



Newsletter of the Caux Scholars Program

Summer 2013

Greetings!

Eleven Caux Scholar alum and two of the incoming class gathered in Washington, DC, for a fundraiser hosted by Don King at the McGuire Woods law offices. For many of the 60 guests it was their first introduction to the Caux Scholars Program. It was exciting to share with them the impact of the program and what we are hoping for this year.



Through the event we raised more than \$11,000 for this year's scholarship fund. With the \$9,731 raised through Indiegogo and matching funds we are getting close to our target figure. Only another \$10,000 to go! Thank you to all who have given. We are happy to still receive any further donations.

We are looking forward to welcoming the new class of 2013 to Caux this summer. Twenty four scholars from 19 countries will arrive at Caux on June 26th. Some are still waiting for visas, but most have their flights booked. They will bring their stories, experience, expertise and sense of hope to Caux. I am looking forward to sharing their experiences with you.

We are pleased that Johannes Langer (CSP 2012) will return as our program coordinator. He writes: "Last year's experience 'on the mountain' with 18 other scholars from around the globe shaped my outlook on the world in a new dimension."

We thank Winnie Arthur (CSP 2012) for the help she gave in editing this issue of *Cauxmunique*. I hope you enjoy it.

Jitka
Program Director

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Please help us raise scholarship funds

We need an additional \$10,000.

DONATE

Donate online or send checks to our office payable to Initiatives of Change

Caux Conferences 2013



June 29-July 3

Just governance

Exploring the personal qualities needed for effective governance and structures which promote integrity and cooperation

July 3-7

Healing history

Overcoming racism, seeking

From the Academic Director

CSP as transformative space



Carl Stauffer, PhD

We love to talk about the "magic" of transformation that seems to inevitably occur at the Caux Scholars Program (CSP) as scholars from across the world come together to form a learning community. However, our explanative language of this change process often seems to morph into an ethereal narrative about spiritual connections, intuitive

emotions, or visceral feelings that only seem to make sense at a subconscious level.

So what makes CSP a transformative space? Is it the breathtaking views from the elegant location of the Palace Hotel perched on precipices of the Swiss Alps overlooking Lake Geneva? Is it the community synergy that happens when 20 scholars from different cultures come to live and learn together in one place? Or is it the networking and connections that occur when world leaders come together to dialogue, serve and inspire each other?

It is all of this, and more. The descriptors above are merely the conduits through which our brains are able to shift into a transformative mode. Thanks to a host of recent publications in neuroscience research (often placed under the broad category of "Attachment Theory") we are learning how to apply a biological language to describe these experiences of metamorphosis. Building off of the original research of John Bowlby and Mary Ainsworth (1951) on the attachment bonds between mother and child, we now know that this bond is not only reserved for the parent-child relationship but in fact, we as human beings are biologically hard-wired to make connections with other human beings. In other words, we instinctively seek out community. This primal drive against isolation and for intimate human relationship becomes a critical element in transforming conflict.

Coupled with attachment theory is the understanding that our brains are always evolving and changing - what is now referred to as the "brain plasticity." Gone is the modernist notion that our brains are like computers - mechanical, predictable and deterministic in nature. What we now know is that with the appropriate stimuli our brains are able to adapt by forging new neuron pathways of thinking and feeling on an ongoing basis throughout the duration of our lifetimes. This knowledge gives plausible explanation for why negative, violent energy seems to be re-channeled in well-facilitated processes of forgiveness and reconciliation.

We also know that our brains store both explicit and implicit memory. Implicit memory is connected to the phenomena of psychosocial trauma. Implicit memory could be understood as "trapped energy" in the body. Transformation cannot occur if

equity, building community

July 7-11

Dialogue on land and security

Share experience and build partnerships in restoring land, lives and peace.

July 13-19

Trust and integrity in the global economy

Toward economic justice and environmental stability

July 24-30

Children as actors in transforming society

The role of children and youth as active citizens

August 1-6

Learning to live in a multicultural world

Imagining and co-creating a desired future in Europe through intergenerational and intercultural dialogue

August 7-12

Seeds of inspiration

People sharing the inspiration that shaped their lives

More information available on the [Caux website](#)

Meet the Class of 2013

Ihab Abdulrazig Abdallah, Sudan

- Coming from a country that has experienced civil war since 1955, Ihab hopes that CSP will help him create a global network and increase awareness in his community about how to deal with traumatized societies and transitional justice.

Rashad Aliyev, Azerbaijan

- Rashad's desire is to change the status quo and engage in real conflict transformation to overcome stereotypes and nationalistic propaganda in Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Anush Arakelyan, Armenia

- Anush hopes CSP will give her the skills and connections to bring this message to her

implicit memory is not surfaced and dealt with. This helps us to comprehend the importance of dealing with trauma and to appreciate the power of ritual, symbol and the arts (non-verbal), which allow forms of transformative healing to occur.

Finally, we have discovered these curious elements in our brains called "mirror neurons". Essentially, the research on mirror neurons reveals that our brains have the ability for incredible mimesis. We are quick to mimic both the good and bad around us. As one author puts it, "When you pick up something, so does my brain." This discovery is assisting us to explain why an empathic response is often heightened (not hindered as commonly believed) when former "enemies" are brought together to dialogue in to a safe space like Caux.

May the mystery of transformation continue to energize us as we look forward to CSP 2013!

Stories from Africa

Preventing election violence

Nelly Njoki (CSP 2010), from Kenya, writes about inter-ethnic dialogue among youth in Nairobi.



One of the notable features of Nairobi's informal settlements is the wide multi-ethnic base of the residents who come from different parts of the country in search of livelihood. Against the backdrop of abject poverty and deplorable living

conditions, social- economic based conflicts are inevitable in these settlements. The settlements which cover less than 1% of Nairobi's area, host about 65% of the capital city's population thus providing a fertile hunting ground for votes. The economic vulnerability of the youth makes it easy for them to be manipulated by the political elite who at a fee will incite the youth to cause violence along ethnic lines.

[Community Education and Empowerment Centre \(CEEC\)](#), the Kenyan NGO that I work for, knew that preventing electoral violence in Kenya had to begin in Nairobi's informal settlements. We developed a project that included training on conflict transformation and through topics such as understanding the self, forgiveness, trust building, reconciliation, mediation and nonviolence. The youth reflected on the activities of post-election violence and how the losses they encountered, both in terms of material and personal lives, should not be repeated.

Bringing out the common values and identity of the urban youth in the informal settlements, regardless of the ethnic background, prompted a resolve to promote peace. Through inter-ethnic dialogue and traveling theaters, the youth hit the ground running, knocking on all doors and speaking to all who cared to listen. The

country, her region, and the world.

Vanessa Bassil, Lebanon

Vanessa wants to empower young Lebanese journalists to build peace through their writing and reporting.

Hany Mohamed Abdala Mahmoud El Halawany, Egypt

Hany hopes that CSP will strengthen his skills in transitional justice and healing the past so that he can contribute to building a lasting democratic peace in Egypt.

Maria Glenna, Norway

Maria has worked for the Norwegian Red Cross Youth and Amnesty International. With CSP she hopes to work on reconciliation and transitional justice.

Lamiya Guliyeva, Azerbaijan

Lamiya says CSP will "give me the chance to step outside the limits of the conflict I am particularly involved in and to listen to other stories coming from different corners of the world."

Tim Hall, Canada

Timothy wants to be part of CSP "because I desire to learn the theoretical and practical dimensions of peacebuilding."

Huynh Thi Bich Hanh, Vietnam

Huynh believes that changing the world starts with individuals, and that small actions can create extraordinary differences.

Tamara Hawes, USA

Tamara taught Political Science and International Politics for five years at Wright State University and the University of West Florida for four years prior to moving to her current position with Congressman Turner.

Laurin Hodge, USA

clarion call was: "One Nation, One Tribe, One Blood, Change starts with me." And "We are one tribe, the Kenyan tribe." Communities were urged to vote peacefully.

The powerful message of forgiveness and reconciliation, as espoused by IofC, touched the hearts of the youth, and for some of them, availed an opportunity to speak about their experiences of the 2007-2008 post-election violence. This message was carried to the communities that were polarized along ethnic lines. Infusing humor in the stereotypes that communities hold against each other offered a platform for dialogue to deconstruct and build inter-ethnic harmony.

The 2013 elections were peaceful because of concerted efforts by a host of players in the peacebuilding field, who complemented each other by reaching out to specific groups of the community with the call for peace. Women, the youth, elders, students, media, sports heroes, musicians, religious leaders and personal pledges of peace by politicians made the difference. So many peace messages in all forms of media plastered our walls alongside the campaign posters.

The enforcement of the hate-speech law ensured that hate messages spread through phones were stopped before circulating. The hate message on social media posed a challenge, but thankfully, personal initiative to 'unfriend' people spreading hate speech came in handy. Reflecting on the losses of the post-election violence was a somber reminder that, "we have so much to lose, yet those who incite us, dine and wine together and their kin is safe, as we turn to each other with machetes," said one youth.

Answers often come from within

Amber Breitenberg (CSP 2012), from the USA, spent three months in Cape Town, South Africa.



I was working with an urban agriculture and environmental action organization called [Abalimi Bezekhaya](#) (Farmers of Home). The organization works with individuals and communities in several Cape Town "townships" to provide them with the skills and knowledge to grow their

own food in small home gardens or in large community farms, where the excess vegetables can be sold for profit. I came into the organization as an outsider, a volunteer, a "do-gooder" from a wealthy Western country ready to solve all of their problems, and I left with a realization.

Too often this is the story in many developing countries. A flow of volunteers, journalists, development workers, students and "do-gooders" swoop in with all the answers and the drive to make a change, but many leave just as quickly with only a memory of themselves left behind. I don't want to be that

looks forward to discovering tools through CSP that can encourage reconciliation and healing when citizens return to their communities post incarceration.

Mark Kennedy, USA - Mark plans to pursue a career with the U.S. government or an international organization to strengthen transitional justice mechanisms.

Catherine Mbenge, Kenya - Catherine wants to be a part of CSP to develop a deeper insight on practical ways to promote intercultural understanding, respect, and appreciation for diversity.

Nate McPherson, USA - Nate is excited about the opportunity to glean more practical understanding and formal training, to expand his worldview and learn from the individuals that make up this diverse class.

Xenia Mironova, Tajikistan - Xenia wants to help to improve the situation of human rights in her war-torn country and hopes that CSP will help her build trust among the conflicted parties in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Alex Nuwabaga, Uganda Alex sees CSP as an opportunity to learn more about human security and peacebuilding and to hear what others are doing to build peace across their communities.

Cho Chanmyei Oo ("Cho"), Myanmar/ Burma - Cho hopes that economic empowerment and cultural education can overcome relationship abuses and sexual violence in her country.

Sonja Przulj, Bosnia-Herzegovina - Sonja's

person. So I won't tell you what I gave to South Africa, but rather I will tell you how my experience in South Africa, along with many helpful lessons along the way, has helped change me.

"A Lightning Bolt." That is what Christina Kaba, the veritable heart of Abalimi Bezekhaya and the leader of the movement among her Xhosa community, called me in my first few weeks. I took it as a compliment. Over the next few months I understood what led her to call me this. Every week at Abalimi, a new e-mail, or a group of tourists came in hoping for a story, a photo-op or just an "Urban Agriculture" experience. Volunteers flow through the doors of Abalimi faster than the vegetable seedlings are full-grown. The field workers at Abalimi are familiar with "lightning bolts." People who come in with ideas and passion but don't stay long enough to see them through.

My time there taught me that answers often come from within. Empowerment is about teaching people that they have power, that they can solve problems, that they are the answer.

For me, the lesson learned was that empowerment is sometimes about leaving space for others to find the answers and take the credit. Opening dialogue that allows others to come to the right conclusion, even if it has been swimming around in your head for weeks. During a visit, Head of the South African Planning Commission, Trevor Manuel, noted the need for "active champions of sustainable development rather than a passive citizenry waiting to receive services from the state." I now understand that an active citizenry comes not from outsiders giving the "right answers," but space being made and support given to those ready and willing to take the step to come up with their own lasting solutions.

A legacy for future generations

Emma Khakula (CSP 2006) writes about her involvement with resettling refugees fleeing conflict in different parts of Africa:



In 2005 my father and I sat at the dining table, having an after-dinner conversation. We talked about the world today - so much human suffering from bad leadership, war, natural disasters, community disputes and the fact that conflict was on the rise. We talked about being change agents, and leaving behind good

legacies for our future generations. At the time, I had just started my career in the humanitarian world, working with refugees. The human suffering I saw, as a result of conflict, bothered me.

My desire to find answers to the issues that face humanity brought me to Caux in the summer of 2006. After a month I left the mountain equipped with an awesome network of people, and

motivation to participate in CSP is to attain a multi-cultural learning experience that will allow her "to initiate new peace and conflict resolution ideas implement them through programs in my local community."

Elin Roos, Sweden - Elin's career goal is to determine "how people can live happier and healthier together."

Diana Salman, Lebanon
Diana is thrilled to join CSP 2013 where she hopes to acquire practical experience that she can carry with her in her future endeavors and to make lasting friendships with active young leaders from around the world.

Elina Sarkisian, Syria - Elina hopes that CSP will help her to "actively contribute towards peacebuilding in my community and my country, Syria, which is very much in need of peace."

Amaha Selassie, USA
Amaha is committed to "trustbuilding, deliberative dialogue, restorative justice, and social healing in order to heal historical wounds and move forward with mutual understanding."

Mercy Shalale, Kenya - Mercy has been a Peace Monitor for UNDP and has helped build community peace committees in her area.

Sonam Yangzom, Tibet
Sonam hopes that she will gain the skills, experience, and network through CSP that will be necessary to work toward a just resolution of the strife that has scarred her homeland.

the knowledge to set me along my quest to make the world a better place. But to be honest, I wondered if I would be able to find my niche and make a difference.

In December of 2007 an opportunity arose. Kenya went into post-election violence after disputed election results. Very soon things escalated to tribal fights and the numbers of internally displaced persons grew as homes, businesses, and farmland were torched or demolished by tribal factions.

I sent a text message to my boss and asked if the International Organization for Migration (IOM) was planning to do any emergency assistance for the displaced populations. I offered my services as a volunteer and ended up working in the North Rift Valley province for 6 months. I was in charge of registration of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) for the delivery of services in eight camps. Working in the epicenter of the violence shook me to the very core.

It comforts me to see that we learned a lesson as a nation. It will take time for wounds to heal, but there is hope. We definitely handled the elections in March in a more mature and sober way, despite the disputes, court proceedings, and a verdict that did not sit well with many Kenyans.

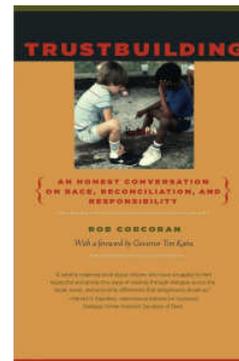
In August 2008 I began a journey of working in the biggest Refugee Camp - Dadaab Refugee Camp - home to over 450,000 Somali Refugees. I was responsible for the resettlement of refugees to third countries (USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, UK and Norway). A highlight of my work in Dadaab was the relocation of over 13,000 Refugees from Dadaab to Kakuma Refugee Camp in a bid to decongest the camp, which was an amazing 55-day operation, that involved a three-day bus journey and flights for vulnerable cases.

2012 took me to Liberia a country that was torn by years of internal conflict starting in 1989. That year saw the end of the Liberian refugee status Cessation Clause) and I came to Liberia to head operations for arrival assistance for returning Liberians from Ghana and the ECOWAS region. This was an amazing 9-month operation, that saw many Liberians return home after years of asylum. Now I am back in Liberia heading a project for Stranded Liberian Migrants in Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Guinea. We intend to assist 5,000 stranded Liberians; these are cases that never registered for refugee status and will not be integrated in their countries of asylum.

I find myself applying a lot of what I learned in Caux in my day-to-day activities, and I feel blessed to a part of a system that is helping to change lives.

Creating a new story

Harper McConnell (CSP 2005) from the USA writes of her experience in the Democratic Republic of Congo:



Read author Rob Corcoran's latest blog, *Equity gap is more than minority issue*



The Imam & The Pastor

"The African model for finding peace amid the continent's warring communities"
The Times (London)



An African Answer
The second film about the work of these two African peacemakers.
[Order the 2 DVD Packaged set](#)

Caux Scholars is a program of Initiatives of Change

IofC USA focuses on the link between personal and global change and seeks to inspire, equip, and engage individuals as peacemakers and trustbuilders.

It starts with listening and responding to the still small voice within, applying values



One year after Caux, I found myself in the Democratic Republic of Congo through a variety of serendipitous events. Seven years later, I am still here.

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is a country surviving through history's most brutal record of colonization, dictatorship and war. A nation of dichotomies, the DRC is endowed with natural resources including minerals, oil, agriculture and hydroelectric power to potentially serve all of Sub-Saharan Africa, yet the country has been subject to war and instability since 1994.

I worked with an extraordinary Congolese medical organization for three years that pioneers locally led quality healthcare at the tertiary reference level as well as community-based rural healthcare.

Goma, the city located in the east of DRC that I live in, has been the epicenter of the conflict and was also completely wiped out by a volcano explosion in 2002.

Despite the complete destruction, the stories emerging from this region are incredible, demonstrating the indomitable human spirit. Congolese non-profit organizations provide health care, services for former child soldiers, education, legal assistance among many other services.

After visiting DRC several times, it was these stories that inspired Ben Affleck to start Eastern Congo Initiative (ECI) to support the work of heroic Congolese organizations. Nearly four years ago, I was asked to do the initial research to start ECI, which would fully focus on funding local Congolese initiatives with the firm belief that change must be catalyzed locally and that any international support must come alongside Congolese ideas and initiatives to achieve impactful change.

Several years later, we have supported more than 20 Congolese organizations working in economic development, legal assistance, maternal healthcare and access to education and independent information. We are working alongside our partners to create stronger, results-based programming that is monitored and evaluated, while we also invest in the organizational capacity building of our partners.

The story of the work of our Congolese partners will survive war and natural disaster and will create a new story, one different than the history of Congo, a story where Congolese create a brighter future for their country.

Grapevine

CSP 1991: Pravir Bagrodia "I am a content editor based in Bangalore, where I edit copies for newspapers, journals, manuals and books. I support ethical and ecological initiatives across

of integrity to everyday living, and taking risks to bridge divides.

Visit our [website](#) for more information.

We hope you enjoy this issue of Cauxmunique. Please share this newsletter with your friends and forward it to those you know have a passion for peacebuilding.

Thank you!

India. It has been 21 summers since CSP, but memories are so fresh as if Caux happened yesterday. **Ana Maria Garcia** is a hydrologist at the USGS North Carolina Water Science Center "Just this morning I thought that I should make 'going back to the mountain' a priority! My passion is the environment and environmental protection...I am now married seven years. My husband Shaun and I devote much of our time to 'local' projects in sustainability here in Raleigh, North Carolina. We also just returned from a trip to Guatemala. **CSP 1995: Nithi Nesadurai** "I traveled to Thailand (November), Cambodia (February) and Korea (March) to conduct capacity building programs for Chevening Alumni Associations in these countries. (UK equivalent of the Fulbright Scholarship and Nithi is President of Chevening Alumni Malaysia.) I will conduct the program in London in July before traveling to other countries in South East Asia and China." **CSP 1996: Patrick McNamara** has a busy summer ahead. His daughter Ilana will celebrate her bat mitzvah. Afterwards, he is heading to Caux to be part of the Healing History conference followed by the Caux Dialogue on Land and Security. Patrick will teach Social Entrepreneurship and Conflict Management in India. Then he will interact with students and faculty at Quaid-i-Azam University in Islamabad, Pakistan. This partnership between the University of Nebraska at Omaha, where Patrick teaches, and Quaid-i-Azam, grows out of a U.S. Department of State grant to the two universities to promote civic participation and "public diplomacy." **CSP 1999: Paula Gabriela Freitas** is working hard on the upcoming Confed Cup in Brazil. Her parents are visiting! **Ibrahim Natil** "I recently received approval to run an exchange program in Belgium from June 28 until July 7. I'll lead a youth group from Palestine to join delegates from Jordan and Malta in Belgium. The delegates will share experiences and success stories of citizenship and equality. I hope that I will make it next year to Caux." **CSP 2000: Ori Golan** "You may be interested in my latest article, written for The Pink Breakfast. Regards from down under. **Olivera Ivanovic** "I am working in Bujanovac at a college for preschool teachers, teaching education. It is a part of former Pristina University but it is not in Kosovo, it is in south Serbia 40 km from the administrative border. So I am University professor now. Still living in Belgrade but traveling every week." **Daniela DeBono** "I am still working at Malmo University as a Senior Lecturer in International Migration and Ethnic Relations. I teach contemporary global migration and human rights, migration in Europe, refugee and asylum issues and I just finished teaching a course on citizenship issues. I am also keeping my research going. This summer I will focus on on irregular migration issues in Malta and the Mediterranean, and will also start investigating irregular migration in Sweden. I am discovering what southern European countries can learn from the Swedish model. **CSP 2001: Fabi Benavente** "I got married last year on Sept 15th to a wonderful Belgian man and am now based in Belgium, but visiting Mexico regularly. I am still a member of IofC-International Council. **Debu Gandhi** married Sandra Snabb on May 11th in Ann Arbor, Michigan. **Ian Ralby** is Executive Dir. of I.R. Consilium. "At I.R. Consilium we work with clients interested in reducing insecurity; we offer training at all levels. Simply put, we provide counsel and aid throughout the world. If you think we might be able to assist you, please contact us. **Grant Rissler**

recently finished the first year of a PhD program in Public Policy and Administration at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA. In October he was honored to be recognized by his alma mater, Goshen College, Indiana, with the 2012 Decade of Servant Leadership Award. Grant also was happy to complete two marathons last fall. **CSP 2002: Rev. Ryan Whitley** was appointed to be the representative of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania to the Religious Leaders Council Administrative Group of the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia. **CSP 2003: Abduljalil Abdurasulov** wrote this article for [BBC News](#). **Kathryn Williams**: "I am now living in Portland, Maine. I am working on a new book, and started a small book packaging company with my former boss, which has also kept me busy. All is well! [My website](#)" **CSP 2004: Genevieve LeBaron** After completing her postdoctoral research at the University of British Columbia (Canada), Genevieve will join the University of Sheffield (UK) as Vice Chancellor's Fellow in Politics in October 2013. **CSP 2006: Jon Davidow**: "I'm an Impact Strategist, in that I work with early-stage companies to strategize how their social impact can drive their project from concept to execution. One project that may be of interest to you, for instance, is a platform that provides entrepreneurs access to mentor networks, which we're strategically driving through entrepreneurs from underserved communities who need that access the most. It's all very fun, creative work that I'm lucky to be doing." **CSP 2007: Daniya Baisubanova** graduated from the Kroc Institute, University of Notre Dame. **CSP 2009: Marcia Lee** "I run a volunteer program called [Cap Corps Midwest](#). We are still looking for volunteers, people who are U.S. citizens, over 21, with a college degree or a number of years of experience. We have placements open in Detroit, Milwaukee, Chicago, and Nicaragua! I am working on starting a Restorative Justice Center in Detroit to support people in finding alternatives to punishment in resolving conflicts and support people working and living in non-violent ways." **CSP 2010: Janjarang Kijtikhun** will be setting up an NGO in Southeast Asia called the [Non Violence Project\(NVP\)](#). "It is an amazing organization that is educating youth in non-violence education to make this world a less violent place. They have educated more than 6 million people in the past 20 years." **Katie Lance** is going to the University of Notre Dame in the fall to start her PhD in Psychology and Peace Studies. **CSP 2012: Sai Thiha** was accepted to Claremont Graduate University for MA Economics program, Global Commerce and Finance. **Amber Breitenberg** has a new [blog for DC](#) on the local food movement and food security.

[Forward email](#)



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