

Global Matters

The Newsletter of the Institute for Global Understanding at Monmouth University

April 2008

Monmouth University Creates Institute for Global Understanding

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In June, 2001, the Global Understanding Project began as a community-based effort at Monmouth University, seeking to encourage and promote activities and awareness about global issues. Widely known as GUP and its members, affectionately referred to as Guppies, this grassroots initiative has brought students, staff, faculty, administrators, and outside communities together to celebrate the diversity of our global village

and to find creative solutions to our common challenges. Slowly but surely, GUP has embraced different academic departments, involved diverse constituencies on and off campus, and engaged students to participate in a learning community to promote awareness and understanding of critical global issues. The annual spring convention is the flagship event of the GUP.

The Strategic Plan of Monmouth University designated it as a future center of distinction and in the spring of 2008, the Institute for Global Understanding (IGU) evolved out of GUP. As the newly appointed faculty director of the IGU, I am both honored and humbled by the campus community's overwhelming support and good wishes. GUP has been successful by the cooperative spirit and hundreds of hours of cheerful volunteerism by numerous people from all parts of the campus and beyond. As a unique endeavor that has been sustained by the goodwill and cooperation of so many people, the IGU hopes to build on that spirit as it takes on its next level of identity and functioning.

Just as GUP has been *our* non-governmental organization, we would like to continue that spirit of participation and cooperation as the central feature of

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The Campus Community Gets Ready for the 7th Annual Global Convention

**Golam Mathbor, Co-Chair of Convention
Committee & Associate Dean, School of
Humanities & Social Sciences**

Kevin Dooley, Political Science Department

In a world that has witnessed an increase in the numbers and intensity of economic instability, environmental degradation, genocide, terrorism, and warfare, we in the Global Understanding Project feel it necessary to provide a framework for individuals from across the Monmouth community to gather and to make sense of the issues that define the world in which we live. Since the spring of 2002, it has been the Global Understanding Convention that serves this purpose. In an attempt to underscore the importance of global understanding and a strong commitment to the belief that each individual can and should make a difference, the theme of this year's convention is "Beyond Borders: Individual Responsibility-Collective Action."

The 7th Annual Global Understanding Convention will be held from April 7-10 and will host a series of classroom colloquia, films, panel discussions, and scholarly lectures related to a wide array of global issues. As in the past, this year's convention will focus on raising awareness at both the local and global levels. In an era of globalization, traditional boundaries, both ideological and physical, have been transformed and it is our commitment to this understanding that has made the Global Understanding Convention one of the Monmouth community's annual highlights.

The annual convention brings together students and faculty members, staff and administrators, scholars and members of the public in ways that facilitate education and inspire hope. If there is one thing that

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7th Global Understanding Convention

**Beyond Borders: Individual
Responsibility, Collective Action**

April 7-10, 2008

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the IGU—everyone in the Monmouth University community is welcome to join! Secondly, in keeping with the mission of Monmouth University, student engagement and leadership will be our primary focus. It is the mission of the IGU to promote respect for the diversity and dignity of all peoples, with shared prosperity, and peace across cultures, borders, and generations. Now more than ever, we need a fuller understanding of the world, and the world needs a better understanding of American ideas and ideals. Our students, the leaders of tomorrow, are our ambassadors who can deliver this promise with grace. It is our duty to prepare them with engaged learning, shared scholarship, and compassionate commitment to service. Please join the IGU in this effort.



Dr. Datta volunteers at the Rainbow Program at Loreto Day School, Calcutta, India, 2007. The Rainbow program offers shelter, food, and education to street children in a loving, caring environment. Dr. Datta is an alumna of Loreto Day School.

Join or donate to

THE GLOBAL OUTREACH RELAY TEAM

The Global Outreach Relay Team will participate in the Relay for Life on April 11-12 at Monmouth University. Please join us as we celebrate cancer survivors, remember those we've lost to cancer, and raise funds to help fight this disease.



Dr. Golam Mathbor (left) and Dr. Kevin Dooley (right) are co-chairs for the 7th annual Global Understanding Convention.

The Campus Community Gets Ready for the 7th Annual Global Convention

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individuals realize as a result of the convention, it is that teaching and learning are multidirectional and that we learn from one another in a variety of ways. We truly hope that you have an opportunity to attend a number of these presentations and come to realize that global understanding comes from transmitting individual responsibility into collective action. (The program of events can be found at the Global Understanding Project's homepage at:

http://www.monmouth.edu/global_understanding_project/default.asp



Members of Students' Alliance for Equality "Speak Out" at the 2007 Global Understanding Convention.

Congratulations from Provost Pearson on the Institute and Convention

Congratulations on the transformation of the Global Understanding Project (GUP) into the Institute for Global Understanding (IGU) and on convening the 7th Annual Global Understanding Convention (GUC).



Who would have imagined when a few of us met in Summer 2001 that such achievements could be reached? Even though that first meeting demonstrated a shared vision to make global affairs a central focus of our academic endeavors on campus, who would have anticipated the sustained strong cooperative spirit that has characterized the Monmouth Community and led the way toward greater global engagement and toward finding creative solutions to our common global challenges?

Monmouth University students, faculty, administration, and staff have been enriched by GUP (and now IGU) activities and programs. The large number and high quality of participants and sessions during GUC, including speeches by distinguished specialists and public servants, panels of scholars and students, exhibits and films (like "Two Women," which is part of the Provost Film Series)--all speak volumes not only of the commitment of the organizers, but also the enhanced reputation of Monmouth University and the important connections it is creating in the surrounding communities and the world at large.

Bravo for a job well done. You have my heartfelt thanks and best wishes for the success of this years convention

Dr. Thomas S. Pearson
Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs



Camp Darfur at 2007 Global Understanding Convention



Since his arrival on campus, President Paul G. Gaffney II has supported and participated in various panels, lecture events, and student programs such as the mock Model UN session put on by students in 2007. This year, President Gaffney will conduct the opening ceremonies, which include an award ceremony, music by the Monmouth University Chamber Singers, and lecture by former NPR reporter, Sarah Chayes. President Gaffney will also host Robin Raphel, former US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia. The Global Understanding Convention committee would like to thank President Gaffney for his leadership, inspiration, and support.

Highlights of the Upcoming Global Understanding Convention

Monday, April 7

11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Wilson Hall Auditorium

Welcome: President Paul G. Gaffney II

Opening Ceremony Address: Sarah Chayes - Journey through Afghanistan

Sarah Chayes, former NPR Reporter and author of *The Punishment of Virtue*, and founder of Arghand, an NGO that produces handcrafted products in Kandahar, Afghanistan, will deliver the opening ceremony address for the convention. There will be a book signing following the lecture.

Monmouth University Chamber Singers - David Tripold

Tuesday, April 8

1 - 2:15 p.m. Wilson Hall Auditorium

American Foreign Policy in a Changing Middle East

Introduction by President Gaffney

Robin Raphel, Former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia

Ambassador Raphel will speak on Iraq and the United States' presence in the Middle East.

Highlights of the Upcoming Global Understanding Convention

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Tuesday, April 8

6 - 7:15 p.m. Anacon Hall

The Struggle for Women's Equality in the Muslim World

Zainab Al-Suwaij

Zainab Al-Suwaij is the co-founder of the American Islamic Congress. A native of Iraq, her grandfather is the leading cleric in Basra and she is a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad.

Wednesday, April 9

10 - 11:15 a.m. Wilson Hall Auditorium

Understanding the Middle East - Panel Discussion

Introduction by Dean Stanton Green

Moderator: Saliba Sarsar

Panelists: Eric Davis, Rutgers University; Daoud Kuttub, Princeton University; Patrick McGreevey, American University of Beirut; U.S. Ambassador Quincey Lumsden

This panel will exam the changing Middle East, with a focus on Iraq's reconstruction, American relations with the Gulf States, and the Arab media.

11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Wilson Hall Auditorium

Hispanism, the Historian and Ethical Responsibility - Panel Discussion

Moderator: Alison Maginn

Panelists: Simon Doubleday, Hofsta University; Mark Cohen, Princeton University

Simon Doubleday, a historian of Medieval Spain, and Mark Cohen, an expert on Jews in the Muslim World of Medieval Europe, will discuss the so-called Golden Age of "convivencia" in Medieval Spain among Jews, Christians, and Muslims and the implications of the multicultural society for our ethical responsibilities toward Middle Eastern politics today.

The Global Understanding Convention Committee thanks everyone for their participation and support in organizing the 7th Annual Global Understanding Convention.

2:30 - 5 p.m. Pollak Theatre

Film: The Camden 28 - Panel Discussion

William Mitchell and Susan Douglass

Panelists: Producer/Director Anthony Giacchino; Father Michael Doyle, Father Edward Murphy SJ, and Eugene Dixon, members of the Camden 28; Howard Gillette, Professor of History at Rutgers-Camden and author of Camden After the Fall: Decline and Renewal in a Post-Industrial City

The film is a documentary that tells the story of a group of anti-Vietnam war activists who broke into Camden, New Jersey Selective Service Office.

4:30 - 7:15 p.m. Wilson Hall Auditorium

Film: Two Women - Panel Discussion

Panelists: Katherine Parkin and Saliba Sarsar

Two architectural students find their public and private lives turned upside down by the Iranian Revolution, as the new Islamic Republic ushers in drastic changes in the status of women.

Thursday, April 10

11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Wilson Hall Auditorium

Conservation Challenges for China's Waterways

Urban Coast Institute (UCI) - Lecture and Discussion

Moderator: Tony Macdonald, UCI Director

Presenters: Michael Weinstein, President, New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium, and Andy Wilner, Executive Director, NY/NJ Baykeeper

Rapid development and population growth along China's coasts and waterways has resulted in serious degradation of the environment. This session will discuss challenges facing China as it continues efforts to raise the standard of living while also seeking to restore and protect riverine and coastal ecosystems.

4:30 - 6 p.m. Wilson Hall Auditorium

Visiting Writer Series - Caryl Phillips

Caryl Phillips, Professor of English, Yale University

Novelist and author, Caryl Phillips ("one of the literary giants of our times" - NY Times) will give a literary reading of his recent work. His most recent novel is *Foreigners* published by Knopf in 2007.

Co-sponsored with the School of Humanities and Social Sciences



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