

Learning to analyze conflicts, to negotiate solutions and to really make peace out of conflict situations is one of the most important leadership skills that there is.

Dr. James Laue
George Mason University

THE CAUX SCHOLARS PROGRAM 1992

From the Students:

This course emphasizes the ability to use principles that we've learned on all levels ...from international to national to the family structure.

Scott Gattey, California, USA
Santa Clara University Law School

I got to know that people from different countries are just the same, with the same problems, ideals, dreams...It's encouraging.

Allison Smith, North Carolina, USA
North Carolina State University

I learned that a lot of preparation needs to be done before negotiations even start and once started how difficult it is to try and keep control of the situation.

Eri Kimura, Japan
Georgetown University, School Foreign Service

At university you study that war/conflict are inevitable. The last thing you do is consider change in people for the better. I doubt if there is any other program in the world that exists with that emphasis.

Christopher Landsberg, South Africa
Rhodes Scholar, Oxford University

The 1992 Caux Scholars are from Canada, India, Brazil, Kenya, South Africa, Japan, USA, Eritrea, Russia (including Armenia) and Ghana.



THE CAUX SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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Under the direction of Dr. James Laue, Lynch Professor of Conflict Resolution, George Mason University, twenty-three college and graduate students from ten countries participated in a program that developed leadership and peace-making skills. One important skill, listening, means to really hear what the problem is. "Sometimes when dealing with the legal process," said Kwamena Baiden, a lawyer from Ghana, "you don't have time listening to the feelings of others. You go strictly by the rules, so there is no need to listen. This course has made me realize that you need to listen."

In its second year, the five-week summer course, "Conflict and the Building of Nations," helped students understand through role play, analysis and discussion the dynamics of mediating a dispute. Particularly challenging was to consider one's own world view and ethical framework and how to put that into action. Participants presented case studies on "Conflict Where I Come From." Muzit Hailu, from Eritrea, said she was returning to help in the rebuilding of her country and in continuing the healing process after thirty years of war. "The conflict in Eritrea has been a major part of my life. What I take from this course is to look at it more objectively, to rely more on conflict resolution (and) instead of reacting, come to a conclusion that is good for both sides."

The curriculum was developed by Dr. James Laue and Mr. Jannie Botes, both of George Mason University's Institute of Conflict Analysis and Resolution. Dr. Katherine Kennedy, a recent graduate of the University of Kent, U.K., highlighted intercultural communication in the study of conflict, and Dr. Hubert Locke, an African American specialist on public policy at the University of Washington, discussed ethnic, racial and cultural factors in conflict. Oxford Professor Robin Mowat, gave an historical perspective drawing on his recent book, Decline and Renewal.

With the war in Yugoslavia uppermost in people's minds, European Parliamentarian, Dr. Karl Mitterdorfer, President of the **Federative Union of European Nationalities**, related his own experience in the South Tyrol, the German-speaking part of Italy, and said, "I know solutions exist. I have a habit of taking quiet in the morning to live up to my conscience. I wrote something down at one point and I did it. After one week of this self examination I find I am starting again. Again I need change. And the same thing applies to nations. One has to renew the process."

Other guest speakers included: Indian journalist and Senator Rajmohan Gandhi; former US Assistant Secretary of State Harold Saunders; Cardinal Franz Koenig of Vienna; UK Amb. Archibald Mackenzie; US Amb. John McDonald; Allan Griffith former Foreign Policy Advisor, Australia; Luis Pereira, Director of 30 Favella Associations, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; US Department of State consultant and author, Joseph Montville.

Known as a place of reconciliation, Mountain House, an international conference center for Moral Re-Armament in Caux, Switzerland, provided an ideal venue for meeting the world. In Geneva students visited the International Committee of the Red Cross and met with the Director of the Center for Applied Studies in International Negotiations.