



# School of Peace & Conflict Management

ROYAL ROADS UNIVERSITY

## Alumni and Learner Quarterly Bulletin

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### Message from the Director

**Greg Cran**

It's been a busy and productive – albeit sometimes challenging – time at the School of Peace and Conflict Management since our last bulletin was issued. We were presented with some interesting situations; we needed to launch the new Master's in Disaster and Emergency Management (MADEM) program within a very narrow time frame and increase participation of Thai learners in the online courses in the Thai MA in Conflict Analysis and Management (MACAM) program. As well, we had to arrange a residency for the Human Security and Peacebuilding (MAHSP) program in Uganda in midst of an Ebola outbreak in the region we planned to visit and a faculty strike at our partnering University in Kampala.

In October, we all felt the passing of a dear friend and colleague, Dr. Paz Buttedahl, Program Head for the MA in Human Security and Peacebuilding program, who succumbed to cancer. She is dearly missed by her learners, who she watched over and nurtured – sometimes as if they were her own children.

This past November, we re-launched the Thai MACAM program after postponing it for a year following the military coup in 2006. The residency was held at three universities – Kasetsart University in Bangkok, Naresuan University in Phitsanulok and Chiang Mai University in Chiang Mai.

Since December, we have had two new core faculty members join us. JY Forcier, the former head of Canada Command and Vice Admiral of the Pacific

Fleet, is our new Program Head for the MA in Disaster and Emergency Management program and Dr. Michael Young, who previously chaired the Criminal Justice program at Camosun College, has joined the BA Justice Studies program. We now have a School Manager, Coleen Tinning, who came to us from Continuing Education at RRU. Coleen is responsible for the administration of the School – a godsend for everyone. We have two new Program Associates, Diana Scott, with the MACAM program and Maxine Machan, with the BA in Justice Studies (BJUS) program. All play an invaluable role in providing program guidance and learner support.

New associate faculty have joined the School over the past year. Dr. Laurie Pearce, Dr. Robin Cox and Dr. Will Mathews are teaching in the MADEM program and Dr. David Reagan, who has taught the Thai MACAM research course, will be teaching the research course for the incoming MADEM cohort. Ms. Susan Soux will be teaching the residency in Uganda for the MAHSP program and Dr. Hrach Gregorian, President of World Affairs in Washington DC – an international NGO specializing in peacebuilding and conflict management – will be teaching the incoming MAHSP cohort.

This is an exciting time at the School as programs continue to expand. We look forward to hearing from you over the coming months as we continue our efforts to keep the connections alive.

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### Jabu Bags: An unexpected internship

**Megan Yarema**

The opportunity of an internship overseas holds many prospects for a student – adventure, cultural submersion, field experience and a classroom where learning becomes practical and hands on. Part of my requirements as a learner in the Master's in Human

Security and Peacebuilding program was to engage in such an internship. This past August I departed on what would become an integral part of my career as a student and development worker.

Sent to Zimbabwe to work in the area of women's rights, I was quickly re-directed to Swaziland after only three weeks in the city of Harare. Due to work permit issues – which can only be construed as a message from the Zimbabwe government meaning “no foreigners allowed” – I became a displaced volunteer along with two other Canadians. What ensued was six weeks of waiting as new placements were sought and discussions over the return to Zimbabwe were debated. The end result was a decision to stay in Swaziland where I am now living.

With time on my side, I began what would become “Jabu Bags,” an income-generating project with rural Swazi women sewing cloth purses with African print materials. A bag I had made in Uganda (the original version was from Thailand) with African fabric led to an idea that manifested itself into a project and my own self-made internship.

Poverty in Swaziland is rampant and with its misinformed status as a middle-income country it is hard for funding to reach those on the ground. This, combined with the highest HIV/AIDS rate in the world and a shrinking workforce as more and more individuals are lost to the disease, other family members are left to find financial solutions. I recognized that my bag project could have a direct positive influence on communities and the funds would not get tied up in NGO bureaucracy or misdirection (I had witnessed both since my arrival). After finding a sewing group in the eastern part of the country, buying some fabric at the local market and securing my first store, within weeks of arrival my idea had come into being.

Focusing on empowerment, skill sharing and poverty reduction, Jabu Bags became the internship that I couldn't find. Currently, 16 women produce 35 bags a week, make above fair wages and are able to buy the

supplies necessary for their children to attend school. They work together in a one-room hut using hand crank machines to make the bags that are now for sale in Swaziland, parts of South Africa and Canada. The future plan is to establish Jabu Bags as a Socially Responsible Business and to organize sewing groups in other impoverished areas of the country so more women – and their communities – can benefit.



While I was subsequently placed in a new internship position in Swaziland, it was clear that my focus would be on Jabu Bags (“Jabu” means “happiness” in Siswati) and helping other rural communities benefit from a steady income with fair wages. It also helped to shape my final master's report which will focus on the concept of a Socially Responsible Business and how this model can help alleviate poverty in countries such as Swaziland.

I can honestly say I left for my internship with intentions of adventure and learning and never once anticipated the turn of events that has become my life. My advice to future interns gearing up for a term overseas? Expect the unexpected. Sometimes, it's more rewarding than the original plan.

*Megan Yarema is a learner in the Human Security and Peacebuilding program, 2006 cohort. To learn more about the MAHSP program, please visit the [MAHSP homepage](#).*

## CSIS presentation offers BJUS learner new insight

On November 26th, 2007, Amy Jones attended a special guest presentation on the RRU Quarterdeck. A member of CSIS ([Canadian Security and Intelligence Services](#)) gave a presentation on their organization and Amy says, “It definitely spiked my interest! CSIS is actively recruiting for all types of jobs, but the occupation that attracted me was intelligence officer.” CSIS requires that all applicants for intelligence officers hold a Bachelor's Degree, have a valid driver's license, and be a Canadian citizen. “I am eager to graduate in October,” Amy explains, “so I can submit my application! I came into the Justice Studies

program with the career goal of becoming a lawyer but my ideas changed once I learned about CSIS.”

Amy encourages all students to attend presentations such as these and take advantage of extra-curricular opportunities available to students. “Personally, my year at Royal Roads is going by quickly so I am trying to enjoy my time here as much as possible.” Amy adds, “I love Royal Roads!”

*Amy Jones is a member of the 2008 on-campus cohort of the BJUS program. To learn more about the BJUS program, please visit the [BJUS homepage](#).*

## Applied Skills Option in MACAM program

Robert Pidgeon

From January 14<sup>th</sup> through February 1<sup>st</sup>, fifteen MACAM learners completed a residency forming part of the newly designed Applied Skills Option (ASO). The ASO residency, now in its second year, consists of an additional residency and distance course and culminates in a major Professional Skills Development Plan paper. The option focuses heavily on the demonstration, assessment and development of the practical skills and capacities utilized by successful conflict management practitioners. Early feedback on the program seems to indicate that it is both extremely challenging and highly relevant to the integration of MACAM learning into the professional lives of learners.

During this year's three week ASO residency, the learners were joined by 7 faculty representing a wide



Len Dafoe and Cathy Mercer practice skills developed during the residency.

range of practitioner styles and areas of practice. The residency progressed through three levels of skills starting with internal reflective and systems thinking skills, moving through interpersonal skills and finally covering multi-party, multi-group conflict management skills. In the process, the learners developed into an impressive learning organization. They engaged in a wide range of practical, hands on learning challenges in order to deeply explore what it means to successfully intervene in conflicts. The faculty found this year's residency very rewarding and is looking forward to the continued development of this exciting new learning option.

*Robert Pidgeon is a member of the MACAM associate faculty who instructed the ASO residency this year. To learn more about the MACAM program, please visit the [MACAM homepage](#).*

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## Sexual violence against women not a case for impunity

Cecelia Mzvondiwa

*Cecelia presented her paper, "Our Bodies, Their Battlefield: Sexual Violence Against Women In Conflict Zones; Not A Case For Impunity!" at the Conference on Peace and Security in Africa: Beyond the AU Charter, Peace, Security and Justice hosted by the Africa Human Security Initiative - Institute for Security Studies held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 20-23 February 2008.*

Sexual violence in conflict situations is increasingly recognized as a fundamental human rights violation, a global public health problem and a development issue. A growing body of research confirms that sexual violence has grave consequences for women's physical, sexual, and mental health, as well as implications for the health and well-being of families and communities (International symposium on sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond, Brussels, 2006).

This paper is a call to conscience, a call to all African governments and civil society to work together

towards ending impunity on rape. Violence against women during conflict has reached epidemic proportions. The magnitude and scope of this crime is not known and perhaps never will be known. What is known is the suffering of survivors seen, felt and heard across the continent, with effects that outlive our generation. It remains futile to describe the horrors, show the scars and look for reasons why rape occurs when no practical steps are taken to end such human rights abuses. If Africa as a continent dreams of a better world, that should start with respecting human rights and human rights are women's rights too!



*Cecelia is a member of the 2006 cohort in the MAHSP program. If you would like more information on the conference or would like to read Cecelia's paper, please contact her at: [Cecilia.Mzvondiwa@RoyalRoads.ca](mailto:Cecilia.Mzvondiwa@RoyalRoads.ca).*

*To learn more about the MAHSP program, please visit the [MAHSP homepage](#).*

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## Increasing children's self esteem focus of innovative workshop

Tim Brodie

Tim Brodie, a current BJUS Learner, has partnered with one of Canada's leading Lifeskills Coaches to create a five-module workshop to train adults interested in providing coaching services to kids.

Tim's company (The Brodies) has been providing coaching in a Group Home environment to kids in crisis for over a year. Drawing from that expertise, he has partnered with Canada's runner-up for 2008 Coach of the Year Susan Howson (Magnificent

Creations Limited) in a project that has achieved international interest.

The Youth Coaching Academy, a world leader in life programs for children, has set their sights on Canada in 2008. Harry Singha, Principal of the Youth Coaching Academy, is coming to Toronto in May of 2008 exclusively to help with the official launch of Tim and Susan's ground-breaking program.

The target for the workshop is broad. Group homes, schools, foster homes and community centres – anywhere adults interact with children – will benefit

from this program. With International Coaches Federation accreditation pending, the program will be invaluable and have far reaching impact in both a professional and personal milieu.

Plans to bring the workshop to Victoria are already underway. With a vision of increasing the self-esteem of 1,000,000 kids within 10 years – a priority in Tim's life – there's tons of room on his bandwagon.

*Tim Brodie is a learner in the 2007 cohort of the BJUS program. To learn more about the BJUS program, please visit the [BJUS homepage](#).*

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## **Coordinating chaos conference — an important learning event for students of Conflict Analysis and Management**

### **Cristy McLennan**

Four MACAM learners were in attendance for *Coordinating Chaos: Taking a Multi-Dimensional Approach to Stabilization Operations*, the third annual international conference of the Trudeau Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Toronto. The conference, held from February 8-10, accurately reflected its working title by examining the plethora of challenges that exist to integrating political, military, economic, and humanitarian actors within conflict zones so as to develop coherent strategies for peace operations. Information on this event is still available at: [www.coordinatingchaos.ca/](http://www.coordinatingchaos.ca/).

Over the course of three days, leading figures in international affairs and global governance shared their knowledge and experience with 150 registered delegates — students and professionals alike in peace and conflict studies. The event commenced with a selection of student presentations, including one from MACAM learner Cristy McLennan on issues around protecting humanitarian space in active conflict. On Saturday and Sunday the conference consisted of thematic addresses by a panel of experts, followed by breakout sessions to explore particular issues in smaller groups. This layout subsequently tackled the three general phases of a conflict period: the intervention, the stabilization period and the transfer to civil authority. Examples of breakout sessions included case studies of specific intervention

mandates, such as Bosnia, Somalia and Afghanistan; factors in stabilizing violent conflict, including civilian protection and civil-military cooperation; and factors for lasting peace, such as economic reconstruction and judicial reform. There were also a series of keynote addresses which spoke to a more general snapshot of how the international community is currently coming to grips with the constantly evolving challenges to working in this field.

Distinguished guests and speakers of the conference included university professors and scholars, Canadian government officials, retired Major Generals involved in UN missions, ambassadors, advisors to humanitarian agencies, members of the Canadian Forces and representatives from expert institutes. The conference was organized by dedicated undergraduate students at the Trudeau Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies who clearly organized yet another successful and stimulating event. The four MACAM learners who attended — Cody Woitas, Eileen Alma, Eva Knell and Cristy McLennan — thoroughly benefited from this event and would encourage fellow learners to attend next year's conference.

*Cristy McLennan is a learner in the 2006 cohort of the MACAM program. To learn more about the MACAM program, please visit the [MACAM homepage](#).*

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## **Final thoughts on UNESCO conference - The strategic role of water in alleviating the human tragedy associated with HIV/AIDS**

### **Leah Sherwood**

During the four days of the conference, there were many thoughtful and insightful presentations which interrogated the relationship between water quality and livelihoods for people living with HIV/AIDS in southern Africa. It was agreed that it is imperative

that water accessibility and quality both need to increase to meet the demands of the most vulnerable people and provide them with an opportunity to live with the virus and lead a dignified life. We were reminded that simple statistics and extrapolations

made by economists on the material costs of HIV/AIDS do not capture the magnitude of the multi-tiered affects which resonate from the HIV/AIDS pandemic in southern Africa. The issue needs to be understood holistically and in terms of people, families and communities. Development models created in response to HIV/AIDS need to incorporate concerns of livelihoods and access to environmental resources. Communities are, naturally, multidimensional, and so is the nature of poverty as well as the way HIV/AIDS affects communities and is affected by poverty. Social, economic, spatial, environmental, and political factors that affect one community or nation influence others directly or indirectly and the issue of water, HIV/AIDS and poverty must necessarily be understood as a web

of interconnected, mutually reinforcing relationships. It was recognized that access to quality water is an essential part of any sustainable livelihood, but is essential for the livelihoods of people living with HIV/AIDS and as an extension, their survival has implications for social and economic development as well as long term poverty reduction in schemes in southern Africa.

*Leah Sherwood is a member of the 2006 cohort of the MAHSP program. If you would like to read more of Leah's paper visit: <http://www.royalroads.ca/programs/faculties-schools-centres/faculty-social-applied-sciences/peace-conflict-management/hmnspcb-ma/default.htm>.*

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## Events and Postings

### Upcoming Events:

- **Royal Roads University Spring Convocation**, Friday, June 20. Congratulations to those learners graduating this spring! The SPCM learners will be crossing the stage during the morning ceremony, beginning at 9:30am. Please visit the convocation website for details: <http://www.royalroads.ca/about-rru/the-university/news-events/convocation/>.

### Websites to visit for employment, volunteer and internship opportunities:

- [Right to Play](#) harnesses the universal love of play to engage children and youth in regular, organized play activities that address critical challenges like the lack of basic education, lack of health information and the impact of conflict on both the individual and community networks and support systems.
- [Equitas](#) was established as a non-profit, non-governmental organization in 1967 by a group of leading Canadian scholars, jurists and human rights advocates with a mandate to advance democracy, human development, peace and social justice through educational programs.
- [The International Development Research Centre](#) (IDRC) is a public corporation created by the Parliament of Canada in 1970 to help developing countries use science and technology to find practical, long-term solutions to the social, economic, and environmental problems they face. Support is directed toward developing an indigenous research capacity to sustain policies and technologies that developing countries need to build healthier, more equitable, and more prosperous societies.
- [Canadem](#), with assistance and funding from the government of Canada, supports Canada's determination to strengthen the activities of international organizations, working to advance the universal principles of the UN Charter, international peace & security, human rights and the responsibility to protect. This includes the UN, OSCE, other inter-governmental organizations, and of course non-governmental partners.
- [The Stephen Lewis Foundation](#) (SLF) helps to ease the pain of HIV/AIDS in Africa at the grassroots level. It provides care to women who are ill and struggling to survive; assists orphans and other AIDS affected children; supports heroic grandmothers who almost single-handedly care for their orphan grandchildren; and supports associations of people living with HIV/AIDS.

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*If you would like to contribute to the SPCM bulletin, please send your articles, postings, or other items of interest to [Bev Hill](#). Your submission may be edited for clarity and conciseness.*