

The 2005 Caux Scholars



Photo by Grant Rissler

From July 13 to August 13, 2005, 20 young leaders from 15 countries assembled at Mountain House, the Initiatives of Change International Conference Center, in Caux, Switzerland, to participate in the Caux Scholars Program. Chosen from the largest pool of applicants in CSP's 15-year history, these scholars were selected to participate based on their academic achievements, leadership potential, extra-curricular activities, community involvement, and commitment to personal growth and conflict transformation. Excitingly, we had scholars from Nepal and Cambodia for the first time ever!

The program ranged from the personal to global aspects of conflict analysis and transformation. In keeping with the Initiatives of Change approach to social change, facilitators and staff of CSP helped the scholars explore personal responsibility in the areas of conflict and social justice.

Mountain House provided the perfect environment for the dual objectives of personal reflection and deepening communal engagement. Serving since 1946 as a gathering place for

people coming from opposing sides in conflict, it remains a space for honest dialogue.

Classes met in the morning at the Villa Maria, a chalet located on the grounds of Mountain House. Scholars also participated fully in Mountain House community life by contributing to work shifts in the house. They served meals, washed dishes, gardened, helped with housekeeping, and worked in the travel office, the internet café and with night welcome. The scholars educated each other about their contexts through in-depth analytical presentations of "Conflict Where I Come From." During the last week of CSP, scholars participated fully in the Agenda for Reconciliation conference, attending plenaries, asking the first question, and facilitating workshops.



Scholar Jose Carlos Vargas, Mexico
Photo by Otabek Hasanov

A SAMPLE OF TOPICS COVERED

Identity and Worldview

Conflict Analysis

Cross-Cultural Conflict Transformation

Strategizing for Change

Peacebuilding Paradigms

Interfaith Dialogue

Victim Cycle, Path of Reconciliation

Trauma Recovery

"A living experience of cultural fluency. The program is great but the people that the program brought together is what makes the CSP come alive."

~ Shehnaz Cassim,
South Africa

"It has been a life-changing experience, in the most literal sense of the word. So educative and such an eye-opener to a whole new world view."

~Altaf Mohammed
Abid,
India



CSP by the Week

Week 1: The 2005 Caux Scholars Program began with a week of theoretical presentations and application exercises, facilitated by returning instructor Michelle LeBaron. Michelle led the scholars through an experience of exploring communication styles and gaining cross-cultural fluency. This was done through reflective personal introspections and also through larger group, elicitive exercises. Given Michelle's masterful skills as a facilitator, coupled with her obvious enthusiastic love for this work, her first week of facilitation imparted knowledge but also helped the scholars come together as a cohesive, mutually affirming group.



Instructor Michelle LeBaron (center) with scholars and CSP intern Abdallah Ali (far right)
Photo by Randy Ruffin

Week 2: The second week focused on the skills of conflict analysis. Sam Doe, a '95 alumnus and returning instructor, facilitated the scholars' presentations of "Conflict Where I Come From," a 20-minute, in-depth analysis of a conflict from their home context. Sam complemented these presentations by injecting appropriate theoretical concepts of conflict causation, dynamics and resolution, creating a more nuanced final analysis of the conflicts experienced by the scholars.



Ugandan Scholar George Odongo and facilitator Sam Doe reflect during a CWICF presentation
Photo by Otabek Hasanov

Some of the presentations included: Germany after reunification; the role of NGOs in post-conflict Vukovar, Croatia; social tensions arising from regentrification in Portland, Oregon; the stolen generation of Aborigines in Australia; corruption in Kenya; the on-going Hindu-Muslim conflict in India; recent upheavals in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan; dilemmas surrounding the Armenian Genocide of 1915; the Maoist insurgency in Nepal; conflict in Northern Uganda; tensions over illegal immigration in the United States; ethnic and racial tension in Mexico; discrimination of homosexuals in the US; Colombia's on-going struggle for stability; genocide in Darfur; and politics in Cambodia.



Scholars apply skills of conflict analysis
Photo by Randy Ruffin

"We came from different cultural and educational backgrounds, but I realized from the knowledge and skills I gained from the course that we can work together and help one another in going down the mountain to bring out the change we want to see."

~ Emmanuel Mutisya, Kenya



Week 3: Having explored concepts of conflict analysis by applying theories to case studies, the scholars then turned to examining the skills of conflict transformation. Instructor Mohammed Abu-Nimer facilitated discussions of Appreciative Inquiry, negotiation and bargaining, and dialogue as methods for intervening in conflict. Mohammed led the scholars through a series of intentional, honest dialogues on inter-religious conflict. This provided yet another “real-life” experiential learning opportunity for the scholars, who subsequently noted that Mohammed taught the skills, but more importantly, modeled the approach as he led them through the occasionally contentious dialogues. CSP interns Pablo and Abdallah facilitated an interactive workshop on leadership and team-building.

Facilitator Mohammed Abu-Nimer in action
Photo by Otabek Hasanov



Week 4: On July 29th, the scholars visited several Geneva-based organizations that are involved in conflict transformation, including the United Nations Fund for Children (UNICEF), the United Nations, and the International Committee for the Red Cross. Academic Director Dr. Barry Hart facilitated sessions on trauma and trauma recovery; a major learning for the scholars was the idea that “pain not transformed is transferred.” Integrating into the Agenda for Reconciliation’s conference on Human Security, the scholars interacted with several key speakers including:

Ahunna Eziakonwa, Chief for Africa II Section of the UN/OCHA, Dr. Rama Mani, from the Geneva Center for Security Policy, and Dr. Aleya El Bindari Hammad, former Executive Director of the World Health Organization. Dr. Cornelio Sommaruga shared insights from his career with the International Committee of the Red Cross. Three scholars participated in the Global Indigenous Dialogue, while the entire class offered workshops on *Freedom from Fear* and *Leadership for Conflict Transformation*. Initiated by Sushil Koirala, a scholar from Nepal, the 2005 class offered Mountain House a Peace Pole inscribed with “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in 17 languages. The pole was planted during the closing ceremony of the conference.

CSP Staff

Dr. Barry Hart returned for the eighth year as Academic Director for the Caux Scholars Program. He was joined by Krista Rigalo, who served as Program Director for her second and final year. She was joined by Kathy Aquilina, who assumes the position of Program Director in September 2005. CSP Chair Randy Ruffin provided logistical and administrative support, while Abdallah Ali (Palestine) and Pablo Alvarez Tostado Fernandez (Mexico) served as CSP interns.



Facilitator Michelle LeBaron joins intern Pablo Tostado, Academic Director Barry Hart and Program Director Krista Rigalo for discussion on the terrace
Photo by Randy Ruffin

“It is totally different when you learn about what is going on somewhere from a professor, or a book, than when one of your friends is telling you his/her story... his/her feelings and experiences become mine too.”

~Monica
Heincke,
Colombia

“I feel truly blessed to have had the amazing opportunity to spend a month with a group of passionate people who have inspired me to live out my faith.”

~ Harper
McConnell,
USA



Snap Shots from CSP 2005



Hiking to a nearby waterfall



Otabek Hasanov, Jose Carlos Vargas and Altaf Abid outside UNICEF in Geneva



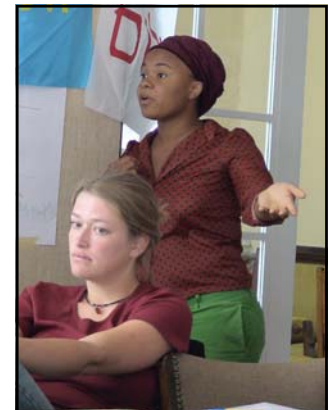
Making Fondue: Elina Karakulova and Ann Entwistle



Planting the CSP Peace Pole
Photo by Kathy Aquilina



Scholars Shehnaz Cassim, Elina Karakulova and Altaf Abid outside Chateau of Chillon in Montreux



Roberta Hunte, from Portland, OR, USA, makes a point, while Ute Bruckart, from Germany, listens



Dr. Rama Mani chats with a scholar on the lawn of Mountain House
Photo by Grant Rissler

Photos not otherwise indicated courtesy of Otabek Hasanov, Uzbekistan



Enjoying sunset by Lake Geneva



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The Caux Scholars Program is a month-long academic program held in Caux, Switzerland, that brings together students from around the world to learn about the moral and spiritual dimensions of peacemaking and about the relationship between individual transformation and change in the world.