THE INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING (IGU) Receives Affiliation as a United Nations DPI-NGO

In December 2009, IGU received affiliation as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) of the Division of Public Information (DPI) of the United Nations. Three faculty members, currently Dr. Rekha Datta, IGU Director; Dr. Gwen Alexis, Leon Hess School of Business; and Dr. Chris Hirschler, School of Nursing & Health Studies serve as our representatives to the United Nations for the UN-DPI-NGO. They attend briefings and other special events. This relationship has allowed us to bring students to panels at the UNHQ, collect resources for Monmouth students and faculty, and attend peace workshops. Monmouth University 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.

Connecting the Local and the Global- IGU partners with Asbury Park High School and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Monmouth County in UN Academic Impact Project

Over the past year, IGU has partnered with the UN Academic Impact (UNAI) through project B.A.M. This partnership enables us to promote and align our projects with the United Nations to enhance educational opportunities, human rights, and intercultural exchanges in local and global communities.

FALL 2010 CALENDAR

PROJECT B.A.M.*

Oct 4, 2010 Project B.A.M.* Training Session
Oct 18, 2010 Project B.A.M.* Kickoff
Nov 1, 2010 WMZX Radio- Prof. Chris Cavallaro and Aaron Furgason
Nov 15, 2010 Debate Workshop – Dr. Joseph Patten
Nov 29, 2010 Capoeira Workshop- Kasey Sanders
Dec 13, 2010 Holidays Around the World – Dr. Nancy Mezey

LECTURES/WORKSHOPS/EVENTS

Sept 29, 2010 Documentary Film: Little Town of Bethlehem (Co-sponsor)
Sept 30, 2010 Arizona: A State of Paranoia (Co-sponsor)
Oct 6, 2010 Seeds of Peace (Co-sponsor)
Oct 20, 2010 CARE’s National Day of Action
Nov 29, 2010 Fulbright Workshop
TBA Fall Plenary Lecture

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Sept 17-25, 2010 Open World Program (Co-sponsor)

* A collaborative mentoring program among Big Brothers Big Sisters of Monmouth County, Asbury Park High School, and Monmouth University

As part of this relationship, IGU has started a mentorship program with Asbury Park High School in partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters, successfully entering its second year. The mission of this collaboration is to reach out to the community and engage students to explore opportunities for higher education through a learning experience based on mentorship and friendship. After a very successful pilot year in 2009-10, Monmouth students are again volunteering to mentor Asbury Park High School students throughout the year.
GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING CONVENTION
Change and Stability in Global Environments
APRIL 5-8, 2010

Keynote Speaker

Nicholas D. Kristof


The 2010 convention, “Change and Stability in Global Environments,” focused on the multiple environments such as economic, social, cultural, philosophical, biological, political, geographical, and physical. The emphasis was on how these environments tend to converge and change in the context of globalization.

The Keynote Speaker Nicholas D. Kristof, The New York Times columnist and winner of two Pulitzer Prizes, spoke on April 7 at 6 p.m. in Pollak Theatre which was filled to capacity. His talk was titled “Between Oppression and Opportunities: How Women Are Facing Change and Stability in Global Environment.” Kristof recently published the book Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide.

The film Vanished Empire was shown on April 5 at 7:30 p.m. in Pollak Theatre. Love and youthful idealism are both put to the test as the Soviet Union begins to crumble in this post-Soviet drama from director Karen Shakhnazarov. A panel discussion was held after the film with Provost Thomas S. Pearson, and Dr. Andrei Kuteinikov.

More than 40 sessions were held, including Water for People (NGO); the historical narratives of Israelis and Palestinians; HIV/AIDS in vulnerable populations; Corporate Social Responsibility; Sustainability for Poverty Eradication, Haiti; “Vanished Empire” movie; how to join the Peace Corps; and Sport as Global Culture.

Monmouth Alumnus Receives Leadership Award

Mitchell Shivers ’70 received the Global Understanding Leadership Award at the 2010 Global Understanding Convention on April 9. Shivers is a former Monmouth University Trustee and was Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (policy), The Pentagon.

During his career, he was awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service and Award of Excellence from Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai.

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

WHY STUDY ABROAD?

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. Nearly 100 percent of participating students said that study abroad was the single best decision they made during their college years, and nearly all report they would do it again. There is no textbook or classroom that can substitute for actually living in another country and experiencing how other people live, work, think, and play.

Professors Rekha Datta, Nancy Mezey and Saliba Sarsar with Keynote Speaker Nicholas Kristof and MU Graduate Student, Moleen Madziva

Hillary Marsh visiting the Roman Baths, Bath, England

Nicole Andretta, Alison Nudo and Marie Worsham in their cooking class in Italy
CARE’s National Day of Action

On October 20, the Institute for Global Understanding partnered with the Monmouth University Library, the Sociology Club, the Stand Up and Be Counted Campaign, and the Gender Studies Program to participate in CARE’s 2010 National Day of Action. Working toward the 2015 Millennium Development Goals, this event targeted the need to stand up against global poverty and support comprehensive maternal health initiatives. According to CARE, nearly every minute of every day, a woman dies from pregnancy-related causes. The devastating effect is that families are left without a main caregiver and with one less productive worker to help them thrive. The result is often deeper poverty for many families around the world. The good news, says CARE is that “there are known, cost-effective solutions to reducing maternal mortality around the world. We just need the political will and adequate resources to ensure lifesaving care is delivered.”

The event held in Wilson Auditorium aimed at encouraging just such political will. The National Day of Action at Monmouth University involved two parts: education and action. The approximately 50 students in attendance were welcomed by Dr. Nancy Mezey, Associate Director of IGU. They watched a short video on maternal health in Peru and learned about maternal health issues around the globe from Dr. Bojana Beric (School of Nursing and Health Studies). Librarian Susan Bucks kicked off the action part of the event by explaining H.R. 5268 – Improvements in Global Maternal and Newborn health outcomes while maximizing successes Act (aka the “Global MOMS” bill). Alli Matz and Amanda Avci, the President and Treasurer, respectively, of the Sociology Club then encouraged students and others to come up to one of the eight computers at the front of the room to fill out, print off, and sign a letter encouraging their members of Congress to support the bill. IGU collected a total of 40 letters which they have sent off to Washington.

Open World

RUSSIAN MAYOR AND CITY OFFICIALS MET WITH LONG BRANCH MAYOR AND HOWELL CITY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Four Russian city officials and a facilitator met with Long Branch Mayor Adam Schneider and elected officials and administrators from Howell Township. In addition, panel discussions were held at Monmouth University with professors and community experts on topics such as eminent domain and economic development in New Jersey, local environmental issues, and public ethics and civic engagement.

This visit by the Russian Delegation was made possible by a congressionally funded grant through the Open World Program. The grant was received by the Institute for Global Understanding and the Department of Political Science and Sociology at Monmouth University.

Professor Vincenzo Mele accompanied the Russian delegation to meet President Paul G. Guffney II

Celebrating a Decade of Global Understanding
MU to sponsor 17th ICSD International Symposium

We are glad to report that we had an unprecedented response to the call for papers for the 17th ICSD International symposium sponsored by Monmouth University, USA and the Independent University, Bangladesh. The symposium will be held at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka from January 3 to 7, 2011. We have accepted 205 proposals including four poster sessions from a pool of close to 300 proposals received from more than 40 countries. Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus will deliver the keynote speech on “Good Governance: Building Knowledge for Social Development Worldwide”. Professor Michael Sherraden, one of the “100 most influential people in the world” listed by Time in 2010 will address the first Shanti Khinduka Lecture in Social Development. Mr. Stefan Priesner, Country Director, United Nations Development Program Bangladesh will address one of our plenary sessions on the Role of UNDP toward achievement of Millennium Development Goals. Renowned Social Work Educator and a Premier Human Right Activist of Bangladesh Professor Muhammad A. Momen will deliver The Dan Sanders Peace and Justice Lecture. You can find detailed information by visiting our web site at www.monmouth.edu/icsd2011.

Golam M. Mathbor, Ph.D.
Chair, 17th ICSD International Symposium

The Institute for Global Understanding (from page 1)

IGU & Debate Hawks Receive Grant to Set Up Debate Team at Asbury Park High School

IGU and Debate Hawks were awarded a grant from TD Bank to start a Debate Club at Asbury Park High School. Led by Professor Joseph Patten, members of Monmouth University’s Debate Hawks team are working with Asbury Park High School to start a debate team, effective fall 2010. The interest for the Debate team at Asbury Park High School was generated after the students participated in a debate workshop as part of Project BAM in Fall 2009.

Around the Globe with MU Family

Lynn Reynolds with husband Donald in Burano, Italy

Santorini, Greece

Ephesus, Turkey

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Celebrating a Decade of Global Understanding

In 2010, the Model UN team participated in the National Model United Nations Conference in New York City and received an “Honorable Mention.” There were over 5,000 students in attendance, with more than 50% coming from outside the United States. Monmouth University’s Model UN team represented the country of Finland.