

NEW LEADERS BRING ENERGY, SKILL, COMMITMENT AND INNOVATION TO IPJ AND KROC SCHOOL



IPJ Director Dee Aker and Kroc School Dean Patricia Marquez look forward to furthering the mission and vision of founding donor Joan B. Kroc

As the school year began in September at the University of San Diego (USD), new leaders were in the halls of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ) to greet students, interns and the next cohort of Women PeaceMakers.

Patricia Marquez, PhD, formerly the director of USD's Changemaker Hub and the Center for Peace and Commerce, became dean of the Kroc School of Peace Studies (KSPS) over the summer. One of her first acts on the job was to appoint long-serving deputy director Dee Aker, PhD, as full-fledged director of the institute.

They join Everard Meade, PhD, who was named director of the Trans-Border Institute earlier this year, in rounding out the leadership of the unique and cutting-edge Kroc School, which blends theory and

practice to contribute to peacebuilding and human rights initiatives around the world.

Marquez and Aker are both anthropologists by training but have gone on to work in various fields — modeling the interdisciplinary nature of the field of peace and justice studies.

Marquez received her doctorate in sociocultural anthropology from the University of California at Berkeley, where her research was on street children in Caracas, Venezuela, her home country. Her interests since have explored how market mechanisms and entrepreneurship can generate greater inclusion and justice among people living in poverty — research topics that have led her to positions in prominent business schools including Harvard and Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración, one of the premier business schools in Latin America.



Aker, who has been part of the institute since its inception and was recently named to the San Diego County Women's Hall of Fame as a "Trailblazer," has a PhD in anthropology and psychology. Professionally, however, she has worked across the globe as a journalist, TV host, university administrator, and conflict resolution specialist. She created the IPJ's Women PeaceMakers and WorldLink programs and the Nepal Peacebuilding Initiative — all award-winning programs that are in their second decade and continue to evolve.

“KSPS is one of the few schools of its nature in the world with innovative approaches to integrating thinking and action for peace and justice.”

— PATRICIA MARQUEZ

Together with staff, faculty, students and supporters, the pair is motivated by Joan Kroc's vision of what a school of peace studies can bring to the university and the world.

“With rising conflicts and injustices, much energy seems to go into institutions focusing on war as opposed to peacebuilding and justice creation,” Marquez said upon her appointment as dean. “KSPS is one of the few schools of its nature in the world with innovative approaches to integrating thinking and action for peace and justice.”

IPJ INSIDER

IPJ PROGRAMS FEATURED PROMINENTLY AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES



WorldLink students from Instituto Mexico Americano Noroeste learned from keynote speaker Angelina Dayfallah, a certified trainer in Kingian nonviolence

Staff members of the IPJ were busy all year giving presentations around the country and the world. In May and October, however, they did not have to travel far to share the institute's work and learn from their peers. Two major educational conferences were held in San Diego with institute participation: the annual conference of NAFSA: Association of International Educators, and the biennial gathering of the Peace and Justice Studies Association (PJSA).

At NAFSA in May, several program officers presented on "Building Global Competencies in Peace, Justice and Social Responsibility on Campus" — using the IPJ's WorldLink, Women PeaceMakers, Distinguished Lecture Series, and field programs as examples of international and experiential education both in the classroom and beyond.

Director Dee Aker and Senior Program Officer Jennifer Freeman addressed NAFSA's Ron Moffatt Seminar on Peace and the Global Civil Society, describing how the Women PeaceMakers program's role on the university campus is a model of "high-impact peace education." NAFSA awarded its Senator Paul Simon Spotlight Award for Campus Internationalization to the University of San Diego (USD) in 2011 in recognition of the Women PeaceMakers program.

This October, USD's Kroc School of Peace Studies and School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES) co-hosted the biennial conference of PJSA — the North American affiliate of the International Peace Research Association. In addition to faculty and several alumni of the Kroc School, IPJ staff covered a variety of topics on the conference's theme, "Courageous Presence: Shifting Stories and Practices of Peace."



A mural was painted on site at the Peace and Justice Studies Association conference

Program Officer Debbie Martinez appeared on a panel to discuss her work "Engaging Youth in Civil and Global Affairs" through the IPJ's WorldLink program. WorldLink students took center stage with other high school students in PJSA's Youth Summit. Similar to the program's Annual Youth Town Meeting, the summit was youth-led, with a keynote speaker, reflection groups and breakout sessions facilitated by students themselves.

"The PJSA Youth Summit was a day full of encouragement, tools and courageous presence," remarked Sandy Quiroz of Tijuana's Instituto Mexico Americano Noroeste, a WorldLink school. "Throughout the workshops we were able to discover and understand what it takes to start building a path to peace."



USD earned the 2011 Senator Paul Simon Spotlight Award in recognition for its Women PeaceMakers program

The Women PeaceMakers program was also highlighted in two sessions during the conference. Freeman led the 2014 Women PeaceMakers-in-residence in a discussion of the necessity of shifting the narratives that continue the cycle of violence in their regions — Israel, Kashmir, Sri Lanka and Uganda.

In another presentation, SOLES colleague Peggy Hetherington and Kroc School alumna Katie Zaroni introduced a pilot curriculum, based on peacemakers' narratives from Kenya, that they developed and implemented at the all-girls' Daraja Academy in Kenya earlier this year. They continue to work with program staff to develop curricula and educational materials based on the Women PeaceMakers program.

PEACE TALKS & JUSTICE MATTERS

IPJ MISSION

A gift from Mrs. Kroc enabled the University of San Diego to build and endow the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ). Since 2000, the IPJ — part of the Kroc School of Peace Studies — has worked to build peace with justice by strengthening women peacemakers, youth leaders and human rights defenders, and developing innovative approaches to peacebuilding.

PEACE AND JUSTICE COMPASS

An online version of this newsletter can be found at <http://peace.sandiego.edu> together with additional information about IPJ programs and activities. The views expressed here are not necessarily those of the University of San Diego.

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Following a busy winter and spring with peacebuilding activities beyond our campus, as you will read about in these pages, it was rewarding for the staff of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ) to bring the world back to the doorstep of the University of San Diego this fall.

We searched the globe for this year's Women PeaceMakers (page 6), while also planning our 10th international working conference on women, peace and security, held in November at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice.

Alumnae of the Women PeaceMakers program, many of whom are witnessing and confronting the rise of violent extremism that is often masked in problematic interpretations of religion, called for this conference, "Defying Extremism: Gendered Responses to Religious Violence."

Over 100 activists, analysts and policymakers, from over 30 countries where seemingly incomprehensible challenges and crises are gaining ground, came to the IPJ to expose and tackle these ugly and life-threatening issues: the hate, the blaming of minorities, the abuse of women in the name of religion or culture, the political justification of inhuman acts. Many voices of reason are being lost in the violence and in the discourse we hear in the media. The women and men who lent their perspectives and voices to the conference make clear that human rights and social justice are for all.

The conference focused on what was happening, what initiatives are working, and what kinds of policies must emerge to address them. Building inclusive peace must be at the heart of women, peace and security agendas. A report will be published and follow-up regional meetings will be held in 2015, and our readers can find coverage in our next newsletter and online.

The Distinguished Lecture this fall, held in conjunction with the conference, was given by Karima Bennouna, author of *Your Fatwa Does Not Apply Here*. She accented how one individual can and must discover and uncover the vital truths that give meaning to our beliefs. Within the stories she tells, we find it is in human actions and struggles for social justice where we discover the true meaning of "faith-filled" and faithful.

It remains a privilege, as well as a responsibility, to be involved in peacebuilding. While we seek to listen to — and bring back to campus — the voices of people seeking to fit their piece of peace into a greater whole, we also trust that you, our readers and supporters, are seeing what is important around you and making your worlds more peaceful, inclusive and just.

I am honored every day to work with a team that has a vision and passion to work toward that as well. I hope you enjoy our updates here and that you feel part of our larger team now and for a long time to come. We sincerely appreciate your support.

INSTITUTE CONSULTED FOR TRAINING CURRICULUM FOR SECURITY SECTOR

The IPJ was represented at a training curriculum consultation group on "Civil Society and Security Sector Engagement on Human Security," a follow-up meeting to a roundtable discussion that took place in January of this year. The institute's work in Nepal and Kenya has served as a case study on the topic.

Program Officer Zahra Ismail attended the meeting in June at the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP) in Washington, D.C., which focused on reviewing curriculum writing guides by USIP and the U.N. Institute for Training and Research, for the development of a handbook and online curriculum. The project is a partnership between the Alliance for Peacebuilding, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame, and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict.



The consultation was held at the U.S. Institute of Peace (photo courtesy of Something Original/Wikimedia Commons)

THE NOBLE GIRLS OF NORTHERN NIGERIA FIGHTING FOR THEIR EDUCATION

by Isha Raj-Silverman, La Jolla High School

The following is an excerpt from a feature article on the IPJ's website. Read the full article by Raj-Silverman, a WorldLink participant, at <http://peace.sandiego.edu/worldlink>.

In April, over 200 girls were kidnapped from a school in northern Nigeria by Boko Haram, a group that believes Western education of girls is “against God.” Yet girls in Nigeria continue to try to get an education despite the danger. I had an opportunity to speak with two teenage girls in northern Nigeria about the risks they face in pursuing their education, and why it is so important to them to continue with school despite these risks.



Students at the Future Prowess School, Maiduguri, Nigeria (Photo courtesy of Obinna Anyadike/IRIN)

Aisha, age 17, and Zainab,* age 15, are in secondary school in a provincial town in the north. While the town boasts access to higher education, more than half of the girls there do not attend school. Aisha and Zainab are beating the odds, continuing with their secondary education despite the risks and their fears.

NEW STUDENT-PRODUCED VIDEO ON WORLDLINK HITS YOUTUBE

In a newly released video, 2014 summer intern Ninett Rodriguez captures the voices of youth leaders from San Diego and Baja Mexico explaining the impact of WorldLink's Annual Youth Town Meeting. Rodriguez is a recent graduate of the Academy of Our Lady of Peace and now a freshman at Fordham University in New York. View the video on WorldLink's website, <http://peace.sandiego.edu/worldlink>, or on the program's YouTube site.



A still from WorldLink's new video on the Annual Youth Town Meeting captures students from San Diego and Tijuana in a peer-led session discussing topics of global concern



Rally in Lagos, Nigeria to “Bring Back Our Girls” (Photo courtesy of UN Photo)

Zainab said, “If you are going to school, you will be afraid because you do not know what kind of danger you will put yourself into. When you meet people on the road, you do not know if it will be good people or bad.”

Aisha, who must go a farther distance to school, agreed: “The school is really far. I usually feel lonely and afraid when I am going because some people might kidnap me or maybe take me away from my home or even rape me because of it. It is scary going to school.”

I asked why they keep going given the situation. Zainab responded, “Because I am concerned about my future, and I want to be someone in life. So that is why I keep going to school even though it is scary. I want to be somebody in life, so I can help other girls to get to school in the future.”

Aisha had a different but just as noble reason: “Because I have a dream of becoming a doctor. There are few female doctors in my community. Women in Nigeria usually die as a result of not reaching the hospital, because men do not like to send their wife to the hospital because she will be attended by a male doctor. I still go to school despite that it is scary because I want to help other women be able to go to the doctor.”

“... I want to be someone in life. So that is why I keep going to school even though it is scary. I want to be somebody in life, so I can help other girls to get to school in the future.”

— ZAINAB* OF NORTHERN NIGERIA

Even though they live such different lives than me and other teenage girls in the States, I learned that both girls are similar to teenagers here. When asked what they do for fun, Zainab told me that she likes watching television, and Aisha told me she loves to dance.

Despite our completely different lives, these girls are just teenagers like me, which makes them even more extraordinary. They are fighting for their right to an education, while I complain about homework. But we all are just girls, trying to fix the world just a little bit.

*Names have been changed for security purposes.



YOUTH LEADERS MAKE STRIDES IN FINDING SOLUTIONS

While dedicating his summer to conducting careful research and analysis on the 2015 WorldLink theme “Healing the Wounds of Violence,” intern Chase Garcia from Scripps Ranch High School discovered the power of healing through storytelling and the importance of being mindful of cultural relativism.

In their search for ways to protect endangered languages, Garcia and classmate An Nguyen founded Student Advocates for Language Preservation (SALP), an organization “seeking to address the unfortunate language loss process — in immigrant and minority communities, and languages with rapidly declining number of speakers,” according to its website.



The officers of SALP, Student Advocates for Language Preservation, including Chase Garcia (first row, second from left) raise awareness about endangered languages

The first of its kind in the region, SALP enables middle school, high school and college students to become administrators, members and guest writers who raise awareness on languages such as Kumeyaay and Hmong through research, interviews and writings. SALP’s website is www.studentlanguagepreservation.org.

Fellow WorldLink intern Lily Greenberg Call from the San Diego Jewish Academy began this past summer with a similar goal: to use her journalism and advocacy background for the greater good. After participating as a summer intern in 2013 and attending

WorldLink’s Annual Youth Town Meeting, Greenberg Call began considering a variety of careers in world affairs, both domestically and internationally.

18TH ANNUAL YOUTH TOWN MEETING



If you’d like to get involved as a student, sponsor or volunteer, email Program Officer Debbie Martinez at dmartinez@sandiego.edu.

She was selected to participate in a three-week program for teenagers in Israel this summer, where she was tasked with writing blogs and creating documentaries on coexistence and connecting with youth from various backgrounds in the region. Greenberg Call also attended, as one of the only teenage invitees, the First Jewish Media Summit in Jerusalem, a three-day summit of debate and dialogue that brought together professional editors and writers from around the world.



Lily Greenberg Call with a fellow student at the Western Wall in Jerusalem

However, it was during her time in Israel that armed violence escalated, and Greenberg Call and her peers began to spend more time in bomb shelters — an experience that emphasized how important her decision to dedicate her life to peace and justice could be.

“My experience was supposed to be reporter-based, but it became very personal,” she says. “Everything changes when you are in a war zone. I talk to the younger generation, and we all want peace. But it’s not that simple. When you look at one solution, more questions arise.”

To read more about WorldLink’s year-round high school internship program and how youth can contribute to the many complex issues locally and abroad, visit <http://peace.sandiego.edu/worldlink>.

WOMEN PEACEMAKERS

12TH COHORT OF WOMEN PEACEMAKERS VITALIZES STAFF AND STUDENTS ALIKE

The Women PeaceMakers program documents the stories and best practices of international women leaders who are involved in human rights and peacemaking efforts in their home countries. While in residence, the peacemakers give public presentations around campus and the community. The IPJ welcomed the 12th program cohort in September.

Robi Damelin of Israel is a spokesperson and director of the Women's Group for the Parents Circle – Families Forum (PCFF), a grassroots organization of more than 600 bereaved Palestinians and Israelis who promote reconciliation as an alternative to hatred and revenge. In 2002 her life changed dramatically when her son David was killed by a Palestinian sniper near a settlement during his army reserve service. As a spokesperson for PCFF, she travels with a Palestinian partner throughout Israel, the West Bank and internationally to share their stories and message of reconciliation.

Nimalka Fernando of Sri Lanka is a prominent human rights defender, lawyer and activist with over 30 years of peacemaking experience. She is a co-chair of South Asians for Human Rights and the president of the International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and



Women PeaceMakers and Peace Writers joined students and Diego Torero, USD mascot, to celebrate the Changemaker Fest on campus in September

Racism. A Sinhala Christian woman in Sri Lanka, Fernando is of the majority ethnic community but a religious minority. She is a founding member of Mothers and Daughters of Lanka, and in 2011 she received the Citizen's Peace Award from the National Peace Council of Sri Lanka.

Ashima Kaul is a grassroots worker, journalist, policy analyst and social entrepreneur from India's Kashmir Valley. A member of the ethnic minority community of Kashmiri Hindu Pandits, she created a formal dialogue group, Athwaas, or "handshake," between Muslim and Pandit women in Kashmir. Kaul later founded the Yakjah Reconciliation and Development Network. Yakjah, which means "being together," focuses on countering

the violence in Kashmir by building relationships between different religious and ethnic groups through dialogue and development projects.

Margaret Arach Orech is the founder and director of the Uganda Landmine Survivors Association (ULSA). A survivor of a landmine explosion and a subsequent attack by rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army, Orech is an ambassador for the Nobel Peace Prize-winning organization the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. With ULSA, Orech mobilizes survivors in a peer support structure in which they share and develop ideas that address survivors' needs and foster social and economic reintegration into their communities. She is also a commissioner for the Interfaith Action for Peace in Africa.

FRED FORUM HELPS PROGRAM "CATALYZE PEACE"

In September, Senior Program Officer Jennifer Freeman was invited to return to the annual FRED Forum, which brings together top innovators and senior executives responsible for developing leaders from the business, social and government sectors.

Freeman and the four peacemakers-in-residence had previously attended the forum in San Diego, where the program was featured as a Leadership Spotlight. Rehana Hasmi, a 2013 Woman PeaceMaker from Pakistan, called the connection to FRED "personally and professionally enriching" and an opportunity to further amplify her human rights work.

Held in Vancouver, Canada this year, the forum spotlighted the program again — this time on how the connections made at the 2013 forum had a catalyzing effect. This included a partnership with Cigna, which generously funded this year's Women PeaceMakers



Vancouver, British Columbia was the setting for this year's FRED Forum on leadership, which featured the Women PeaceMakers program. (Photo by Thom Quine via Wikimedia Commons)

residency and invited peacemakers to speak to the company's "Leading for the Future" campaign in Bloomfield, Conn., and Glasgow in the U.K.

A month after the forum, Karen Kocher, chief learning officer for Cigna, came to San Diego to attend the annual Women PeaceMakers panel. She noted that for Cigna executives who were able to hear

peacemakers' personal stories, it was an "old school" opportunity to meet models of resilient leadership in much more trying conditions than their typical environments.

"So much of executive leadership education is focused on technology," Kocher stated. "I think the peacemakers speaking directly to senior management about their work shows how powerful an individual story can be."

Q & A WITH 2014 PEACE WRITERS



The 2014 Peace Writers — (l-r) Tara Ruttenberg, Sigrid Tornquist, Alison Morse and Sue Diaz — are veterans of the Women PeaceMakers program

This year the IPJ welcomed four peace writers who have participated in the Women PeaceMakers program in previous years: freelancers Sue Diaz, Alison Morse and Sigrid Tornquist, and PhD candidate at the University of Peace, Tara Ruttenberg. Peace writers interview their peacemakers daily for two months and document their stories. In September, Institute Editor Emiko Noma sat down with them for a group interview.

Q: CONSIDERING HOW INTENSIVE AND DEMANDING IT CAN BE AS A PEACE WRITER IN THIS PROGRAM, WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO COME BACK?

Diaz: Because I think it matters. I think the stories can make a difference. It's all those things that you said — intensive, demanding; it's the hardest I've ever worked — but yet it's very satisfying.

Tornquist: You see that there is an impact here that can be both broad and specific on the lives of people right now and the lives of people for generations. And then there's a personal benefit because you learn from the women and you develop relationships with people whom you would have no other opportunity to do that with.

Morse: It's an incredible process. I don't know any other situation where you have a structure set up to talk to somebody for two months about what they do and who they are. You really get a chance to see an incredible life and an incredible person up close, with all the complexities that go along with that. And it's a wonderful challenge to try to animate that using words. Also, it is a wonderful way to renew my own beliefs in what's most important.

Ruttenberg: I hold a deep belief in the power of story to support meaningful change, and change that's relevant for peacebuilding efforts around the world. It's a practice that is different than what is being done, and I think that is what drew me first to apply and then to come back again.

Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES A GOOD PEACE WRITER?

Ruttenberg: Listening and empathy. Skills like that allow you to be fully present to receive a story and get yourself out of the way. Also, being OK with exposing your own authenticity and vulnerability helps people feel safe to share their stories.

Diaz: To give enough of yourself to know that it is a relationship too, that the peacemaker feels she knows you somewhat. [The process] is by and large all about them, but I think they have to have that sense that you are a human being as well, not just someone who takes notes and asks questions. That can be a delicate balance.

“You see that there is an impact here that can be both broad and specific on the lives of people right now and the lives of people for generations.”

— SIGRID TORNIQUIST

Morse: Another thing that makes a good writer is the imagination to use different narrative techniques, to be able to be flexible, to have a lot of different tools.

Q: SIGRID AND ALISON, YOU'VE DONE THE PROGRAM TWICE BEFORE. WHAT WOULD SURPRISE YOU THIS TIME?

Tornquist: I'd be surprised if it weren't a unique and valuable experience. I'm aware that there will be some different challenges because they are different people. But I expect that it will be valuable.

Morse: I'd be surprised if there were no challenges — if it was so easy that I could just sit down, turn on the tape recorder and then she'd start telling me these incredible stories and all I had to do was transcribe it.

Q: WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO FUTURE WRITERS IN THIS PROGRAM?

Diaz: Realize that there will be challenges and there will be frustrations, and that's just all part of it.

Ruttenberg: Develop a sense of detachment once you go through the process of writing and the story is out there. I find that with writing, it feels like giving your firstborn — but then it's someone else's baby after that.

Tornquist: Trust the process.

To read the biographies of the 2014 peace writers and the stories they write, go to <http://peace.sandiego.edu/wpm>.

IN THE FIELD

IPJ TRAINS WOMEN LEADERS AMID DEEPENING POLITICAL DEADLOCK IN CAMBODIA

Cambodia, still reeling from the controversial results of its July 2013 elections, faced deepening political deadlock earlier this year as tensions escalated between the ruling party and the opposition along with civil society.

In late May IPJ Director Dee Aker and Program Officer Zahra Ismail returned to the capital, Phnom Penh, to provide follow-up training for women across the political sphere. The IPJ has been working since 2011 in partnership with the Cambodian nongovernmental organization Khmer Ahimsa, headed by 2005 Woman PeaceMaker Thavory Huot.

Through programs on leadership, negotiation and conflict resolution — all of which seek to enhance cross-party collaboration — the IPJ and Khmer Ahimsa have been supporting women in or entering the political sphere. The trainings held in May included women political leaders from four districts and represented the primary political parties in the country.

Aker and Ismail focused their workshops specifically on deepening communication and negotiation skills. Several participants pointed to the increased challenges they are facing in getting their voices heard in the public sphere, so the workshops sought to further their collaborative problem-solving skills and methods for planning strategic actions.



Aker (center) listens during a group negotiation exercise

“I was disappointed with the government strategies, but after learning from the workshop I feel confident, and commit to work on these issues,” offered one woman after the two-day workshop. “I understand conflict mapping [and] that helps me to think about actors who I can build relationships [with] for negotiation.”

A number of participants also expressed a desire for continued training in order to build the capacity of women working at the



Woman PeaceMaker Thavory Huot (standing) explains an exercise during the workshop

commune (local) level and engage more women to participate in politics. One woman shared, “I need more women to participate in politics. We need more women to engage in this workshop and improve their leadership and communication skills.”

A one-day roundtable discussion with influential women leaders from civil society and the political sphere was also held in Phnom Penh. It exposed the key issues and challenges facing each sector, particularly in regard to land issues. Widespread evictions and land-grabbing in the country since 2003 has impacted over 400,000 people, and over the last year has led to escalating tensions between land activists and government officials. The roundtable meeting helped participants identify potential strategies and partnerships for effective responses to the problem.



Participants display their certificates at the end of the two-day workshop in Phnom Penh

NEPAL PEACEBUILDING INITIATIVE INSPIRED BY COLLEAGUES NEW AND OLD

“The IPJ is like a marathon runner who is out ahead halfway through the race,” Nepal’s chief election commissioner said in May of the institute’s 13 years of work in the country. “You don’t want to quit now. You must have the heart and stamina to continue no matter how hard it is, as it will be even harder in the home stretch.”

Neel Kantha Uprety oversaw the successful November 2013 Constituent Assembly elections in Nepal, and reinforced to the IPJ team that the hard work of peacebuilding must continue in the post-conflict country. He said its people still need opportunities to come together in safe spaces to solve problems and advance common interests.

IPJ Director Dee Aker and Program Officer Zahra Ismail were in Nepal in May for discussions with key stakeholders — including government officials, business leaders, journalists and members of academia and civil society — to identify their priorities for future supportive programming.

The visit included meetings with Sushil Pyakurel, a human rights advocate and former human rights commissioner, and Narahari Acharya, the current minister of law, justice, Constituent Assembly and parliamentary affairs. Both men have a long history with the IPJ, as they were present at its dedicatory conference in 2001.

Acharya met the IPJ team on the same day that the most recent version of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Act was passed. The TRC has been the focus of Acharya’s recent work, and while it continues to be modified and restructured, progress is being made toward establishing this key component of the peace process. Both men also expressed hope that another essential piece of the process, the writing of a new constitution, would be completed in 2015.



Neel Kantha Uprety, chief election commissioner, shared his prospects for peacebuilding in Nepal



Groth engages the audience at the expanded Sano Paila Community Drug Rehabilitation Center in Birgunj

In September, Program Officer Chris Groth joined Aker and Ismail for a series of workshops and meetings. Groth and Aker traveled to Birgunj, southern Nepal, to conduct three interactive programs in coordination with local partner organization Sano Paila, or “Little Step.”

The group held a roundtable with police and members of civil society working to combat human trafficking; a workshop with emerging local women leaders; and a workshop with police, youth leaders and recovered substance abusers. Shobha Shrestha, founder and executive chair of Women for Peace and Democracy - Nepal

(WPD-Nepal) and alumna of the Kroc School’s master’s program, joined the team in Birgunj.

Sano Paila continues its inspiring work in drug rehabilitation and child counseling. The IPJ was at the opening ceremony of the expanded Community Drug Rehabilitation Center in Birgunj, and toured the Children’s Receiving Home and counseling center —

part of Sano Paila’s anti-human-trafficking project. The home and center allow rescued children to receive care before being reunited with their families.

In Kathmandu, Ismail joined the IPJ team and WPD-Nepal. At the request of Raksha Nepal, an NGO that works with survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation, the IPJ connected women survivors, Constituent Assembly members and security sector personnel in a workshop designed to establish communication and make plans to work jointly on the prevention of human trafficking and addressing the rehabilitation of women survivors.



The workshop in Birgunj included police, youth leaders and recovered substance abusers

IPJ INSIDER — KROC SCHOOL SPHERE

STUDENT AND FORMER INTERN GAINS EXPERIENCE IN DEVELOPMENT AND DISARMAMENT IN NEPAL



Paul interned with UNDP and the Geneva-based Small Arms Survey while living in Kathmandu, Nepal

Former IPJ Intern Andy Paul, a current master's student in peace and justice studies at the Kroc School, spent the summer in Nepal as an intern with two organizations: the U.N. Development Program-Nepal (UNDP-Nepal) and the Small Arms Survey.

Paul was there at an exciting time in Nepal's history. Last fall, the country held successful elections for the Constituent Assembly, which is tasked with writing the first constitution after the end of the monarchy. The elections took place in the wake of what has been seen as a successful disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process of former Maoist combatants, following the civil war that ended in 2006.

The double internship with UNDP-Nepal and the Small Arms Survey gave Paul the opportunity "to see the methodological approaches to post-conflict security that both organizations implement." The former attempts to develop best practices for conducting surveys on victimization and small arms and light weapons, while the latter performs content analysis and media reviews for its Nepal Armed Violence Assessment.

He says the biggest challenge was working remotely for the Small Arms Survey, as there was no in-country contact and he was interpreting the organization's codebook while inputting hundreds of incidents of violence across Nepal. But the data-intensive work will be integrated into policy recommendations — something Paul calls "a great professional opportunity."

Though Paul had been to Nepal prior to his internships last summer, he says he learned that "peacebuilding in a post-conflict context is inherently complex, inextricably linked to development and requires patience, time and money. Although I understood this prior to my work, I have gained a new understanding of what that all really entails."

He also determined through these experiences "that I belong in the field. ... I think the most effective way to approach peacebuilding is from the lens of those most affected. As a result, it seems naïve to assume that I can contribute to these processes without having more experience on the ground." After completing the master's program, Paul will be seeking "a career that puts me in a position to correctly administer and provide basic services to meet human needs."

IMPACT OF IPJ PROJECT MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP EVIDENT FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Each semester, members of the IPJ staff teach workshops in the master's program for peace and justice studies at the Kroc School. The following is an excerpt of an IPJ blog post written by former IPJ intern and current student Ali Wolters, following a two-day project management workshop led by Program Officers Chris Groth and Zabra Ismail in the Spring of 2014.

Personally, academic work does not excite me unless there is a bridge linking it to what is happening in the world, which is why I was drawn to USD's program — it really strives for that balance. The workshop enabled me to not only utilize nearly two semesters of coursework, it also allowed me to problem-solve and create. We were asked to choose a project — one we've worked on, one we are currently working on, or an imaginary one — and use it as a model to apply the project management tools we were discussing.

On an institutional level, the workshop created a strong link between the IPJ and the Kroc School. Having been a former intern at the IPJ in 2008, I had worked with some of the staff and was aware of the resources and programs the institute has to offer.

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— ALI WOLTERS



MA student Ali Wolters works on a group exercise during the weekend IPJ workshop

As master's students we are introduced to the IPJ during our first week of orientation, but as school picks up and the readings and papers pile up, it is easy to forget or not prioritize connecting with the IPJ and its staff. This workshop gave us the opportunity to connect with two amazing IPJ staff members and allowed us to further understand the institute's work with their local partners in Cambodia, Kenya and Nepal.

As students at the Kroc School, we are very fortunate to have access to the IPJ, and this workshop further solidified that. I hope that the Kroc School and the IPJ continue to strengthen the intersections for students and staff.

IPJ INSIDER — COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

PROGRAM OFFICER SERVES AS JUDGE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEBATE

Debbie Martinez, IPJ's program officer for WorldLink, served as a panel judge for the San Diego stop of "Debate on the Border," a three-city series organized by the International Debate Education Association, which also held debates in Tucson, Ariz., and El Paso, Texas. The San Diego debate took place on May 1 at San Ysidro Middle School and included students from the United States and Mexico debating immigration reform. The other judges included representatives from the International Community Foundation, San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce and Casa Familiar.



Martinez, second from right, serves as judge for "Debate on the Border" (photo courtesy of IDEEA)

WORLDLINK AND SOLES OFFER WORKSHOPS FOR INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION

On July 21, the WorldLink program and USD's School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES) welcomed Hands of Peace San Diego, an interfaith organization that brings together Israeli, Palestinian and American teenagers. WorldLink Program Officer Debbie Martinez — along with Meenakshi Chakraverti, director of SOLES' Leadership Institute, and doctoral candidate Mariko Peshon — hosted afternoon workshops in leadership and careers in peacebuilding for 30 youth participants.



Youth participants from Hands of Peace enjoy discussion in the IPJ's Garden of the Sea (photo courtesy of Hands of Peace San Diego)

2013 WOMEN PEACEMAKERS FEATURED IN LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT "MY SISTER'S VOICE"

The 2013 Women PeaceMakers and the IPJ's Dee Aker and Jennifer Freeman were featured in the photo exhibit "Notes to Our Sons and Daughters — My Sister's Voice," which opened at San Diego's Port Pavilion on Broadway Pier in June and is now on display at the Oceanside Museum of Art until February 2015.



Women PeaceMakers Advisory Committee Member Michelle Ciccarelli Lerach, IPJ Senior Program Officer Jennifer Freeman, and Women PeaceMakers Sabiha Husic and Rehana Hashmi at the exhibit opening

The 2013 peacemakers — Rehana Hashmi of Pakistan, Sabiha Husic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Philister Baya Lawiri of South Sudan and Rutuparna Mohanty of India — returned to San Diego for the opening of the exhibit.

According to the website, the exhibit "provides a space where the voices of women and their invaluable and necessary contributions to our common humanity can be heard." Each photograph is accompanied by a note from the individual, "sharing a life lesson important enough to be passed on to the next generation."

The project was created to benefit the Center for Community Solutions, a nonprofit that provides prevention and intervention services for sexual assault and relationship violence survivors in the San Diego area.

LOCAL ORGANIZATION HELPS BRING PEACE WRITERS' VOICES TO THE FORE

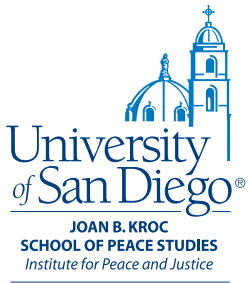
What is it like to interview, every day for two months, a Woman PeaceMaker from a country you've never been to? How do you listen and relate to someone who has been through brutal experiences in conflict, but who chooses to build peace instead of festering in hatred? How do you build trust so she will answer your questions? How do you then write her story?

A joint event in May with Voices of Women and the IPJ's Women PeaceMakers program allowed audiences to hear answers to those questions and many others.

The evening featured IPJ staff members Jennifer Freeman and Emiko Noma, both of whom started at the institute as peace writers, in 2008 and 2005, respectively. Bianca Morales-Egan, now a leader at Project Concern International, and local freelance writer Sue Diaz, also spoke about their experiences as peace writers in the one-of-a-kind Women PeaceMakers program.

Diaz, who wrote for Rehana Hashmi of Pakistan in 2013, focused on the unique relationship that develops between writer and peacemaker. She quoted two holy books: "The Quran says, 'Whoever helps a good cause becomes a partner therein.' St. Francis put it another way, 'It is in giving that we receive.' My peace writer experience reinforced for me the profound paradox of those words. At the end of my eight weeks with Rehana ... I came away feeling that — of the two of us — I'd received the greater gift."

The writers were joined on stage by Jenni Prisk, Women PeaceMakers Advisory Committee member and founder of Voices of Women, a San Diego-based organization that supports local and global educational programs for women and children.



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