

## **APT's Fall 2012 – Spring 2013**

### **Conflict Resolution Education in Schools**

**Instructor: Marsha Blakeway**

The purpose of The Conflict Resolution Education in Schools Applied Practice and Theory course was to create an intervention (and/or to continue an existing APT intervention project) to support the development of the requisite processes and conditions for the productive analysis and resolution of conflicts of children and youth primarily in elementary and secondary school settings. Themes and topics included identification of conflict sources and processes, conflict resolution education stakeholders, child and youth development, systems analysis, program design, interview and other field research techniques, intervention processes, evaluation, consulting, contracting, reflective practice, team work, entry, and exit.

### **Designing, Delivering and Assessing Experiential Learning Activities**

**Instructors: Dr. Susan Hirsch, Arthur Romano**

This course offered Masters and PhD students an opportunity to support the development of experiential learning in the CAR field. Over the past two years, an S-CAR faculty/student team has created a set of experiential learning exercises for the conflict classroom (see <http://scar.gmu.edu/experientiallearningproject/11613>). The aim of this APT was to produce well-designed and effective simulations, role-plays, small group activities, and other experiential learning activities (ELAs) to improve the educational experience of students studying conflict analysis and resolution. The APT team also participated in a new initiative to bring these activities to community colleges and other partner institutions in our region.

### **Reflective Practice**

**Instructor: Dr. Susan Allen**

The Reflective Practice APT team focused on engaging the challenges, methods, and opportunities of reflective practice in large inter group conflict. The team's work centered on five interrelated initiatives underway with the Center for Peacemaking Practice:

- the South Caucasus Program
- a retreat for peacemaking practitioners
- developing methodologies for debriefing practitioners
- fostering a community of practice within the S-CAR community
- reflective practice of research on societal renewal practices after violent conflict

**Conflict Resolution and Education**  
**Instructor: Borislava Manojlovic**

This course is focused on empowering its participants to engage in a deeper understanding of conflict resolution education models while also exploring new ways to push the field forward. One of the aims of the course was to encourage students to become scholars through collaborative learning, creativity, imagination, and critical thought. The emphasis fell on how we learn at S-CAR and how we learn through conflict resolution education, taking into consideration that each team member has unique individual skills and interests in the field and centering on collective and collaborative approaches to learning.

**Practical Dialogue for a Global Society**  
**Instructor: Leila Peterson**

The School of Conflict Analysis and Resolution and the English Language Institute (ELI) have partnered over the last four years to create an experiential learning opportunity in dialogue and cross-cultural communication (CONF 325: Dialogue and Difference). Together, GMU and ELI students learn about the theory behind dialogue and cross-cultural communication, build individual skills, and learn how to design and implement a range of dialogue models and group process techniques. The Practical Dialogue for a Global Society APT worked to expand the model within the Mason community, in partnership with other academic institutions, and into the private sector. The APT course refined the curriculum, piloted the model with other departments, identified sources of long-term funding, and increased the body of knowledge about creating understanding across significant language and culture divides through research and evaluation.