

THE MISSION OF THE INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING (IGU) is to promote awareness of issues and challenges of our dynamic, interdependent world. Through academic programs, field experiences, service learning, and engagement in local and global communities, IGU fulfills Monmouth University's broad mission of promoting global understanding, diversity, and leadership.

Call for Proposals

Submission Deadline: February 3, 2012

**11th ANNUAL
GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING CONVENTION
APRIL 2 – 6, 2012**

**Freedom, Sustainability, and Security:
Creating Interconnected and
Inclusive Communities**

Submit Your Proposal Online at

www.monmouth.edu/GUCproposal

See Details on Page 10 of this Newsletter

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY HOSTS FIRST ANNUAL UNAI LECTURE SERIES

Monmouth University, through IGU, hosted the inaugural lecture in the annual United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) Lecture Series this fall, featuring Under-Secretary-General Radhika Coomaraswamy, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. A highlight of the lecture was



USG Coomaraswamy speaking in Wilson Hall

connecting through video-link with students from Benedict College in South Carolina.

Speaking on the topic "Human Rights: Impact of Armed Conflict on Children," Under-Secretary-General Coomaraswamy discussed the plight of children in regions of the world plagued with conflict. She focused on her personal experiences with children in Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, and Iraq. The lecture was followed by a Q&A session in which

students and employees from MU and Benedict College asked questions that cut across various disciplines, including human rights and the responsibility of governments in implementing policies that promote human rights and discourage violence against children; gender affairs, specifically programs implemented to address the special needs of the girl child in situations of conflict; and the psychological and sociological effects of wars on child soldiers and problems encountered when these children are re-integrated into their communities. Over 400 people attended the lecture.



USG Coomaraswamy pictured with AVP Saliba Sarsar, Dr. Nancy Mezey, Provost Thomas Pearson, Ms. Nathalie Leroy, and Dr. Rekha Datta

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Under-Secretary-General Coomaraswamy is an internationally renowned human rights advocate who, in her capacity at the United Nations, serves as a moral voice and independent advocate to build awareness and give prominence to the rights and protection of boys and girls affected by armed conflict. Through IGU, the UNAI asked Monmouth University to serve as the first ever university to host an annual fall speaker series. We are thrilled and honored to serve in this capacity and to have hosted the USG for Children and Armed Conflict at Monmouth this fall. We look forward to hosting additional UNAI speakers in the years to follow.

2010 FEMINIST AWARD RECIPIENT SPEAKS AT MONMOUTH



Dr. Ampofo

This fall, the Institute for Global Understanding, the Department of Political Science and Sociology, the Sociology Club, and the Gender Studies Program hosted Dr. Akosua Adomako Ampofo, the Sociologists for Women in Society's 2010 Feminist Action Award recipient. Dr. Ampofo

came to Monmouth from the University of Ghana where she is Director of the Institute of African Studies. During her visit, she delivered the talk, "Responding to Violence: Local Activism in a Global Context." Her talk focused on her own experiences as a feminist activist,



Dr. Ampofo with IGU, Gender Studies, and Political Science and Sociology staff



Dr. Ampofo addresses the audience at Wilson Hall

how she became involved in activism, how sociology informs her activism, and how she helped push forward an anti-domestic violence bill in Ghana. Over 200 students, faculty, and staff from a multitude of disciplines attended the talk.

After her presentation, Dr. Ampofo met with a small group of faculty, graduate students, and staff to discuss strategies for activism. She shared her belief that people in academia are activists. However, because academics do not think of themselves in that light, or because they do not focus their activism around one or two particular causes, they tend to lose sight of the activist work they are doing.

The evening concluded with a dinner in which members of the Sociology Club, as well as other Monmouth community members, enjoyed an informal discussion with the guest speaker. Dr. Ampofo has given Monmouth a way of thinking about focusing and using feminist and sociological sensibilities and studies in ways that can push a feminist agenda further in academia and in the larger community. She has also opened the door for Monmouth to create a venue for our students to form a tighter connection with her institute in Ghana.

NEWS and EVENTS

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO SPEAKS AT MONMOUTH



Monmouth University's School of Social Work and the Institute for Global Understanding co-sponsored a presentation titled, "Kosovo: A New State and a New Vision," which was presented by the President of the Republic of Kosovo, Her Excellency Atifete Jahjaga. The event took place on Tuesday, December 13.

Speaking about the new vision for her country, President Jahjaga emphasized the critical role that the United States continues to play as an

ally to Kosovo and the need for Kosovo to join the European Union. President Jahjaga also stressed the importance of supporting women in her own country and throughout the world. By supporting the needs of women, she stated, we support the needs of families and communities.

President Jahjaga has served in key positions in the implementation of law and order in the Professional Standards Unit, and as Deputy General Director of the Police of Kosovo from February 2009 until her election as President of the Republic of Kosovo on April 7, 2011. She completed her studies at the Faculty of Law of the University of Prishtina in 2000 and later completed two post-graduate certification programs at the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom and at the University of Virginia, respectively.

IGU FOUNDING DIRECTOR GETS LEADERSHIP AWARD

Dr. Rekha Datta, Monmouth University professor and founding Director of the University's Institute for Global Understanding, was selected to receive the Outstanding Leader in Experiential Education: Higher Education Award from the National Society for Experiential Education (NSEE). Dr. Datta spent the last ten years promoting global understanding through academic programs, field experiences, service learning, and during the last three years as the founding Director of IGU. According to Dr. Datta, experiential education "comes through a holistic experience, integrating experiential education, volunteerism, and civic engagement on campus, and in the local and global communities."

At IGU, Dr. Datta began two programs through which Monmouth students volunteer to mentor students in area high schools. According to Provost Thomas S. Pearson, IGU has been very successful in guiding the University in the hiring and development of faculty, shaping curricular reform, bringing some of the most distinguished speakers and public servants to campus, generating a myriad of cultural opportunities and social experiences, and creating valuable



Dr. Rekha Datta

service learning opportunities for Monmouth students at the United Nations and throughout the world.

The award was presented to Dr. Datta at a luncheon at the NSEE Annual Conference in Dallas, Texas on October 21, 2011. Speaking about the award, Dr. Datta said that she considered the award to be an affirmation of experiential education, service learning, and volunteer

service programs at Monmouth, and to all faculty, students, and employees who give meaning to student engagement and service learning through their hard work and dedication. According to Dr. Datta, through sharing and understanding others, we find our happiness.

NEWS and EVENTS

ASBURY PARK HIGH SCHOOL DEBATE TEAM BRINGS HOME GOLD

The Asbury Park High School Debate Team won the Triple Crown at the Baltimore Urban Debate League tournament by taking first place trophies for Top School, Top Debate Team, and Top Individual Speaker. The tournament was held at Carver High School in Baltimore, Maryland on Saturday, March 5, 2011. The Asbury Team did not win any awards at their first two debate competitions, but the third tournament in Baltimore proved to be the charm as the Asbury Bishops won nine team and individual trophies in the novice division, virtually sweeping all major awards. Debate teams from eleven high schools from the Baltimore/Washington D.C. region competed at the tournament. The students debated from both the affirmative and negative perspectives on the following resolution: Resolved: The United States Federal Government Should Substantially Reduce its Military and/or Police Presence in Afghanistan.

The Asbury Park High School Debate Team was launched in 2010, and made possible by a \$7,000 grant from the TD Bank Foundation through the Institute for Global Understanding and MU's Debate Team. TD Bank is funding this ground-breaking program between students affiliated with the Monmouth Debate Team and students attending Asbury Park High School. The 20 students on the Monmouth Debate Team coached the Asbury Park students after school every Tuesday and were hands-on in coaching the students in their first three tournaments. In Baltimore, the Asbury Team was co-coached by Monmouth Debate Team mem-

bers Brandon Karkovice, Michele Koeck, and MU's team co-captain Greg Morga. Karkovice said, "It's been extraordinary to see how far the Asbury Debaters have grown since September," and the "sky is the limit for the future of debate in Asbury Park High School."

Debate Coach Joseph Patten said he was on "cloud nine by the results and inspired by the commitment to excellence demonstrated by both the Asbury and Monmouth debaters." He went on to say that this success "was all made possible by the good people at TD Bank who believed in our vision and in the abilities of the students at Asbury Park High School." The main goal is to help participating Asbury students enhance their critical thinking by strengthening written, oral, and technological communication skills, in furtherance of their understanding of public policy theories and issues. In addition, Monmouth students share college experiences with APHS students and mentor them to pursue and attain a college degree.



The Asbury Park High School Debate Team proudly displaying their trophies after their win in Baltimore

STUDY ABROAD



Nicole Andretta, Alison Nudo, and Marie Worshan in their cooking class in Italy

If you are contemplating Study Abroad, you are demonstrating a desirable trait that sets you apart from other students: intellectual curiosity. The choice to

spend time living and learning in a foreign locale may be one of the most enriching and life-changing experiences you will have. Your desire to expand your cultural horizons and experience life from an entirely new perspective is nothing less than exhilarating. Almost 100 percent of participating students said that Study Abroad was the single best decision they made during their college years, and nearly all of them report they would do it again. There is no textbook or classroom that can substitute for actually living in another country and experiencing a different culture. For more information about Study Abroad at Monmouth, please visit the office located in the Student Center, 1st floor (off the lounge), or call 732-263-5774.

NEWS and EVENTS

IGU MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS

Project BAM:

In 2009, the Institute for Global Understanding started a mentorship program with Asbury Park High School (APHS) in partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Monmouth and Middlesex Counties. The mission of this collaboration is to reach out to the community and encourage students to explore opportunities for higher education through a learning experience based on mentorship and friendship. Each year, the program recruits Monmouth students to work with sophomores, juniors, and seniors at APHS. Currently, there are 18 Monmouth student mentors and 18 mentees from APHS in the program. There is a mandatory two-hour training session for mentors. This year's program events include a debate workshop, health careers tool kit workshop, celebration of holidays around the world, Capoeira workshop, non-violence t-shirt project, focus on health education session, admissions and resident life tour, session with the men's basketball team, and a visit to the Monmouth University Bookstore.

The group meets on alternate Mondays from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Because students' schedules change, we are always looking for new student mentors. Please call 732-923-4666 or e-mail igu@monmouth.edu if you are interested in becoming a mentor.

Project BAM is part of the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) initiative. IGU's partnership with UNAI enables the Institute to promote and align its projects with the UN to enhance educational opportunities, human rights, and intercultural exchanges in local and global communities.



Project BAM Careers in Healthcare session



Project BAM Kickoff session



Project BAM Holidays Around the World session

College Bound:

Debuting this fall is a partnership program between the Institute for Global Understanding and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Monmouth County. Monmouth University students and staff meet with local youth on an ongoing basis and provide them with information about preparing for university study.

Monmouth students and staff also serve as role models; assist youth in setting academic, personal, and career goals; serve as a resource to encourage youth to explore their options for higher education; and help youth navigate the college application process.

College Bound also offers free SAT prep, aids in the college application process, provides financial aid and EOF information, runs essay and resume writing workshops, and tours colleges and universities while pairing mentees with professional mentors who reinforce the goals of the College Bound program. For information or to participate in College Bound, please contact the IGU office at (732) 923-4666 or e-mail igu@monmouth.edu.

IGU SUPPORTS NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY

It Gets Better: Being Out at Work

In partnership with Wells Fargo, Monmouth University's All Lifestyles Included, Student Activities, and the Sociology Club, the Institute for Global Understanding helped organize a panel discussion "It Gets Better: Being Out at Work" as part of its UNAI initiative. This discussion took place on October 11, 2011 – National Coming Out Day – and featured panelists from a variety of professions who have "come out" at work and are living productive and happy lives. Steven Garibell, Store Manager, Assistant Vice President at Wells Fargo, served as the Master of Ceremonies for the event.

Panelists included:

- Babs Casbar Siperstein – Executive Committee Member, Democratic National Committee
- Bryan Hackett – Monmouth Alum and Guidance Counselor; Asbury Park High School
- John Paul Nicolaidis – Area Sales Manager; Wells Fargo & Co.
- Frederick C. Raffetto – Attorney; Ansell, Grimm, and Aaron, P.C., representing a pro-LGBT athlete



"It Gets Better" Panelists (from left to right)
John Paul Nicolaidis, Bryan Hackett, Frederick C. Raffetto,
Babs Casbar Siperstein, and MC Steven Garibell

This event contributed to the UNAI principle to make "a commitment to promoting inter-cultural dialogue and understanding, and the 'unlearning' of intolerance, through education" (academicimpact.org/principles.html).

At the event, Mr. Nicolaidis said that "Wells Fargo was proud to partner with Monmouth University to offer this program." He added that promoting diversity in all its aspects is a key priority for his company; therefore, Wells Fargo works diligently to make sure all of its team members and customers feel valued and accepted for their individual differences.

UN-DPI CONNECTIONS

IGU continues to be an affiliated Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) of the Department of Public Information (DPI) of the United Nations. Three faculty members, Dr. Nancy Mezey, IGU Director; Dr. Rekha Datta, Department of Political Science and Sociology; and Dr. Chris Hirschler, School of Nursing & Health Studies, serve as our representatives to the UN for the UN-DPI-NGO. They attend briefings and other special events. This relationship has allowed us to bring students to panels at the UN, collect resources for Monmouth students and faculty, and attend peace workshops. Monmouth was among a handful of schools invited to participate at the Rwanda Reconciliation Panel, which was simulcast to include representatives from Kigali, Rwanda, who are involved in the reconciliation process after the 1994 Genocide. On September 14, we also took a group of students to the UN to attend the



Dr. Mezey with students during their trip to the UN

event, "Give Peace Another Chance: A United Nations Academic Impact Symposium." At this event, students heard Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon speak in person, only steps away from where they were sitting.

MEET THE IGU STAFF

MEET OUR NEW DIRECTOR

Dr. Nancy Mezey



Dr. Mezey at the UNAI lecture

After serving for three years as Associate Director, I am excited to have started my new position as Director of IGU this fall. I come to IGU with experience in West Africa, where I served as a Peace Corps Volunteer (Mali/1988-1990). I also conducted my master's research on health-seeking behavior in Mali, and currently

teach a first year seminar course on West Africa.

Under the directorship of Dr. Rekha Datta, to whom I owe much gratitude, IGU has been successful in many areas, including developing student awareness and engagement, creating connections beyond discipline-specific boundaries, partnering with community organizations, working on global projects, bringing high profile speakers to campus, and creating exciting connections with the United Nations. Building on Dr. Datta's vision, over the next several years IGU has many opportunities to grow. To that effort, I hope to lead IGU to excel at achieving its main objectives, with a specific focus on making IGU more relevant to local-global communities through sustainable community partnerships, fundraising, and engaging with more faculty members, particularly in the area of research and academic symposia.

As the 10-year history of the Global Understanding Project, and now IGU, have taught us, however, taking IGU to great heights is a collaborative and group effort based on a grassroots foundation and philosophy. I encourage you to get involved in IGU by helping to develop, sponsor, support, or simply attend our projects, initiatives, and events. Please contact our office at 732-923-4666 or e-mail igu@monmouth.edu if you would like to get involved.

For more and regularly updated information, please also visit our website (www.monmouth.edu/IGU). You can also visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MU.IGU>, where you can read about our past and upcoming events; and of course, we love when people "like" us.

I am extremely fortunate to be working under the guidance of Dr. Saliba Sarsar, Associate Vice President of Global Initiatives, and am equally privileged to be working with such wonderful IGU staff. Our new Administrative Assistant, Ms. Linda Cranmer, brings a wealth of skills and much enthusiasm to the office. We also welcome Dr. Rosemary Barbera as the new Associate Director. Dr. Barbera's experiences in Chile, knowledge of Latin America, and program-building skills provide fresh and solid support to the Institute. We welcome back Ms. Ruphina Mbua, our Graduate Assistant, whose international experiences and extensive work with the UN lend great strength to IGU's diverse efforts. Finally, we welcome two new undergraduate students, Ms. Tess LaFera and Ms. Nyeshya Sanford, who will help run our existing programs, as well as improve our social networking efforts.

I look forward to working with you all as well, and serving the MU community over the next several years. I hope you will get involved and invite you to stop by the office in BH 101A to see the work we are doing, and to have some good conversation over a cup of tea or coffee.

MEET OUR NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Dr. Rosemary Barbera



Dr. Rosemary Barbera and Ms. Linda Cranmer at the Project BAM session on Holidays Around the World

Hi all. I am thrilled to be writing to you from the pages of the IGU Newsletter. The work of IGU, to facilitate understanding of a global perspective so that we go beyond the superficiality of reducing our global society to different foods and music, is something that I really believe in whole-heartedly.

In my first months as Associate Director of IGU, I have been amazed at the level of activity that this small, but formidable, team accomplishes despite the fact that this is just a part-time stint for all of us. This is truly a treasure on the Monmouth University campus, and I am happy to be a part of it.

I look forward to becoming more knowledgeable about all the programs of IGU and to continuing to work with the network that is IGU across campus to provide continuing programming and activities to help our campus integrate a global perspective.

MEET OUR NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Ms. Linda Cranmer

In September, I had the pleasure of joining the IGU staff as Administrative Assistant. I welcome this new opportunity and the privilege of working with the dedicated IGU team. Although new to IGU, I am not new to Monmouth ~ I began in September 2005 as the Administrative Assistant for the Rapid Response Institute. This new assignment has afforded me the chance to learn about a very different aspect of MU! While attending the several events organized and sponsored by IGU this fall, I had the honor of personally meeting two distinguished guest speakers: Under-Secretary-General Radhika Coomaraswamy of the United Nations, and feminist activist Dr. Akosua Adomako Ampofo from Ghana. I am looking forward to taking my first trip ever to the UN in the spring. In addition to being a Monmouth employee, I am also a student, taking classes toward a degree in Communications/Public Relations; I recently completed the requirements of the Information Technology Minor/Certificate and am hoping to put these newly acquired skills to good use at IGU!

MEET OUR GRADUATE ASSISTANT Ms. Ruphina Mbua

I am thrilled to be a member of the IGU family. The dedication of the staff and the amount of work accomplished even though working only on a part-time basis is simply amazing. For me, working on global issues is a continuous passion that IGU fulfills during my time at Monmouth University. I have come to Monmouth after spending the last seven years working on global affairs with the UN in the area of conflict management and resolution, peace building, gender affairs, administrative affairs, political affairs, and communication and public information. I am very happy to be a member of the IGU team as this office offers me the opportunity to continue doing what I truly love and enjoy doing while completing my MBA.

I am not new to the university community either, as I spent another three years teaching Communication and Gender Studies at a state university in Cameroon; and I have also served as an adjunct professor in the Department of Political Science and Sociology at Monmouth. Given this background, and in an era of globalization, nothing could be more fulfilling than the work I do at IGU. As embedded in one of IGU's principles, we are encouraged to "think globally, act locally." Addressing issues of our global world is not only the concern of those who dare to go beyond our national borders, such as diplomats, aid workers, journalists, and pilots, just to name a few. It is a responsibility for us all and one that must be taken seriously if we hope to gain a competitive advantage for the future. IGU presents that unique opportunity right here on campus; we must take advantage of it. The experience acquired from getting involved in global affairs is one that can never be gotten from the four walls of any classroom. I challenge us all to come out of our comfort zones and get involved in one way or another to help keep up with the challenges of our dynamic and interconnected world. Let us try to look at the world from the lenses of others. We will be amazed at how gratifying this can be. Yes, with the benefits of diversity and globalization, we can



Ms. Ruphina Mbua and students from Dr. Mezey's first year seminar class with USG Coomaraswamy during luncheon

experience that unique feeling right here at home, right here at Monmouth, right here at IGU. Make it a challenge in the new year to visit us on campus, online, or participate in any of our programs.

OUR LATEST ADDITION TO IGU: UNDERGRADUATE WORK STUDY STUDENTS

Tess LaFera

I am a sophomore in the Social Work program. As a work study student, I find it an honor to work with a progressively minded and forward-thinking group of individuals who make it their priority to exercise peaceful means of reconciliation and

institute the freedoms granted to the human race at birth. IGU represents the accepting, compassionate face of tomorrow's great leaders, and incorporates precious human relationships into the wider global scheme. I am pleased to be part of the team.

Nyasha Sanford

Ever since I was younger, I knew that when I grew up I wanted to work with people around the world. I first became interested in global affairs and volunteering when I was about 14 years old. I have volunteered at numerous organizations including the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen and the YMCA. Instead of buying things for myself with my allowance from chores, I

was donating to local and international organizations. I love giving back and helping families in need. I am now a freshman and interested in majoring in Sociology and Political Science. I am not entirely sure what career I want to pursue, but I do want to have a great impact on people's lives. I love to travel and meet new people. I love to laugh and have fun because I believe that you only live once so enjoy it! I am more than excited to work with IGU in the spring! I look forward to being a part of the great things IGU has to offer. I hope to change the world one step at a time.

IGU/UNITED NATIONS ACADEMIC IMPACT PROJECTS

Monmouth University, through IGU, is a member of the United Nations Academic Impact Initiative (UNAI). Consistent with its mission, IGU seeks to promote awareness of global issues by aligning projects with the UNAI principles. Through this partnership, IGU works through UNAI on global initiatives that connect institutions of higher education with the UN in supporting ten universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, literacy, sustainability, and conflict resolution. The goal is for participating universities to actively demonstrate support of at least one of those principles each year (<http://outreach.un.org/unai>).

For the 2011-12 academic year, Monmouth's goal is to actively promote principles 3, 4, & 10, which are:

3. A commitment to educational opportunity for all people regardless of gender, race, religion, or ethnicity;
4. A commitment to the opportunity for every interested individual to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary for the pursuit of higher education;
10. A commitment to promoting inter-cultural dialogue and understanding, and the "unlearning" of intolerance, through education.

These goals are achieved through the following programs:

Project BAM: A mentoring program between IGU, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Monmouth & Middlesex Counties, and Asbury Park High School, where Monmouth students mentor students from Asbury Park High School and participate in

workshops designed to reach out to the community and engage students in exploring opportunities for higher education through a learning experience based on mentorship and friendship.



Project BAM session on Holidays Around the World

College Bound: A partnership between IGU and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Monmouth County where MU community members meet with local youth and help them prepare for university study.

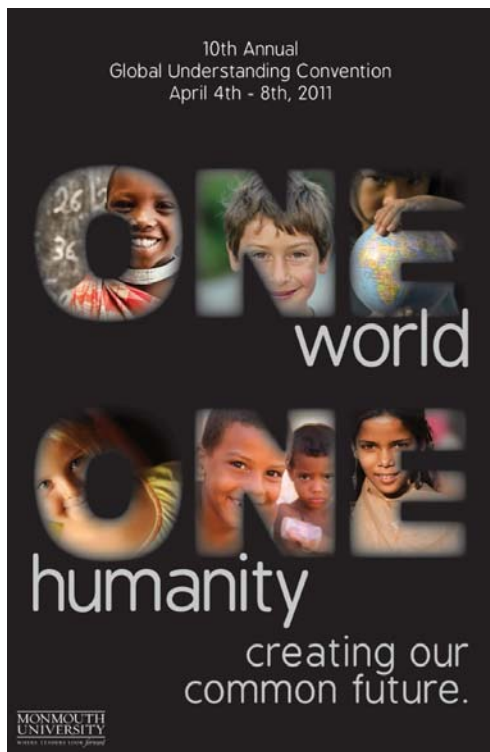
Macheke Sustainability Project: IGU works with the Macheke Sustainability Project (MSP), an NGO whose focus is to eradicate poverty in the village community of Macheke, Zimbabwe.

"It Gets Better: Coming Out at Work": A panel discussion organized in cooperation with Wells Fargo and Monmouth's All Lifestyles Included, featured panelists from a variety of professions who have "come out" at work and are living productive and happy lives.

Salon Discussion: "Human Trafficking in Southern Africa": Organized by School of Social Work graduate students to discuss Article IV of the Declaration of Human Rights and issues relating to modern day slavery.

11th Annual Global Understanding Convention APRIL 2-6, 2012

“Freedom, Sustainability, and Security:
Creating Interconnected and Inclusive Communities”



Call for Proposals

Submission Deadline: February 3, 2012

Proposals should be submitted online; click or copy this link into your browser: www.monmouth.edu/GUCproposal

We welcome paper proposals, panels, colloquia, lectures, art performances, film projections, and other types of presentations from faculty and particularly students on a variety of topics from interdisciplinary fields of study and research.

This year's theme explores complex relationships between the environment and human security. A great part of human security is tied to peoples' access to natural resources – and a great deal of environmental change is directly and indirectly affected by human activities and conflicts. The concept of

“sustainable development” has been fundamental in understanding the interconnected relationship between nature and society. Efforts to protect nature will fail unless they simultaneously serve the cause of human betterment; efforts to better the lives of people will fail if they fail to conserve essential natural resources. Perhaps the most important practical implication that emerges from this view is the great potential for developing powerful interconnected communities through learning and action. The result could be the creation of communities whose goal is to extend development and security as a more human-centered and sustainable project.

For more information, please contact:

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