

“A unique experience to embark on an inner journey in the company of excellent scholars and faculty.”

“My eyes were opened to the fact that our cultural backgrounds play a big role in conflict. Our differences can exacerbate conflicts further, or understanding of the others’ culture can help solve conflicts.”

~Emma Khakula
Kenya



The 2006 Caux Scholars

Imagine being twenty people on a mountain,” encouraged CSP Professor Michelle LeBaron, “with plenty of support and resources. What would be the most wonderful thing to come out of this time together? What could be possible? Now put yourself at the end of the program. Reflect on who you may be in thirty days time... Your wildest dreams could happen in this rare opportunity. What will you take with you when you finally go down the mountain?” Michele, who has taught with the Caux Scholars Program for ten years, directs the Dispute Resolution Program at the University of British Columbia, Canada. She taught in the first week of the course, helping student to appreciate the role of culture and of art in conflict and conflict transformation.

Answering Michelle’s questions, students offered: ...A source of hope, an anchor, a broader understanding of other people’s conflicts, a sharper vision of personal goals, the humility to understand one’s individual impact and roles, and insights into motivation and capabilities. Emma Khakula, who works with The International Organization for Migration in Nairobi,

Kenya, said that she saw herself leaving Caux with courage and confidence, going home as a peacebuilder. Hend Osman, an architect from Egypt wished to establish a youth group with tools to solve the Middle East conflicts. The Caux Scholars Program’s first Swiss scholar, Evelyne Studer wanted “a booster (spiritually and academically) for the rest of my life.”

Over the next four weeks, twenty scholars from fourteen countries worked hard to make some of those visions come true. Under the academic direction of Barry Hart, they interacted, negotiated, unmasked some preconceptions, held workshops, presented, mapped and analyzed their chosen conflicts.

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

Through student presentations of “Conflict Where I Come From,” students looked through others’ eyes at our global “family.” Hearing about the impact of AIDS on Africa; battles over logging; immigration and the intentional stirring up of xenophobia for political gain; corruption and the execution of dissenters was sobering.



“...our humanity and shared experiences might bring us closer so we destroy the thick walls of fear and prejudices and see a new light of change behind them.”

~Katarina Kubesova
Slovakia

“The problems of Africa cannot be solved by outsiders but by ‘we’ the Africans ourselves.”

David Kyomukama
Uganda

The assassination of Haider Maleki, from Iraq, on June 24 and the fact that Hatem Shurrab, from Gaza Palestine, was not able to participate because of his country’s closed borders, brought the violence exploding in the Middle East to the heart of our summer. The students gathered one evening, together with some forty others from the Mountain House conference center, to remember Haider in a moving ceremony.

And then came the news from Lebanon about the outbreak of war between Israel and Hizbollah. The front page of *The Herald Tribune* reported that the Lebanese Prime Minister had gone on television, “choking back tears... to plead with the UN to broker a ceasefire for his disaster-stricken nation.”



“Practicing the Arts can help us exorcise our fears, rebuild a collective identity, while providing a means to stop dehumanizing our opponent.”

Firas Abi-Ghanem, a Lebanese Caux Scholar, had presented the 17-year conflict that had beleaguered his nation in the 70’s and 80’s. He said that one can blame many for this war, but in the end “it was we who killed each other.” He then asked if anyone would wish to stay on to hear about the current destruction of his country. Many stayed late into the night.

With so much death, he asked, “how can we address the radicals now and

convince them of the need for peace?” And “...who is going to make peace? The civilians (in Israel and Lebanon) don’t know each other. But giving into hatred does not achieve anything.” He is returning home to help rebuild infrastructure and relationships.



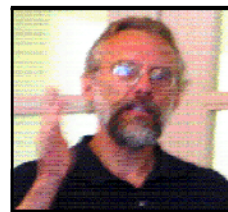
John Katunga, Acting Director of the Nairobi Peace Initiative, aided scholars in analyzing their own conflicts. Students

learned to map and look at conflict through various lenses. His underlying personal challenge was to foster peace in one’s own life, and then one gains the values and sensitivity in how to apply the learning.



Rama Mani, Executive Director, New Issues in Security Course at

the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, focused on justice and development as an integral part of peace building. She prodded the students to wonder: “Where to begin? If one really wants to restore justice, the beginning point is the experiences of the people who have suffered the injustice.”



Barry Hart showed the importance of addressing and identifying trauma in peacebuilding work. Students mentioned

beginning to understand the complexity of conflict and the role of trauma in reconciliation and peace building. He explained that trauma, individual or collective, not addressed can and too often does lead to further conflicts.



In the fourth week of the Program, students participated in the Africa-hosted conference in Mountain House entitled "An Honest Dialogue for a Clean and Just Africa." Caux Scholars attended plenary sessions, heard from a variety of guest lecturers and offered workshops for other conference participants.

Scholars tackled corruption in one workshop and the role of the media in world perception of Africa in the other. Response to the experience:

"It opened my eyes to the moral side of international relations and helped me to overcome the taboo of involving feelings in my work."

"Teamwork, understanding the concepts we were talking about, how to (and not to) run a workshop!"

Among those who offered inspiration, as they offered evidence of addressing the causes of trauma in their countries, were: Betty Bogambe, from Uganda, who showed great courage in trying to bring about negotiations between the government and rebels (Lords Resistance Army) in Northern Uganda; Chris Landsberg, a '92 Caux Scholar and foreign policy expert in South Africa, who offered an incisive social commentary about the need for structural healing in his country and Marguerite Barankitse, who survived the terrible massacres in Rwanda, deeply scarred, and then transformed her own trauma through caring for thousands of orphans.

A Global Indigenous Dialogue was part of the Africa-hosted conference, and we were challenged by the participants to continue working for justice.

Trip to Geneva

Two-thirds of the United Nations' activities, those especially involving disarmament and human rights, take place in Geneva, where there is the largest UN staff in the world. On July 28, Caux Scholars traveled to Geneva, the city of Peace, and were treated to a variety of illuminating talks starting with the peacebuilding organization InterPeace; the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); and finally with Vice President Jacques Forster of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The day was organized by Monsieur Studer, the father of a '06 Caux Scholar, who works in Geneva. Solid questions were rapidly fired: Does the UN work proactively or retroactively? Are UN officials thinking longterm? Are they addressing the psycho-social level as well? There was a lot of high-level discussion that day, finishing off with a Swiss/Malaysian supper in the Studer's home.

"Thinking how peace and conflict resolution can be used in all spheres and levels of society...that it is not simply an NGO initiative, or a conference, conversation, etc...but it is part of our lifestyle...from families to the factory."

~Jeremy MacNealy
USA

CSP Staff



Program Director Kathy Aquilina worked with two former Caux Scholars who returned as interns to help with a wide variety of logistics, practical arrangements

and program support. This year's interns were Daniela DeBono, an anthropologist and government official from Malta, and Altaf Mohammed Abid, a journalist from India.



Altaf Mohammed Abid, second left, and Daniela DeBono, third from the left, with Caux Scholars.

"Good range of mediums to accommodate different learning styles."

~Farhad Salehian
USA



Snapshots of 2006



View from Mountain House

Photos by Altaf Mohammed Abid and Kathy Aquilina

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Initiatives of Change

The Caux Scholars Program (CSP) is a month-long academic program of the international organization Initiatives of Change. CSP is held in Caux, Switzerland, and 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.