharing our passion for our scholarly work, and watching our students' intellects catch fire. We have all taken away something important from the program.

Private gifts through our Endowment account enrich the life of the program—among them faculty and GTA support for conference participation, the annual Seaver Lecture and other public events we sponsor.

Donations may be made by logging on to <https://kuendowment.org> or by sending a check to KU Endowment Association, P.O. Box 928, Lawrence, KS 66044. Checks are to be made payable to Humanities & Western Civilization Program Fund.

University of Kansas
Humanities and Western Civilization Program
1440 Jayhawk Blvd., Room 308
Lawrence, KS 66045

The Peace and Conflict Studies Minor

Required Courses

PCS 120 Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies (3 hours)
PCS 650 Senior Seminar in Peace and Conflict Studies (3 hours)
Two core courses from the list below (6 hours)
Two elective courses (6 hours)

18 hours are required:

Core and electives must be 300 level or higher.

Only 3 hours can be shared between the minor and any other minor or major.

Students may not count more than 9 hours of course work from any single department other than HWC (PCS) toward completion of the minor.

Core Courses (choose two):

PCS	550	Classics of Peace Literature
REL	667	Religious Perspectives on War and Peace
REL	669	Human Conflict and Peace
SOC	534	Comparative Racial and Ethnic Relations
HIST	329	History of War and Peace
POLS	672	International Conflict

Fall 2009 Elective Courses (choose two)

ANTH	571	Violence, Aggression & Terrorism in the Modern World
HIST	340	History of Second World War
HIST	399	The Samurai
HIST	402	Roman Military History
PCS	555	Education for Peace & Non-Violence
PCS	565	The Literature of Human Rights
POLS	661	Politics of the Middle East
POLS	663	Protest and Revolution
POLS	674	International Ethics
POLS	677	U.S. National Security Policy

To declare the minor:

“Declaration of Minor Field of Study” forms are available in the Humanities and Western Civilization office, 308 Bailey Hall.

For more information and advising appointments contact the PCS Coordinator, Sandra Zimdars-Swartz, szimdars@ku.edu, 203 Bailey Hall.