Message from the Director

This is our second bulletin and we are very pleased with the feedback we have received from the first. These bulletins are intended to engage alumni, faculty, current and prospective learners in a virtual discussion about emerging issues and programs, job markets, and interesting projects at home and abroad.

Much has happened over the past two months. The MA in Disaster and Emergency Management (MADEM) has been approved by the RRU Board of Governors and we will now be hiring a new faculty member to steer the program toward its launch in January 2007. MADEM will be of interest to those in the industry looking to advance their careers and others who wish to enter into this field of work.

A lesser known program within the School of Peace and Conflict Management is the MA in Interdisciplinary Studies (MAIS). This program is well suited for learners who are interested in blending courses from different programs or schools to address a particular research focus they would like to pursue. A MAIS learner can, for example, blend conflict analysis with environmental science or combine human security and peacebuilding with conflict analysis, leadership or international trade. Future bulletins will include more information about this program and its growing interest.

We are currently putting the final touches on the new BA program in Global Studies. This program was developed by our advisory board member Dr. Gordon Smith (Director of the Centre for Global Studies at the University of Victoria). Already there is a growing interest on the part of some of the international colleges and others as they seek more information about this new program.

In closing, I would like to add that we look forward to meeting up with those who will be attending the Student, Alumni and Faculty Symposium at The Liu Institute for Global Issues at the University of British Columbia on April 1st.

- Greg Cran

Human Security and Peacebuilding News

By Paz Buttedahl

The MAHSP program has grown in strength through the accomplishments of three strong cohorts and a faculty body of successful and committed individuals.

In April 2005, the 2004 cohort spent its third residency in Uganda. The learners spent three weeks with our colleagues at the Makerere University program in the Northern Region of Gulu, visiting refugee and Internally Displaced People’s camps (IDPs). Their thoughts and conclusions of their learning experience were synthesized in a report which was presented at the Liu Centre – UBC last November.

Six of the 2004 cohort learners teamed with three Uganda learners to participate in a Canada Corps funded project to engage in a study and consultation on the impact of decentralization at the community level (read “Listening to the People’s Voice” below).
The 2005 cohort are currently preparing for their third residency to take place again in Uganda, with an additional field trip to Rwanda. This cohort has organized and created the Centre for the Study of Conflicts related to resource industries such as mining. Their plans are well advanced and they are gaining great visibility in the policy community.

According to some scholars like Andrew Mack, conflict in the world is diminishing. There is a renewed understanding and acceptance of the Human Security metaphor. Foreign Affairs has had its funding renewed, there is a new dialogue emerging between academia and the policy sector. The UN has embraced Human Security as a central theme in its programming and the Human Security Network, made up of thirteen countries, is now under the chairmanship of Thailand.

The potential contribution of our program and your participation in it is well charted and we need to continue our collective efforts to build a strong field of research and practice. The strength of our program lies in our ability to contribute to improve in a world where conflict is minimized and peace can be experienced by us all.

### Listening to the People’s Voice

**By Jim Hemstock**

Work has just wrapped up on a joint Royal Roads – Makerere University research project on governance in Uganda. Dr. Paz Buttedahl led a team of six MAHSP and four Makerere Peace and Conflict graduate students on an investigation that took them to remote villages and IDP camps in Uganda.

Uganda is emerging from almost thirty years of war, and, as a stubborn insurgency in the north winds down, the international community is concerned about the fledgling democracy and the danger of it slipping back into authoritarian rule.

The study team was probing the relationship between civic literacy, empowerment and local government to evaluate the progress of Uganda’s effort to decentralize government services.

The intention was to listen to those voices rarely heard in civil society. The team talked with subsistence farmers, women’s groups and young people in school rooms, churches or under the shade of a tree. A remarkable knowledge of local government and a desire to participate was found despite overwhelming poverty and illiteracy, geographical distance, and a lack of access to media. Conclusions were presented to a diverse group in Kampala in December to begin mapping ‘the way forward.’

The report, *An Assessment of Civic Literacy in Uganda’s Local Government*, was funded by CIDA under the Canada Corp Programme.

*Jim Hemstock was in Uganda for six months and is a member of the 2004 HSP cohort.*

### Justice Studies Learner Shares Her Story

**By Karmen Cozens**

I attended an RRU information night not expecting to sign up for a BA in Justice Studies – in fact, I already had a great job and ailing grandparents who deserved my extra time.

After learning about the topics of study and Royal Roads innovative reputation, starting a new journey became increasingly appealing so I applied to the program.

Our class was the first cohort [2003] and consisted of learners with diverse experiences and goals.

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**Ugandans gather to discuss local governance.**
Group work allowed for personal growth and creativity, while the theoretical component provided me with knowledge on ethics, families, Canadian law, philosophy, alternative dispute resolution, international organizations and much more!

Studies, like life, were sometimes challenging and amazing. In the beginning, as I struggled to write my first paper, the instructors and the Director provided me with lots of support – as did the study groups.

A highlight of the program was interviewing Madame Ginette Danis (the Ombudsman for the Federal Government) and learning about her approach to empowering people. It feels good to have such a strong understanding of our Constitutional and Human Rights.

The practicum component of the program was a rich experience that led to employment. I am now a Provincial Court Civil Mediator and am on the BC Mediator Roster list – in this capacity, I enjoy helping others resolve conflict.

Teaching Peacemaking in East Africa – MACAM Learner’s Experiences in Uganda

“Peace does not come by itself; it must be strived for, it must be learned” writes MACAM graduate Stephen Foster summarizing his experiences with Global Peace Hut, a conflict resolution and peacemaking NGO working in Uganda.

Stephen’s Major Research Project “Teaching Peacemaking in East Africa: A Videotaped Case Study and Phenomenological Report” documents his experience of teaching peacemaking and conflict resolution skills to Ugandan youth whose country has been torn apart by years of civil war. He shows the process of building a peacemaking project from the ground up. Stephen said, “While the MACAM practicum requirement was the impetus for my trip to Uganda, there is no theory or class work that can prepare you for this kind of field experience.”

Through this experience, Stephen came to believe that “peacemaking and conflict transformation is fundamentally a spiritual practice...to reconcile the worst and best of what humans will do. It is a call to authenticity and toward discerning the inauthentic which inundates us.”

Stephen’s work on peacemaking in Uganda evokes deep reflection on peacemaking, peace education, and the NGOs working on creating a culture of peace in Africa.

For more information, please contact Stephen directly at s.f@telus.net.

Peace and Conflict Management Symposium Update

The inaugural Alumni Symposium on April 1, 2006 confirms a diverse roster of professionals, practitioners, learners and academics whose presentations will inform and inspire symposium participants.

Keynote speaker, Gareth Wood, a member of the 1985 expedition team that completed the first unsupported Antarctic trek to the South Pole known as “In the Footsteps of Scott” will draw on examples from his incredible journey to illustrate what it takes to accomplish great things in an environment of challenge, change and risk.


Greg Cran (Director, School of Peace and Conflict Management), Fred Oster, (Academic Lead, MACAM) and Paz Buttedahl (Academic
Lead, MAHSP) will be available to answer questions about our programs.

Location: The Liu Institute for Global Issues, UBC Campus. 6476 NW Marine Drive, Vancouver, B.C., Time: 9:30 am to 4:30 pm

Tickets: $95 before symposium or $100 at the door. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Lia Versaevel lia.versaevel@community.royalroads.ca

Postings and Events
Some job postings can be found at:

- Eldis is one of a family of knowledge services provided by the Institute of Development Studies. Visit Eldis Jobs.
- The World Bank Group works to reduce poverty and contribute to sustainable development.
- The Campus Conflict Resolution Resources project significantly increases administrator, faculty, staff and student awareness of, access to, and use of conflict resolution information specifically tailored to the higher education context. Visit Opportunities Listing (Jobs, proposals, awards, etc.) at Campus Resources.

For more reading on Africa, go to the Online Journal for African Studies African Studies Quarterly.

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To contribute news, event information or learner updates, please email your items to: Greg Cran or Bev Hill.

We look forward to hearing from you!