

**SHSS Wow Factors:**

- November 6, 2003, SHSS is celebrating 15 years of excellence!
- MACS program is the only one of its kind in South Florida.
- DCAR offers the only online Ph.D. program in the nation.
- DFT offers program in Family Systems Health Care.
- SHSS offers two specialization tracks in the Criminal Justice Institute program.

Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences  
*Celebrating 15 Years of Excellence*

**Volume I, Issue 3**

## Alumna Receives Diversity Award



Arlene Brett Gordon, Ph.D., was awarded the Andres Nazario, Jr. Diversity Award from the Florida Association of Marriage and Family Therapy for her continuous dedication and commitment to training and service with culturally diverse populations for over

10 years. Dr. Gordon has had a variety of therapeutic positions within the NSU's Family Therapy Department over the years: student, clinical therapist, home-based crisis counselor, and presently as an Adjunct Professor. Between 1997 and 1999, she was Assistant Director of the VOICES Project, a federal grant project funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, which provided co-mediation services to families engaged in violence.

Dr. Gordon's primary focus is working with social service agencies that provide direct services to children and their families. Families Facing Solutions (FFS), a solution-focused family education program developed in 1993, and the focus of Arlene's dissertation project with Family Central in Broward County, develops systemic programs, solution-focused trainings, technical support, and documents for organizations in Palm Beach and Broward Counties. Over 400

workers, supervisors, and executive leaders from more than 30 local programs within the Family and Community Partnership funded by the Children's Services Council (CSC) of Palm Beach have trained with Dr. Gordon. Together with NSU and the CSC of Broward County, Arlene teaches in the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences' Family Therapy Department training front line workers to utilize this strength-based approach for working with families across all populations. Arlene has worked with local agencies/programs that include: Children's Home Society, Family Central, Alternate Family Care, and Healthy Start.

In 1995, Arlene developed the FFS Mental Health Module for parents with a diagnosis of mental illness. The Mental Health Association of New York State currently recommends this curriculum for working with such families.

Arlene is an Adjunct Professor for NSU's Family Therapy Department and Applied Research Advisor for the Fischler Center's Children and Youth Studies doctoral program.

Dr. Gordon also received the 2002 Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of Family Therapy at NSU.

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## Meet the New Faces at SHSS!

Students at SHSS will begin the Fall Semester missing many familiarities and embracing several new faces.

Four new professors will be joining the Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution (DCAR).

**Dr. Marie Olson Lounsbury**, Assistant professor of conflict resolution and international studies received her Ph.D. in Political Science with concentrations in International Relations and Urban Affairs, from



Wayne State University. She was the Program Coordinator for the Program on Mediating Theory and Democratic Systems at Wayne State. Lounsbury has taught such courses as: International Conflict Mediation," "Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies," and "Civil Wars: Causes and Consequences."

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**Dr. Alexia Georgakopoulis, Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution and Communication**



**Dr. Marie Olson Lounsbury, Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution and International Relations**



**Melissa Hara, Marketing Coordinator**



**Dr. Julia Chaitin, Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies**

## DCAR Student Takes Workshop Knowledge to the Real World

Rahway, New Jersey—In April of 2003, Theodore J. Lambros, Jr., a student in the Master's program in the Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution, began work on an extraordinary attempt to combine his knowledge of Information Technology and his ever-growing pedagogy of Conflict Analysis and Resolution.

While in attendance of Dr. Anita Vestal's Workshop Development class, Lambros decided to fuse the tenets of Conflict Analysis and Resolution with his Internet technologies skills, in order to create a completely free, on-line conflict resolution workshop, which



**DCAR Student and On-line Entrepreneur, Theodore J. Lambros, Jr. of Rahway, New Jersey.**

would be available to anyone who wished to participate.

Lambros' mission in creating this workshop is to provide

all interested individuals, the opportunity to independently learn about conflict resolution and its many aspects, via the Internet.

Officially released on July 1, 2003, the workshop features a sundry assortment of topics which include: Eight Steps to Conflict Resolution, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Conflict Escalation and De-escalation, as well as, the effects of Anger, Hostility and Forgiveness on the Conflict Resolution process.

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## NEW FACES con't from front

- **Dr. Julia Chaitin, Assistant Professor Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies**, holds a Ph.D. in Social Psychology from Ben-Gurion University where she also taught and has been Co-Director of Israeli Center for Qualitative Methodologies. She also worked on several research projects with Dr. Dan Bar-On and other scholars at PRIME. Dr. Chaitin has taught courses in conflict resolution and peace studies, gender issues, sociology and psycho-social effects and social trauma. She has specialized interests in the use of storytelling and narrative, qualitative research methodologies, community issues and organizations.

**Dr. Alexia Georgakopoulis, Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution and Communication**, received her Ph.D. in Communication from Arizona State University. Her emphasis was in Intercultural Communication, Pedagogy, Conflict and Nonverbal/Interpersonal Communication. She has taught classes in subjects such as: Facilitation, Persuasion and Societal Influence, Interpersonal Communication, Organizational Communication, Conflict and Negotiation, and Intercultural Communication. Georgakopoulis has been engaged in facilitation and diversity training with groups such as Motorola, and with issues involving relationship conflict. She

worked with Dr. Benjamin Broome who serves as a facilitator on several conflict resolution projects headed by the UN involving Greek and Turkish Cypriots in Cyprus. Her dissertation used mixed methodologies and was a cross-cultural examination of teacher effectiveness. Georgakopoulis has presented at national conferences, including participation in a panel presentation titled "The Role of Silence in Peace and Conflict Communication," at the National Communication Conference in Chicago.

As a part of the SHSS administrative support staff there have been two new hires:

- **Melissa Hara, Marketing Coordinator**, joined SHSS on August 18. Hara is a graduate from FSU with a B.S. in Business Marketing. She has an impressive experience in strategic marketing and event promotion.
- **Yanick Bernard**, joined SHSS at the end of August as one of the receptionists/administrative assistants. Bernard recently located to South Florida from New York City where she formerly worked for the Support Center for Nonprofit Management (SCNM) as an office administrator.

From the Dean's Desk

Welcome back to SHSS! I hope everybody has had a good summer. I am looking forward to catching up with you, sharing with you exciting stories and new projects. For our new students, It was wonderful to meet you at the New Student Orientation.

In addition to availability for individual appointments, I will continue to hold office hours every Wednesday between 5:00-6:30 PM in

this new year. You can reach my office by 800-541-6682 x3016.

SHSS finished another productive academic year over the summer. It was wonderful to see our graduating students, their families and friends, and SHSS supporters at the commencement in June. Since July, we have welcomed quite a few new colleagues. It is exciting that SHSS will come together to celebrate the 15th Anniversary on Nov. 6th at Alumni Hall on the East

Campus, with our distinguished faculty, wonderful staff, dedicated students, and community supporters at this historical moment.

As an inclusive diverse community of learners, let's continue to build bridges between excellence and access, theory and practice, traditional study and distance learning, unity and diversity, continuity and change, individual and institutional transformations, and domestic and international solutions.



Dean Honggang Yang

Faculty and Staff News

**Dean Honggang Yang** published "Co-Payment of a Traffic Ticket: Reflection of an Operative Cultural Premise" in the forthcoming book of "How People Negotiate" edited by G.O. Faure (The Netherlands: Kluwer Academic Publishers).

**Dr. Marcia Sweedler, Assistant Professor in the Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution**, is editor of

The Fourth R, the publication of the Education Section of the Association of Conflict Resolution.

**Dr. Shelley Green, Associate Professor of Family Therapy**, has been selected to serve on the Editorial Board for the Journal of Feminist Family Therapy: An International Forum. Dr. Green will serve a 3-year term on the board.

**Dr. Judith McKay, Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution and Community Studies** was invited to speak at the North Miami Police Department.

**Dr. Anne Rambo, Associate Professor of Family Therapy and Jeremy Ring, SUPERB grant donor**, were interviewed for an article of Project SUPERB that appeared on the front page of the Herald on

Sunday, August 17. Ring was also interviewed about the project by Radio America the week of August 17 - August 23. Rambo will be interviewed locally by WLRN and WIOD radio stations. The SUPERB project officially starts the week after Labor Day.

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Students News

**Alejandra Gonzalez**, a Ph.D. student in the department of Family Therapy, presented at the Forth Annual EMAGS Multicultural Conference, Expanding Clinical Competence: Working with Culturally Socially Diverse Clients at NSU's Center for Psychological Studies on *Applying Systemic Thinking Principles with the Native American Population*.

**Barbara Manouso**, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution, of Providence, Rhode Island and

Houston, Texas, has been selected as a citizen mediator for the Houston Police Department's Mediation Program. She mediates conflicts between citizens and police officers. This is a model program from a grant by the Department of Justice. She also was recently recognized by the Ford Motor Company for serving as an arbitrator on their Dispute Settlement Board for the past three years. Barbara has been a mediator, arbitrator, and facilitator for over ten years and loves her SHSS classes! The reading has been

wonderful.

**Theodore Lambros**, a Ph.D. student in the Conflict Analysis and Resolution program invented and produced an On-line Conflict Resolution Workshop <http://crworkshop.theodorelambros.com/> Lambros' mission was to create a free workshop for interested individuals, affording them the opportunity to learn about conflict resolution and its many aspects via the Internet.

**De Palazzo**, a Master's student in

the Conflict Analysis and Resolution program, was a steering committee member of the 3rd Annual Florida Statewide Safe Schools Summit. This summit focused on the needs of Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgendered Queer (LGBTQ) youth and the important legislation and policies that need to be passed to secure their safety. Palazzo will be a presenter at

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New Mexico's United World College's annual student retreat with training topic being *Building Bridges toward Equity and Inclusivity for LGBTQ Youth and Beyond*. Palazzo will also be assisting Broward County Public Schools with reevaluating their district wide Conflict Mediation middle and high school program in fall of 2003, which is a possible pilot initiation of Restorative Justice work with middle schoolers in winter of 2004.

**Mary A. Lentz**, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution program has authored a Parent's Guide for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse (available in both English and Spanish), as well as a K-12 curriculum on child abuse prevention. The web site is: <http://www.stellar-resources-inc.com/> for further information. Also, in late December, her school safety and security handbook for public and private school administrators, school resource police officers, and attorneys will be available. This book includes chapters on preventing school violence (anti-bullying, conflict resolution, positive discipline).

**Barbara Strahl**, a PhD student in the Conflict Analysis and Resolution program, was elected to the Board of NAFCM (National Association for Community Mediation) this year.

**Robert Witheridge**, a Ph.D. student in the Conflict Analysis and Resolution program recently published an article titled "Career Planning and Management: A Program with Heavy Reliance on the Internet" in *Development and Learning in Organizations: An International Journal*. He has also made several presentations at Kean University in Union, New Jersey: "Looking Through a Gendered Lens: Decoding Communication Between Men and Women", "Deal Easily with Difficult People: Everyday Negotiation Skills" and, "Career Planning and Management: A Renewal of Traditional Approach".

**Caroline Johnson** was appointed Principal at Southside Community School in Tucson, AZ after serving 8 months as the Interim Principal.

**Pam Finney** recently received awarded Mediator of the Year in the Minneapolis Mediation Program. Finney serves as a conciliation court and housing court mediator for the Minneapolis Mediation Program.

**Maria Pinkston** recently finished a one-week Missions trip to Port Au Prince, Haiti where she participated with a group of individuals who painted a clinic in a small farming village "Dumay".

## Center News

**DEPARTMENT OF CONFLICT ANALYSIS & RESOLUTION**

By JUDITH MCKAY

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF DCAR PROGRAMS

There are several exciting things going on in DCAR this fall!

The continuation and anticipated conclusion next month of DCAR's curriculum review. Commenced this last winter, the review has taken an in-depth look at the courses and sequences for all DCAR programs, from graduate certificates through our doctoral program. We anticipate being able to announce some exciting new additions to our curriculum later this fall!

We will be forming a South Florida Chapter of ACR (Association for Conflict Resolution). This chapter will enable students to become involved in ACR at a local level and to network with local, state-wide, and national practitioners. It is anticipated that the chapter will co-sponsor many exciting events with DCAR and will become a wonderful resource for conflict resolution practitioners here in south Florida. Students who wish to be on the organizing committee should contact Dr. McKay.

**DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY THERAPY**

By DR. TOMMIE V. BOYD

DIRECTOR OF MFT AND FAMILY SYSTEMS HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS

In addition to our Masters and Doctoral Family Therapy Programs, we have three Graduate Certificate Programs within our Family Systems Institute: Advanced Family Systems, Family Systems Health Care, and Family Studies. The Advanced Family Systems Graduate Certificate Program is designed for people who want to expand their general and theoretical knowledge of current systems-based intervention practices. The Family Systems Health Care Program is focused on teaching students the fundamentals of systemic family theories and their applications in health care settings. The Graduate Certificate in Family Studies is dedicated to training individuals who want to work with families in a variety of contexts: educators, community organizers, legal professionals, child-care workers, or EAP counselors. Graduate students have the opportunity to choose their format of study, on campus or on-line. These expanded programs are designed to provide education and growth to people interested in furthering their education and career opportunities.

*Faculty and Staff continued from p. 3*

**Dr. Anne Rambo, Associate Professor of Family Therapy** was featured in an article in the August edition of South Florida Parenting titled "How To Organize Your Child".

**Dr. Douglas Flemons, Professor of Family Therapy**, and **Dr. Shelley Green, Associate Professor of Family Therapy** recently completed their book, "Quickies: Handbook of Brief Sex Therapy" (W.W. Norton). The book is in production and will be out in December 2003.

**Amanda Myrick** was promoted from Marketing Coordinator to Assistant Director of Student Recruitment and Program Initiatives as a part of SHSS's marketing expansion.

## Alumni News

**Kathleen Harmon**, Conflict Analysis and Resolution (2003), was awarded the 2003 American Society of Civil Engineers Best Peer Reviewed Paper Award for Conflicts between Owners and Contractors: A Proposed Intervention Process, *Journal of Management in Engineering*, 19(3), 121-125. Harmon also was published in Press The Effectiveness of Dispute Review Boards, *Journal of Construction Engineering and Management*:

- October, 2003 Resolution of Construction Disputes: A Review of Current Methodologies, *Leadership and Management in Engineering* 3(4).
- July, 2003 Conflicts between Owners and Contractors: A Proposed Intervention Process, *Journal of Management in Engineering*, 19(3), 121-125.
- May, 2003 Dispute Review Boards and the Central Artery Tunnel Project.

Co-authored with Charles E. Schaub, Esq. The American Bar Association, Forum on the Construction Industry Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.

**Arlene Brett Gordon**, Family Therapy (1998), was awarded the FAMFT Andras Nazario Cultural Diversity Award at their annual conference.

**Rita Benasutti**, Family Therapy (2003) opened a counseling practice in Boca Raton. She specializes in infertility counseling, sex therapy, infidelity counseling, and spiritual counseling for individuals and couples. She has also been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Couple and Relationship Therapy* for Fall 2003.

The content of the workshop was developed from a number of textbooks and affiliated literature, which were used in Lambros' various classes at SHSS.

Underneath the text and graphics of the workshop, is a highly technical and original program developed by Lambros. The various programming languages of PHP, MySQL, HTML, and SHTML (for the technically minded) were used to construct the website's various internal and external attributes.

The software developed by Lambros enables participants to save their progress, so that they are able to return at a later time and complete the workshop.

At the end of each section, workshop attendees are presented with a number of required questions which ensure their complete understanding of the course's material. Feedback is provided to the participants so that they may assess their knowledge of Conflict Analysis

and Resolution. The responses of the attendees are recorded in an on-line database, so that they can be accessed at a later time, by the instructor and/or the workshop participants. At the conclusion of the workshop, participants are presented with a real-life dilemma, which they are to select the appropriate sequence of actions which must be employed in order to solve the conflict.

Lambros respects the privacy of the on-line community, and never asks participants for any personal information, such as birth-dates and addresses. Thus, participants can attend the workshop in an anonymous, relaxed, professional, and state-of-the-art on-line environment.

Lambros received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Computer Science from Rutgers University, in October 2002. While a student, he worked closely with Information Technology professionals, in order to

continually enhance his web development skills and understanding of the myriad of new technologies available.

Lambros is currently an independent Internet technologies consultant, specializing in large and small-scale Internet-based paperless operations, custom graphics design, as well as, database design, usability, and programming.

If anyone has any questions, and/or would like to request additional information about the workshop, please e-mail Theodore at: [crworkshop@theodorelambros.com](mailto:crworkshop@theodorelambros.com)

Please feel free to visit the Online Conflict Resolution Workshop's website at: <http://crworkshop.theodorelambros.com/>

## SHSS Celebrates 15 Years of Excellence!

The Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS) at Nova Southeastern University will celebrate its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Thursday evening, November 6 at Alumni Hall. The event, scheduled from 6 pm until 8 pm, will include a reception with wine and hors d'oeuvres followed by a short program. The serving of dessert and coffee will end the evening's festivities. Hosting this celebration will be Dr. Brad Williams, Dean of Student Affairs, who will introduce the keynote speaker, Carmen Ayala, a community leader in South Florida. Invited guests to this event include SHSS alumni, students, faculty and staff along with other NSU personnel and community leaders.





The Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS) offers interdisciplinary programs in conflict analysis & resolution, family therapy, cross-disciplinary studies, college student personnel, peace studies, family studies, health care conflict resolution, family systems healthcare, advanced family systems, and joint programs with the Criminal Justice Institute, the S. Broad Law Center, and the College of Allied Health and Nursing. SHSS is also a home of the two academic journals: "Peace and Conflict Studies," and "The Qualitative Report." For more information about SHSS, visit the website at: <http://shss.nova.edu> or us call (954) 262-3000.

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**We're on the Web!**

**[shss.nova.edu](http://shss.nova.edu)**

Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; telephone number 404-679-4501) to award bachelor's, master's educational specialist and doctoral degrees.

NSU Policy of Nondiscrimination Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, non-disqualifying disability, religion or creed, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school, and does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

## Solution Focused Trainings at SHSS

The Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences has partnered with Children's Services Council of Broward County for a second year to host Families Facing Solutions® (FFS) in offering solution-focused training to providers of Broward County.

FFS is a solution-focused family education program which was developed in 1993. FFS applies the basic solution-focused principles to family services, and offers a gamut of tools to inform parents of the child's developmental strengths and potentials while reinforcing their own capabilities as parents. Helping professionals and paraprofessionals trained in this model establish a collaborative relationship with their client-families. This approach engages parents as the experts on their family and supports them in determining their family's current needs. Incorporating the family's voice opens a context for interactive learning and sharing. Together the worker and the family co-create a plan designed specifically to support each unique family. The collaborative posture of family and helping professional facilitates competence as parents and children take an active role in the therapeutic (or educational) process.

Solution-Focused Therapy incorporates a non-pathologizing



stance based on the notion that life is difficult and that family stressors are often environmentally oriented. Workers are trained to join with their client-families to appreciate their clients' challenges, and to seek ways to support them. This non-blaming position is often a very different perspective for families who have had a history of social service involvement.

Solution-focused approach is particularly helpful in working with children as young as five. *Children's Solution Work* (Berg & Steiner, 2003) offers practical steps to engage children "without relying exclusively on language or conceptual thinking". This approach demonstrates how to adapt the basic tools of solution-focused work into sessions focusing on the needs of children. This work engages children using the questions, and tools to help

children find ways to express their needs, desired outcomes and the steps to reaching their goals.

Families Facing Solutions® has been providing solution-focused work throughout Broward and Palm Beach Counties since 1993. Currently, this program provides the central training component for the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach's Family and Community Partnership Project, a nine million dollar initiative providing services to four targeted geographical areas in the county.

For more information on FFS's Solution Focused Trainings, please contact Children's Services Council of Broward at: (954) 377-1000 [www.cscbroward.org/](http://www.cscbroward.org/) Or Christine Hellkamp at (954) 262-3062.