Community College Faculty Explore Teaching About Global Conflict and Peacebuilding

From October 12-15, 2013, the American Red Cross and Montgomery College in Maryland co-sponsored a four-day seminar on "Global Conflict and Peacebuilding" for 28 community college teaching faculties representing 11 institutions from California, Florida, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Maryland and Virginia. The Strategic Peacebuilding diagram (Kroc Institute, University of Notre Dame) and Peacebuilding in Community Colleges: A Teaching Resource (United States Institute of Peace Press, June 2013) are two resources used to frame the discussions provided by more than 40 presenters.

Dr. Cindy Epperson, St. Louis Community College and co-author of the above publication’s chapter about teaching IHL and human rights, and Stacy Korbelak, Howard Community College English professor and Global Distinction director, led sessions on IHL integration in college courses. The participating faculty members represented multiple disciplines, including political science, history, psychology, sociology, English, world languages, international relations, peace studies, conflict resolution and criminal justice.

The featured speaker for the program was Arun Gandhi (grandson of Mahatma Gandhi) addressing: “Gandhian Nonviolence: A Pathway for Resolving Modern Day Conflict”. A “World Café” during the seminar included representatives from Student Peace Alliance, the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting and Global Peace Services.

The final session was held in Washington at the American Red Cross historic national headquarters building, memorializing the women of the North and South who aided the wounded during the American Civil War. Participants also met with representatives from the Organization of American States.

Jennifer Haydel, assistant professor of political science at Montgomery College, David J. Smith, and Laurie Fisher from the American Red Cross IHL Program organized the seminar. For more information contact Laurie.Fisher@redcross.org.
IHL welcomes the following Leadership Team Members!

We welcome Jane Zimmerman as the new Executive Director of the International Policy and External Affairs and Christie Edwards as the new Director of the International Humanitarian Law Unit.

Jane Zimmerman- Jane is an experienced leader, negotiator, and analyst coming to us from the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, where she was the Deputy Assistant Secretary. We are lucky to add her expertise in crisis leadership, interagency dynamics, foreign assistance and resource management to our department. From Mali to Israel, she brings a wealth of international experience with her. She is proficient in 5 languages. She is also the recipient of numerous State Department service awards.

Ms. Zimmerman is a graduate of Macalester College and also of Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

Christie Edwards- Christie joined the team in August and comes to us from Vital Voices Global Partnership here in Washington, DC, where she worked on legal advocacy programs for women around the world. She developed course curriculum on international humanitarian law and international criminal law as a Dean's Fellow in the War Crimes Research Office at American University. During her law school days, she became intimately acquainted with the Red Cross Restoring Family Links Program through her pro bono asylum work in San Diego.

She holds a law degree from Thomas Jefferson Law School in San Diego and a Masters of Law from American University Washington College of Law in Washington, DC.

Please join us in welcoming Jane and Christie to the team!

The IHL Action Campaign and Farewell to Jessica Lane

On September 26-29 chapter staff members and interns from each of the IHL Action Campaign grant chapters met in DC for IHL Action Campaign Leadership Training. It was fantastic to reunite with the committed chapter staff and young people we’ve been working with so closely over the last year, and it was exciting to meet the ones who joined the program this year!

Regrettably, Jessica Lane, Youth and Young Adult Manager in the Central New York Region, is moving on to start a new life in Rwanda. Jessica has been a phenomenal asset to the IHL program, leading the Action Campaign in the Central New York region and organizing other IHL-focused activities. Jessica’s professionalism, commitment and creativity have been inspirational.

Jessica: thank you so much for all the work you have done to support the dissemination of IHL among young people!

We wish you all the best in your future endeavors.
Factoids: Notable International Humanitarian Law moments in history

We have introduced a new section highlighting dates in history that include International Humanitarian Law developments that are noteworthy.

Nov 8
1994: The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda is created by the United Nations Security Council, of which it is a subsidiary body. Its task is to help restore and maintain peace and bring about national reconciliation by trying persons for acts of genocide and other grave breaches of international humanitarian law committed in Rwanda, and trying Rwandan citizens suspected of committing such acts and violations in the territory of neighboring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994.

November 14
September - November 1862: Clara Barton travels with the Army of the Potomac as it pursues the retreating Confederates into Virginia. She provides aid to the wounded at several minor skirmishes and accompanies patients to hospitals in DC.

November 26

December 8

December 21

December 25
1821: Clara Barton is born in North Oxford, Massachusetts.

IHL Education Pinterest

Do you have a Pinterest account? If so, follow what we are “pinning” and become inspired to pin our pins unto your own board. By following us, you can share ideas, and spread ideas about IHL issues and events.

Follow us at http://pinterest.com/arcihleducation/?d

To find out how to get started with Pinterest visit www.pinterest.com.
Illinois State University Organizes Event on Restraints and Protections in Armed Conflict

A four-day public event “Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law” in September featured three guest speakers and an IHL workshop. The series was sponsored in part by the United Institute of Peace (USIP) and the American Red Cross and reached about 200 ISU students and faculties, as well as members of the broader community. Guest speakers discussed specific international humanitarian law (IHL) topics including: Drone Warfare and Government Transparency and Secrecy (Dr. Lesley Wexler, University of Illinois Law School); IHL History and Role of the U.S., particularly focusing on detainees (Col. Morris Davis, former Guantanamo Bay chief prosecutor); and Children in War and Refugees, particularly with respect to the Sudanese civil war and its aftermath (Mr. Gabriel Bol Deng, activist and former war orphan/refugee).

A workshop facilitated by the Heartland Chapter of the American Red Cross served as the capstone to the week’s events and examined the role of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the American Red Cross, as well as the principles and application of IHL to current events. The event’s program director, Dr. Michaelene Cox, led an introduction and short discussion about the complementary nature of international human rights law and IHL prior to each event.

Pre- and post-tests were administered to determine the extent of knowledge about IHL. Overall, pre-test results indicate that, before the event, most participants knew very little about IHL principles or its applications. Feedback received after each event indicated that the guest speakers and the workshop facilitated considerable learning. For further information, contact: Michaelene Cox, mcox@ilstu.edu or Emily Barr, Emily.Barr@redcross.org.

IHL Blog - Humanity in the Midst of War

Humanity in the Midst of War is a forum dedicated to understanding international humanitarian law (IHL), also known as the “law of war” or “law of armed conflict,” and the applicability of this body of law to armed conflict situations around the world. Offering readers a neutral, law-centered perspective, Humanity in the Midst of War discusses important trends and developments in international humanitarian law, provides legal analysis regarding the application of the law of armed conflict to potential and active armed conflicts, and offers policy makers recommendations for strengthening the rule of law internationally. Read more at Humanity in the Midst of War.

Connect via #Teachhumanity

Are you an educator interested in learning more about IHL? Connect with educators teaching about IHL via #Teachhumanity. Follow and re-tweet to promote awareness of IHL. @RulesofWar provides daily updates regarding developments in the laws of armed conflict, conflict zones, and international humanitarian operations. Follow @RulesofWar on Twitter for all of your IHL news.
The Exploring Humanitarian Law Institute was truly an eye opening experience. It was great to see how so many teachers, professors, and administrators from around the country are proactively finding ways to incorporate international humanitarian law into their curriculum.

I attended the 5th Module of the Institute, which focused on responding to the consequences of armed conflict. One of the sessions centered around planning a camp for people displaced by war. We were given a feasible scenario where we had to plan out the logistics of running a refugee camp that could hold up to 10,000 people. Not only did this give me an insight into how complex that process is, it also gave me an appreciation for the educators in the room who were already conceptualizing how they could use the activity with their students. When I was in middle school and high school, we did not talk much about armed conflicts and international humanitarian law, which, looking back, I would say is regrettable, because many of my classmates are now in the military or are working for humanitarian organizations. However, current middle school and high school students are getting the opportunity to have those discussions.

It is great to see that international humanitarian law is becoming an increasingly popular topic in school. The Institute was a testament to the amount of interest that has been ignited around international humanitarian law in our schools. The teachers and administrators that attended the Institute are educating the next generation of humanitarians and helping to ensure that international humanitarian law is the foundation upon which humanitarian action will be based.

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**Holiday Message from the IHL Team – Happy Holidays!**

*Dear Educators,*

The International Humanitarian Law staff would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone happy holidays and thank everyone for all their hard work in making this an exceptional year. As the year 2013 comes to a close, we are truly grateful for all of the success that we have enjoyed. Thank you for your efforts as educators. We look forward to working with you in 2014.

As we continue to work together, please take some time to share with us any feedback and comments you may have about our program and activities. Please feel free to contact an IHL team member with questions, comments or concerns. Once more, we wish each and everyone Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year!

Our offices will be closed on November 28 and 29, 2013, December 25, 2013 and also on January 1, 2014.

*Sincerely,*
The International Humanitarian Law Team
I can say with full confidence I will never think about the world the same way again. After training to become a Team Leader for the Central Illinois and Porter County International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Action Campaign, my eyes were opened to so many new experiences and, unfortunately, problems across the globe that the Red Cross works with every day. Along with those problems come opportunities to educate, and that is what I am looking forward to the most.

Before I get ahead of myself, let me explain what I went through the weekend of October 4 to 6. I traveled to Valparaiso University, along with my Bradley team, to learn more about IHL. It was a long, busy weekend, where everybody was exposed to hours of simulations of war-related situations in a role-playing activity called Raid Cross. It was emotional. I felt ashamed, degraded, angry, confused, saddened, helpless and enlightened throughout the process.

Most of all, I felt empowered. I felt knowledgeable, and I felt active. The simulations, which recreated IHL issues, from prisoners of war, to international courts, to Red Cross volunteers trying to provide aid, made me realize that I needed to do something. They made me realize that too many college students are unaware of the global problems children and young adults in war-torn countries face daily.

After being a participant in the campaign and carrying out a trial-run campaign with my Bradley team, I can say with full confidence I will never think about the world the same way again. Because now I know what’s going on internationally. It’s not pretty, but it’s something we can change. Bringing this campaign to Bradley is my way of starting that process.