Applying Coexistence Theory to Work in the Field

The Master’s Program in Coexistence and Conflict awarded two students with Slifka Fellowships this year, providing them full tuition plus a living stipend. These scholarships are given to early to mid-level career professionals who are working full-time within a government or inter-governmental organization. This year’s Fellows are Andrew Ian Ginsberg of New York and Moussokoro Kané of Mali.

Ginsberg comes to the program from the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees, where he concentrated on the resettlement of refugees who had to flee their homelands. Hearing the testimonies of those who had been forced out of their homes was part of his motivation in coming to the master’s program.

“I had been hearing stories about atrocities and intercommunal violence,” said Ginsberg. “I wanted to see whether there was something I could do to help.”

From the Director – Daniel Terris

After Carter

When Jimmy Carter and Alan Dershowitz spoke back-to-back at Brandeis in January 2007, what was most striking were the similarities between them.

For one thing, their visions of the endgame of peace in the Middle East, as Dershowitz himself pointed out, are very much alike. Both men pointed towards a solution that roughly follows the line of such “track two” peace efforts as the Geneva Accords or the Nusselbeh-Ayalon initiative: a two-state solution with land swaps along the 1967 border and security for both Israelis and Palestinians guaranteed by the participation of the international community.

Both men, however, share something less positive: a perpetuation of the rhetoric of blame that has soured the Middle East peace process for years. This tone is more evident in their writings than in the milder presentations they made on campus earlier this year.

The former president distanced himself from some aspects of his book, Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid, in his Brandeis presentation, but his chosen title and his written text are designed to cast Israel’s oppression of the Palestinians as the principal reason for violence and conflict in the region. Carter’s book calls our attention in valuable ways to the humanitarian consequences of some Israeli policies, such as the construction of the barrier that Israelis call the “fence” and Palestinians the “wall.” But he makes the case for the analogy between Israel and South Africa with irresponsible casualness – through only three brief references, by my count, in his book. By making the analogy so prominent through the book’s title, he raises the stakes and provides ammunition for those who have called for boycotts against Israel and for making that nation a pariah in the international community.

Dershowitz’s book, The Case for Peace, was written in the period of comparative optimism in 2004 and 2005 when the violence of the Al-Aqsa intifada was on the wane and the prospect of the Israeli pullout from Gaza stirred hope among some that “disengagement” would lead towards the end of the conflict. Despite this optimism, The Case for Peace presents a mirror image of Carter’s book: in the Harvard professor’s view, Palestinian terrorism and the failures of the Palestinian political leadership are the principal obstacles to peace.

Continued on page 6

Continued on page 7
**The International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life**

The mission of the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life is to develop effective responses to conflict and injustice by offering innovative approaches to coexistence, strengthening the work of international courts, and encouraging ethical practice in civic and professional life.

**Staff**

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Leigh Swigart, Director of Programs in International Justice and Society  
Marci McPhee, Associate Director  
Christopher Moore, Communications Specialist, Newsletter Editor  
Barbara Strauss ’02, Department Coordinator  
Kanan Makiya, Faculty Associate  
Stephanie Gerber Wilson ’07 PhD, Special Projects Manager  

**Slifka Program in Intercommunal Coexistence**

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Mari Fitzduff, Professor of Coexistence and Director of Master’s Program  
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**IN THE NEWS**

**Staff Highlights**

Mari Fitzduff gave the keynote address at two international conferences in November: the International Conference on Education for Peace and Democracy, in Antalya, Turkey, and “Are We Fit for the Future?” in Northern Ireland. In October, Jessica Berns was elected to the Board of Directors for the Alliance for Peacebuilding in Washington, D.C., an international nonprofit organization dedicated to building sustainable peace and security worldwide. Cynthia Cohen gave one of the keynote addresses at “Arts in the One World: Culture and Identity,” a January 25-28 conference in Valencia, California. The conference was organized by the California Institute of the Arts and the Interdisciplinary Genocide Studies Center in Kigali, Rwanda, a nonprofit organization that studies genocide through a study of the arts.

**Coexistence International Releasing Country Study on Mauritius**

Coexistence International (CI) is soon to release its report on coexistence and Mauritius, a small island state in the Indian Ocean off the coast of East Africa. The report is the first in CI’s Country Study series, which focuses on coexistence in regions that have a high degree of ethnic and religious diversity.

Mauritius has long been promoted as an “island of success” both economically and in terms of social development, and the Country Study explores the critical questions and nuances behind this assumption. With this publication series, CI seeks to compare diversity and coexistence policies from countries around the world, believing that the documentation of the existence and scope of such efforts can contribute to a wider understanding of the repertoire of approaches available to address issues of coexistence and intergroup conflict. Publications on Belize and other countries are forthcoming.

**The Center Welcomes Barbara Strauss ’02**

Barbara Strauss ’02 has joined the Center as the department coordinator. She provides general support for all of the Center’s activities and assists in the coordination of events and student fellowships. A Brandeis alumna, she received a B.A. in English in 2002 as part of the Creative Writing Track. She is currently pursuing an M.F.A. in fiction at Lesley University.

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The Center congratulates the six undergraduates chosen for the 2007 Ethics Center Student Fellowship. The Fellows are currently taking courses in preparation for their summer internships, which will take them to Guatemala, India, Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania to work with local organizations on issues of peacebuilding and social justice. Upon their return to Brandeis in the fall, the Fellows will take another course to reflect and report on their experiences abroad. To read more about the Fellows and their upcoming internships, visit www.brandeis.edu/ethics/ecsfl/bios_2007.html.

The 2007 Ethics Center Student Fellows (clockwise from left): Ramon De Jesus ’08, Jamie Potterm ’09, Neena Pathak ’08, Daniel Koosed ’08, Margot Moinester ’09 and Rachel Kleinbaum ’08.
Announcing the Release of Two Online Publications

Recasting Reconciliation through Culture and the Arts

The Slifka Program in Intercommunal Coexistence is pleased to present *Recasting Reconciliation through Culture and the Arts: A Virtual Collection*, an online anthology featuring the creative and reflective works of the 2003-04 Brandeis International Fellows.

The collection explores the contributions of the arts and cultural work to coexistence and reconciliation. Through papers and portfolios from Burundi, Cambodia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and the Asia-Pacific region, the Fellows document projects in which music, theatre, ritual arts, film, and cultural work are contributing to building peace. The work also includes a synthesis of learning about the intersections of arts, cultural work, and peacebuilding, as well as policy recommendations and guiding questions for practitioners working in conflict regions.

To experience *Recasting Reconciliation through Culture and the Arts*, visit go.brandeis.edu/createcoexistence/recasting.

Telling the Story

*Telling the Story,* the two-day conference held at Brandeis University in September 2005, brought together journalists, scholars, human rights practitioners, artists, and others to analyze the complex processes through which human rights violations are documented.

Now, *Telling the Story* is available as an online publication on the Center's website. Read photojournalist Corinne Dufo's account of the media's struggles and shortcomings in the days after the Rwandan genocide; see thearpilleras, Chilean tapestries that tell the stories of a dictatorship, as described by poet and activist Marjorie Agosin; hear about how persecution testimony affects the outcome of an asylum case.

Special thanks go out to everyone who made *Telling the Story* possible, including the Boston Foundation and the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities. To view this online publication, visit www.brandeis.edu/ethics/Telling_the_Story.

Coming Soon

International Judges Profiled in New Publication

The Center’s Daniel Terris and Leigh Swigart have teamed with Cesare Romano of Loyola Law School to author the forthcoming book, *The International Judge: An Introduction to the Men and Women Who Decide the World’s Cases.* The book, scheduled to be released in the fall of 2007, examines the challenges and obligations of the men and women who sit on regional or global courts and tribunals that address issues of justice across borders. Though their names are unfamiliar to most of the general public, their work has changed the nature of the world we inhabit. This book attempts to shed light on the accomplishments of international judges and examine how they have helped to usher in the era of global justice. To read excerpts of the Introduction and Chapter 4, visit http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=969035.
Saving Species, Saving Lives: Balancing Biodiversity and Human Needs in Sub-Saharan Africa

How can developed nations best help sub-Saharan Africa deal with food shortages? How can Africa’s tropical forest regions be protected without risking the livelihoods of the people who live there?

Dr. Mohamed Bakarr, assistant director general of the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) in Nairobi, Kenya, spent February 12-15, 2007, in residence at Brandeis to discuss the delicate balance of biodiversity and human needs in sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Bakarr was the inaugural Distinguished Visiting Practitioner in a program that brings “real-world” leading practitioners to campus for residencies that combine public lectures, classroom visits, and small-group discussions on topics of current interest to a wide range of students and scholars at Brandeis.

During his visit, Dr. Bakarr held two public lectures (see below), spoke with students interested in careers related to the environment, and held informal office hours, giving members of the Brandeis community an opportunity for a personal conversation with this noted figure.

Climate Change: Implications for Humanity and the Natural World

On February 13, Dr. Bakarr spoke on environmental degradation and possible solutions. He described Kenya as a case study in the way climate change can take its toll on human life and the natural ecosystem. In the last 60 years, erosion has resulted in deep gullies after a heavy rainfall, making large parts of the land unusable for farming and creating a 50-mile-long sediment plume in Lake Victoria.

“We can create protected areas for species today as if the earth is static,” he said. “But the species may have to migrate out of the protected area to adapt to changing climate conditions. Climate change may mean that the species is doomed.”

Impressed by the size and energy of the audience for his talk, Bakarr said, “It’s inspiring to me to see students rising up and grappling with these issues that the whole world is concerned about. I hope you will find ways, regardless of your career path, to connect to this important issue and try to make an impact.”

Food Security and Agricultural Development in Sub-Saharan Africa

On February 14, despite a snowstorm that brought much of the University to a halt, a substantial audience turned out to hear the residency’s keynote address. Food security, Dr. Bakarr explained, relates directly to United Nations Millennium Development Goal #1: eradicating extreme poverty. “Think of this as a human right,” he said.

He described the difficulty of convincing farmers to plant fast-growing trees along with or after the main crop — a practice which prevents erosion, provides a second crop, and increases the yield of the primary crop without expensive fertilizer. Unfortunately, many farmers in sub-Saharan Africa don’t own their land, so there is little long-term incentive for them to modify their centuries-old farming methods and learn new agroforestry techniques. “We’re not good at outreach to the farmers, involving them in processes and participation,” said Dr. Bakarr.

One effort has been to teach these technology options to youth in the schools, with programs such as Farmers of the Future. However, Dr. Bakarr noted, “The theory is that if you get to go to school, you’ve been given the chance to escape. So we’re training the next generation, but most of them won’t become farmers.” In fact, many farmers unable to provide for their families on small subsistence farms have switched to logging and mining, with further environmental consequences for the region.

When asked whether he thought the global society would reach the Millennium Development Goals, Dr. Bakarr said simply, “No way.” He explained, “The Millennium Development Goals are lofty. Whether we reach them or not, it gives us something to work towards.”

Dr. Bakarr’s residence was hosted by the Center, by International and Global Studies, and by Environmental Studies. Cosponsors include the African and African-American Studies Department, the Biology Department, the Hiatt Career Center, the Politics Department, and the Martin Weiner Public Lecture Fund.
Pieces of the Coexistence Puzzle:
Democracy, Human Rights, Gender and Development

Resolving conflicts and creating lasting peace in divided societies requires the collaboration of specialists working in a variety of fields. Professional and academic disciplines such as democracy, human rights, and gender and development must interact and cooperate, or efforts at peacebuilding will risk falling short.

“Pieces of the Coexistence Puzzle,” a March 15-16 conference sponsored by Coexistence International at Brandeis University, examined the relationships among these components and the potential for achieving more complementary approaches to peacebuilding.

The keynote address of the conference was delivered the evening of March 15 by Senator Mobina Jaffer, a member of the Canadian parliament since 2001. The second day of the conference was divided into three parts: a panel discussion on integrating the components of coexistence; breakout sessions on governance, justice and reconciliation, and issues of gender in conflicts; and a roundtable discussion on the implications for coexistence education and training. Panelists included Allen Kassof, president emeritus and senior advisor at the Project on Ethnic Relations, Amongi Betty Ongom, a member of the Ugandan parliament, and Timothy Phillips, co-founder of the Project on Justice in Times of Transition, among others. The events of both days raised pertinent questions about the field and offered many opportunities for debate and conversation.

Born and raised in Uganda, Senator Jaffer was the first African, first Muslim and first person of East Indian descent appointed to the Canadian senate. A leader committed to equality for women and the promotion of human rights, Senator Jaffer stressed the need for democracies to share their resources with those in need, both at home and abroad. It is a perspective shaped by her experience 35 years ago, as a refugee from Uganda during then-President Idi Amin’s expulsion of several ethnic and religious groups.

“For a short time, I had no home,” she said. “I was being fed by various generous governments. I had a little baby. When you get everything taken away from you, you can understand the realities of others.”

The experience taught her a great deal about what is essential; food, water, and shelter for survival, and education for building a life out of poverty.

“The only reason I’ve been able to make the little progress I’ve made in life is because I have an education,” she said. “Idi Amin was able to take everything from my family. He even destroyed my certificates. But he could not take away my education. That was portable. When we look at development, we need to promote education, so that people can stand on their own two feet.”

Senator Jaffer also expressed frustration at the lack of political participation that exists in both Canada and the United States. Rather than attempt to bring democracy abroad, she said, we should be doing more to exercise our own rights.

“The only environment North Americans can control is our own environment. For coexistence, we need to use our democratic rights to get our governments to prioritize how we’re going to use our resources. I don’t believe that we have arrived at coexistence. I think we are just existing.”

“Pieces of the Coexistence Puzzle” was presented by Coexistence International and the Center in cooperation with the Programs in Sustainable International Development, the Department of Politics and the Dean of Arts & Sciences at Brandeis, with support from the Martin Weiner Lecture Fund.

Clockwise from left: panelists and presenters at the conference; Senator Mobina Jaffer of the Canadian Parliament; Shamila Daluwatte, a master’s student in the Sustainable International Development program at Brandeis.
OCTOBER
Dr. Kandasamy Sithamparanathan, director of the School of Fine Arts at Jaffna University in Sri Lanka and a 1998 Brandeis International Fellow, was in residence at Brandeis to participate in the Slifka Program’s Theatre and Peacebuilding project. He shared his approach to theatre through workshops and engaged with members of the Brandeis community about questions of theatre, activism, healing, self-determination, and peace.

NOVEMBER
The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars released a four-page brochure in which Mari Fitzduff suggests core competencies for graduate programs like the Slifka master’s program in Coexistence and Conflict. The brochure is part of the Wilson Center’s “Project on Leadership Notes” series.

JANUARY
Former President Jimmy Carter addressed criticisms of his recent book, *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*, in an appearance at Brandeis attended by more than 1,700 students, faculty, and staff. Mari Fitzduff moderated the question-and-answer session that followed Carter’s prepared remarks.

Imad Abu-Kishek, an administrator from Al-Quds University in Jerusalem, hosted a conversation titled “Life in the West Bank” with members of the Brandeis community in which he discussed his vision for peace and prosperity for Israelis and Palestinians alike.

FEBRUARY
Coexistence International announced a project with the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) titled “Transitional Justice and Peacebuilding in West Africa.” The project will extend CDD-Ghana’s exemplary ongoing work in the field of transitional justice, and at the same time implement the complementary approach to coexistence work that is the hallmark of Coexistence International.

MARCH
Amazones, the women master drummers of Guinea, were in residence at Brandeis for three days as part of the 2006-07 Intercultural Residency Series. Named for the warrior women of ancient Dahomey (now Benin) who fought slave traders with a ferocity that recalled the mythical Greek Amazons, these drummers have broken from tradition to master the djembe, a drum historically forbidden to women.

Applying Coexistence Theory
Continued from page 1
He plans to work in repatriation when he completes the program, to help internally displaced people – those who have fled their homes but still reside in their home countries – return to their homes and to a situation that is better than when they left.

“I’m going to try to apply some of the skills I’ve learned here, to make sure that their reintegration is sustainable and peaceful.”

Before Moussokoro Kané came to Brandeis, she worked for the United States Agency for International Development in Ghana, on a conflict mitigation and governance team. She joined the program because, she said, “I had always wanted to go back to school, because at times I felt I was practicing without knowing the theoretical foundation for some of the concepts.” Kané hopes to return to the field in a different capacity than the one she left; rather than helping to decide which peacebuilding projects to fund, she wants to be the one implementing change.

“I want to be closer to the action and actually apply some of the knowledge I’ve gained,” she said.
After Carter

Continued from page 1

It was a triumph for Brandeis that we were able to host these two controversial figures with dignity and civility. But while I believe that we have learned from Carter and Dershowitz, I hope that we will not follow them. The rhetoric of blame — even when carried out in a spirit of open debate and discussion — ultimately leads nowhere.

I have two alternative suggestions for new books that I believe would enrich our campus conversation more than the writings of either man who spoke last week.

Jeffrey Goldberg’s Prisoners, published in fall 2006, is an autobiographical account of an idealistic young American Jew who moves to Israel in the mid-1980s and finds himself doing his military service as a guard at a facility holding Palestinian prisoners during the first intifada. The book vividly describes the ways that the conflict dehumanizes both Israelis and Palestinians, but it also highlights Goldberg’s efforts to build personal connections with the prisoners — and one Palestinian from the Gaza Strip in particular — both during his stint as a guard and a decade later when he returns to the region as a journalist. His book is both accessible and complex (and occasionally infuriating), the story of a man whose background and influences resemble those of many members of our community, and so I think its narrative has much to offer us.

I am also awaiting, as this newsletter goes to press, the imminent release of Once Upon a Country: A Palestinian Life by Sari Nusseibeh. This autobiography by the president of Al-Quds University — with which Brandeis has a broad and sustained partnership — promises to be an important contribution to our understanding of Palestinian society and to the challenges of seeking moderation in a climate of extremism.

These kinds of narratives, I believe, offer much better starting points for discussion on our campus than hortatory works focused on the missteps of political leadership. They immerse us in the daily lives of people in the region and ask us to look at the complexities of the struggle for peace.

It is a heartening sign for Brandeis that so many people turned out for a controversial event on the Middle East. But the test of our strength as a campus community will lie in continued and widespread commitment to the more painstaking work of study, dialogue, and mutual respect.

Master’s Students Visit Peacebuilding Agencies in New York City and Washington, D.C.

The 2006-07 master’s students in Coexistence and Conflict spent three days in February visiting 10 agencies and organizations in Washington, D.C. and New York, in preparation for resuming their careers in the field of peacebuilding upon completion of the master’s program.

“We covered the kinds of agencies where we hope our graduates will look for work,” said Assistant Professor Ted Johnson. “There was a lot of useful information on the current strategies in the development and humanitarian world. One of the things I observed was that people at all these agencies are talking about strategies, policies, practices, a lot of the things we’re teaching in our program. The students are hearing this reinforcement from the field of what they’re learning.”

Graduate student Inga Sarsune said the representatives who spoke to the students regarded them as colleagues, not just students.

“They said they were impressed,” she said. “They encouraged us to apply for internships.”

In addition to being informative, the trip also succeeded in building stronger bonds among the students.

“The way my classmates asked questions and presented their ideas, it made me realize that these are people I want to work with in the field,” said Sarsune.

During the trip, the students discovered contacts at these agencies in and around the Boston area, much closer to campus. They are in the process of planning a day to visit the local branches of the organizations they met with in February.
The 2007 Brandeis Institute for International Judges (BIIJ)

Titled Independence and Interdependence: The Delicate Balance of International Justice, BIIJ 2007 will be the fifth institute to be organized since the creation of this program in 2002. Each institute has been designed to provide a space and time for judges sitting on international courts and tribunals to meet and reflect, discuss issues of mutual interest and concern, generate ideas that enrich their work, and move toward developing policies that strengthen their standing. The BIIJ thus contributes to the ability of international judges to function efficiently, in awareness of what their colleagues are doing and thinking, and with enhanced credibility in the eyes of the world. After holding the last three institutes in Europe and Africa, we have once again chosen to organize the BIIJ in the United States, in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire.

For more information, visit the International Justice pages of the Center’s website at www.brandeis.edu/ethics/international_justice.

The 2005-06 Intercultural Residency Series Assessment Report

The Intercultural Residency Series (ICRS) brings to campus accomplished artists from around the world to promote cultural exchange through appreciation of diverse artistic traditions. In its inaugural year, 2005-06, the series featured the Yuval Ron Ensemble and Sol y Canto. The 2005-06 ICRS was assessed by the Center’s Cynthia Cohen and by Judith Eisenberg, founder and director of MusicUnitesUS. To read the report online, visit www.brandeis.edu/ethics/publications/ICRS_Evaluation.pdf. To receive a copy by mail, please contact the Center.

Alone With Five Others: Dispatches from a Changing World

compiles the reports written by the six 2006 Ethics Center Student Fellows in their first semester back at Brandeis after their international internships. This publication is now available in print and online. To obtain a copy of the 77-page publication, contact the Center or visit www.brandeis.edu/ethics/publications/ECSF_06.pdf. To read about the Ethics Center Student Fellowship program online, visit www.brandeis.edu/ethics/ecsf/.