Dear student and colleagues,

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to all of you who worked hard to make of this Fall Residential Institute a big success. The work and dedication of our administrators, staff and our student GAs was evident throughout the five days of RI. It was great to see many new faces among our online student body coming together and sharing classes, lectures, the keynote speaker presentation, and student activities. One of the objectives of RI is to help online students build a learning community, and I am confident that this RI was a catalyst for helping students reach that goal.

As you witnessed during RI, we have several DCAR working groups, all of them have passionate faculty members and students that believe what they do can make a difference in our field. If you are not part of any of these working groups, I urge you to learn more about each of them and explore the possibility of becoming an active member.

As our Chair had indicated in our previous Newsletter, exciting changes are happening in DCAR. This year our PhD program will be assessed by the University Academic Review Committee, which gives DCAR’s faculty and administration the opportunity to reflect, think critically, and plan changes that can not only improve our program but make it the best in the field. Parallel to this university effort, DCAR’s curriculum committee is also undergoing a review of our PhD curriculum. We believe our students are the most important stakeholders in this process and, as such, you should be included in all steps of the evaluation process. This is why it is so important that you take few minutes and respond to the DCAR curriculum survey that was sent out October 7, 2010. The results will be gathered by Marci Arango marango@nova.edu from our Admissions Office and DCAR curriculum committee will only get the unidentified surveys. We are confident that we will get a high response rate because we know you are highly invested in this process!

Finally, as Associate Chair of DCAR I have made one of my priorities to reach out to our student body and serve as an advocate for students. If you have questions about the program, courses or any academic issue please do not hesitate to contact me. My extension is 23021, if you cannot get hold of me, please call Andrea Cevallos at extension 23034 and she can schedule an appointment.

Looking forward to hearing from you!
Elena

Name our Newsletter
Monthly Connections is the temporary name of our newsletter. We need your help! Help us come up with a catchy, clever, and fun name. Please e-mail entries to hw199@nova.edu by Oct. 26, 2010. The winning name will be announced during RI. The creator of the winning entry wins lunch during RI with Dr. Katz and Dr. Bastidas!
New Consulting Opportunity
Conflict Resolution Consulting and Training Group (CRTC) under the leadership of Chair and Professor Neil Katz has contracted for some exciting possibilities this Fall for Dr. Katz and his student associates. On campus, in conjunction with the Office of Human Resources, Katz and his colleagues are doing 3 workshops on “Supervisory Mediation as a Leadership Tool” and “The Power of Interest-based Negotiations.” Katz and colleagues are also contracted for training in Negotiations for a school district in Rochester, New York, workshops on Emotional Intelligence, Negotiation, and Conflict Styles with the National Forum for Black Public Administrators in Syracuse, New York, and workshops in Conflict Resolution and Managerial Mediation in Houston, Texas. Residential students interested in CRTC should contact Andrea Cevallos to get on the CRTC listserv.

Faculty Profile
Dustin Berna, Ph.D.
Dustin Berna, a political scientist by education, teaches conflict analysis and resolution. While not formally trained in CAR, he brings his international policy experience to the table and imparts invaluable knowledge to his students about theory, critical thinking, and public policy. His elite sessions are particularly lively as he employs the socratic teaching method and encourages interaction between students and between himself and students. Berna graduated from the University of New Orleans with a Ph.D in 2008 (and New Orleans will always hold a piece of his heart). He also holds two Master’s degrees in Political Science and History education. Sticking with his theme of doing things in pairs, he also holds two Bachelor’s degrees: one in English Literature and one in the Philosophy. His research focus is the Middle East and specifically Islamic Fundamentalism. Berna is also an avid art collector and loves to attend auctions. He is a voracious reader and enjoys movies.

Alumni Focus
Noel Minor
Noel Minor is the president of Linke Mediation, Inc and is certified by the Florida Supreme Court as a circuit Civil, County, and Family mediator. She holds a Master of Science degree in Dispute Resolution from Nova Southern University and has been mediating and facilitating since 1997. She has more than 20 years experience as a legal professional and has been involved in mediation since 1991. She was awarded the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award from the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Her focus research is the middle East and specifically Islamic Fundamentalism. Noel has distinguished herself in the community and her degree from Nova has proven invaluable resource. She is a shining example of the careers available to graduates.

Student Profile
Lisa Witzler
Lisa Witzler is currently an intern in the Office of the Ombudsman/Center for Cooperative Resolution at the National Institutes of Health in Washington, DC. Prior to relocating to DC, Ms. Witzler was the Program & Web Coordinator at the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School where she helped launch their new website and assisted in teaching negotiation workshops. She holds a Master’s of Arts degree in dispute resolution from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in peace studies and education from Colgate University. She has traveled throughout Northern Europe and has studied at the European Peace University in Austria. Ms. Witzler has consulted for organizations and courses on conflict within organizations. She has presented at several international conferences including the International Ombudsman Association Annual Conference in Austria, the American Dispute Resolution Conference. She research interests include cross-cultural conflict, organizational disputes and the role of women in peacekeeping.

Publications/Presentations
Gregory Vecchi, PhD, adjunct professor will be presenting November 5th as part of the partnership between the Broward County Sheriff’s Office and Nova Southeastern University. The conference will provide CEU’s. For more information visit http://nsbso.nova.edu/conference/index.html


The Journal of Asia Conflict Resolution is now accepting submissions that deal with topics affecting Asia. Please send submissions to journalalr@gmail.com

Heather Wellman, Amy Guimond, Kacey Sharp, Grace Okoye, and Lauren Marx are presenting at the University of Massachusetts Dispute Resolution Conference October 20-22.

You are publishing or are presenting a paper, please let us know so we can add it to our next newsletter.