



Summer 2015

Greetings!

This newsletter is coming to you during the third week of the 2015 Caux Scholars Program. The twenty scholars from 17 countries have become a learning community. Follow the stories we are posting on [Facebook](#). It is encouraging to meet the many people in Caux who face big challenges with an indomitable spirit. Their stories touch a deeper level than any news media can.



Christie Shrestha, (CSP 2004) has joined our team as the new Program Manager for CSP-AP (India). Check out her article about this opportunity, December 20th -January 10th.

This past week at Caux, I met two alumni, who spoke at the Trust and Integrity in the Global Economy (TIGE) conference. Emmanuel Mutisya from Kenya and Drissa Kanambaye from Mali. Emmanuel told me of the impact CSP had on his life, leading him to think deeply about his life purpose. He pursued a Rotary International Peace Fellowship, which took him to Japan for an MA. After earning a PhD in Sustainable Development, he now teaches at the UN University in Tokyo. Drissa is doing his PhD in Belgium on Information and Communication. Both Emmanuel and Drissa see the benefits of a more active alumni network.

To support the creation of such a network we recently sent out a survey to our CSP alumni. Have you seen it? The aim is to strengthen alumni collaboration and mutual support. Your [answers to these ten questions](#) will improve communication. Thanks!

Because of his work in the field of Restorative Justice, Carl Stauffer, Academic Director of Caux Scholars Program, was interviewed recently by the [Huffington Post](#), eager to understand in the wake of the Charleston massacre how forgiveness on the part of the church and family members would impact the community.

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**Please help us raise scholarship funds**

**DONATE**

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## 2015 Caux Conferences



**Exploring the human factor in global change**

**June 26-July 1**

Trust and Integrity in the Global Economy

Lauren Leigh Hinthorne (CSP 2003), now working at USAID, came to the successful and fun CSP 2015 fundraiser held at the prestigious law firm McGuire Woods in Washington, DC. Lauren writes: "The evening felt like a sort of homecoming. I am thankful for having reconnected with Barry Hart and Ajay Rao after all these years, and am deeply inspired by the accomplishments of other alumni." And she affirms: "Above all I am reminded of the collective impact that is possible when such a diverse group of people unites behind a common purpose."

Best wishes,

**Jitka**

**Program Director**



*Follow us on Facebook and share with friends!*

## From the Academic Director

### Forgiveness in the public domain

**Carl Stauffer, PhD**, Academic Director of the Caux Scholars Program, writes:



On the heels of the tragic AME Church shooting in Charleston, South Carolina, the subject of forgiveness has once again been thrust into the public domain of race relations in the United States. And once again, a rigorous debate has been launched around the merits

and demerits of forgiveness with those who praise this public display of mercy as a expression of the Divine, to those calling it a shameful miscarriage of justice and a dangerous short-cut to the structural change that needs to happen. In this conversation, the critics and the advocates alike often end up concentrating on the individual acts of forgiveness giving little attention to the political and social dimensions of forgiveness. This is a travesty. It is high time we have a serious dialogue around how it is possible to hold mercy and justice together which is the essence of a growing social movement called Restorative Justice. The conceptions of mercy and justice need not be mutually exclusive in theory and practice *OR* on the micro and macro levels of society.

#### Individual Dimensions of Forgiveness

In some circles forgiveness has become a dirty word in the conversation on race in the United States. And rightfully so, as

#### July 3-8

Just Governance for Human Security

#### July 10-14

Caux Dialogue on Land and Security

#### July 16-19

Addressing Europe's Unfinished Business

International Peace-Builders' Forum

#### July 27-August 2

CATS - Children and Adults - Partners for Change?

#### August 4-9

Seeds of Inspiration

#### August 10-15

Impact Initiatives Challenge

## Caux Scholars Program in India

### Bringing the magic of Caux to India



Bringing the magic of Caux to India! The Caux Scholars Program successfully launched its pilot program at Asia Plateau, Panchgani, India, in December 2014. With 17 scholars from eleven different countries, the first CSP-AP class of 2014 examined fundamentals of conflict resolution, transformation, and peacebuilding, with an added bonus of examining it all through the lens of sustainable development.

#### Program Overview:

The Caux Scholars Program-Asia

forgiveness has often been distorted as a form of absolution for the dominant white community and a mechanism of silencing the voices of protest calling for an end to structural racism and its prevailing violence in communities of color across the country.

Of course, one of the greatest misconceptions of forgiveness is that it is a "gift" to the offender when in fact, all psychological research indicates that the process of forgiveness is even more importantly about the victim-survivor "letting go" of the hold that the memory of the offender and the enacted violation may have over them. Further, veteran forgiveness researcher, academic and author, Everett Worthington, Jr., substantiates that those who commit to forgive publicly (whether in an intimate friend/family group, or to a large public gathering of people) are more likely to find and sustain the necessary support needed to maintain their forgiveness for a life-time.

### **Political Dimensions of Forgiveness**

These public declarations of forgiveness are also political in nature. By political, I am not referring to party politics but instead to the negotiated compacts that we the public citizenry decide on that guide the way we want to co-exist in any shared location. In this way, these acts of forgiveness represent a kind of radical form of politics - a resistance to the status quo dependence on retribution as the only "just" reaction to harm. In other words, these church and family members who offered forgiveness are "changing the rules of the game" in a society bent on punitive response to violations. They have knowingly or unknowingly acted in a strategic nonviolent manner and as a result they have set their enemy opponents off balance - unable to play the game of violence whether illicit or state-sanctioned. They have by this courageous act broken the chain of ceaseless violent revenge and this is both deeply personal and political at the same time.

### **Social Dimensions of Forgiveness**

Finally, public acts of forgiveness can serve a social purpose. In my work in transitional justice both in South Africa and Sierra Leone it became quite clear that forms of corporate forgiveness became essential elements for social cohesion in post-war societies. In communal contexts, gestures of public forgiveness are primarily meant for the benefit of the whole community or the "common good" and often far outweigh the significance of these efforts for the individuals involved. Acts of social forgiveness can provide necessary interruptions to cycles of revenge, and lay the foundation for platforms of deeper, sustained dialogue, psycho-social healing and possibly reconciliation to occur.

In sum, if in our well-intentioned efforts to forgive, we primarily focus on the individuals engaged in the process (as courageous as they are) and fail to engage the necessary, honest dialogue about the political and social dimensions of structural racism in the United States, we are deceiving ourselves and our conversations will remain shallow indeed.

Plateau (CSP-AP) is a three week peacebuilding and sustainable development institute for young leaders, aged 21-35. It invites youth leaders, community organizers, and scholars from different countries and cultural backgrounds to learn and experience the integration of sustainable development and peacebuilding. The coursework and extracurricular activities are designed around the themes of fundamentals of conflict and peace, trauma healing, human rights and gender, restorative justice, and non-violent action.

### **Academic Co-Directors:**

#### **Dr. Gladston "Ashok" Xavier**

Before heading the Department of Social Work at Loyola College in Chennai, India, one of the prestigious educational institutions in India, Dr. Xavier held the title of Dean of Arts Faculties for the college. Loyola College has always been among the top three colleges in India for more than a decade and is one of the eight colleges out of the 38000 to be awarded the status of College of Excellence by the Government of India. Dr. Xavier, an expert in the field of conflict, has worked extensively in South Asia providing trainings to people at the grass roots as well as at policy level. He has lectured widely in Asia, Europe and the Americas.

#### **Dr. Florina Benoit**

As the Chief Zonal Officer at CASA, a National Level Humanitarian organization, Dr. Florina heads the south zone managing in five states. With Masters' degrees in Social Work, Public administration and Peace building, and a doctorate in Social Work, Dr. Florina has conducted several workshops along with Dr. Gladston on peace building in Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, USA, Australia,

## CSP alumni report from the field

### Reflections on Nepal's earthquake

**Christie Shrestha** (CSP 2004), originally from Nepal, shares her reflection on the recent Earthquake in her country. She recently joined Initiatives of Change USA as Program Manager for the Caux Scholars Program - Asia Plateau.

On April 25, 2015, a massive 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Nepal, my country of origin. Since then, much smaller, but nonetheless powerful magnitude of 5.0 and 6.0, tremors continue even today. As I reflect back on the early moments immediately after



the tragedy hit, I remember feeling overwhelmed with fear for my relatives, who live in Nepal, and a sense of deep loss of watching the place where I grew up, the old neighborhoods that I hung around, and so many historical and cultural heritage sites and architectural treasures turned into rubble in a matter of seconds. For me, the sense of loss was deeply impacted with a loss of identity as a Nepali. The tangible and material things, the nostalgia of Nepal, the temples and sites, the streets, my old neighborhoods, and the vibrant life, all were parts of my childhood memories that I identified as being a Nepali.

Watching the devastation unfold, I felt helpless. However, amidst all the chaos and destruction, I witnessed through social media a rise of new visionaries and leaders - the Nepali youth. Within hours of earthquake, the Nepali youth groups organized themselves into numerous smaller groups and were in the forefront helping the Nepali army and police and International search and rescue teams. Setting aside their pain and suffering, the youths marched on (literally and figuratively) with a dedication to rebuild Nepal brick by brick, house by house, and village by village.

Individuals setting aside their suffering have mobilized themselves into smaller teams to aide those in need and people have been volunteering day and night to rescue people in villages and places where aid has been slow to reach. Moreover, the responses of international communities in providing humanitarian efforts and search and rescue missions in Nepal have been a blessing, even if at times they were overwhelming for the small nation. Not only in Nepal, but in many other places when tragedy, man-made or natural, strikes, people have come together to help each other. It shows that humanity can conquer any adversities and overcome any fear in the face of destruction.

Iran, Kenya, Sweden, Netherlands, Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia to name a few countries. Dr. Florina's areas of expertise include training on trauma awareness and recovery, arts based approaches to peace building, sustainable development, strategic planning and management, restorative justice and working with community based organizations.

Both Dr. Florina and Dr. Gladston bring a unique combination of working at both grassroots level and with policy makers. As practitioners of peace building and as academics, they are able to integrate theory and praxis together in building a community of trainers and peace builders.

### Program Details:

Cost per scholar: Rs 60,000 (\$1000) (tuition, meals, lodging)  
Application Fee: Rs 1000 (\$17)  
Application Deadline: September 1, 2015.

## CSP Survey

### Now is the time!

**Amaha Selassie** (CSP 2013) is in Ethiopia to develop a project based on participatory research (PAR) to help a small village harness its capacity towards building its future.



I am hoping we can all take advantage of the CSP survey that was sent out, for I think now is the time for a global peacebuilding force to emerge to assist in our transition to a society that acknowledges the worth of every human being. I think now is the



Likewise, here in the United States, many Nepalese immigrants, friends of Nepal, and those who have some sort of relationship with the country pour out their hearts into fundraising for the victims. For instance, my brother-in-law and his wife organized a fundraising event in their hometown of New Jersey. Partnering with local businesses and schools, they raised about \$8000 in one night! A half German-half French friend of mine, who traveled to Nepal in 2011, raised close to \$10,000 on her own. I know similar stories of people who have raised money or donated through organizations. It is amazing to see how this tragedy has brought people from all walks of life together for a common cause.

As Nepal moves toward rebuilding efforts, I still hear stories from my relatives of the lingering unsettling feeling - literally from continuous tremors and emotionally and mentally unsettling due to exhaustion and trauma, while trying to cope and come.

## The ups and downs of social entrepreneurship

**Laurin Hodge** (CSP 2013) shares what she is learning about setting up an NGO:



Leading a business requires focus; discipline; commitment; out-of-the-box thinking but most importantly find your "tribe." My advice to anyone looking to pursue a path of entrepreneurship is to become a part of a community that supports

you. Creating a business can be lonely at times. When you are plugged into a nurturing network of like-minded people you will survive the tough times and learn to trust yourself, your vision, and your abilities.

Mission: Launch, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization. Our mission is to improve social outcomes for marginalized communities by building software to uphold human rights, designing opportunities for civic engagement, and amplifying inclusive thought leadership as well as personal narratives. The corporation is committed to the elimination of bias and barriers so that returning citizens (people returning home from prison/jail) can rejoin society and live out their full potential, contributing in meaningful ways.

I made the decision to start this corporation while enrolled in a business masters degree program at The Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, MD, USA). It was 2010 and I was searching for what my next steps could be professionally, so I enrolled in a competition - winning 3rd place. For a few years I was still pursuing other passions but 2 years ago I decided that

opportune time for us Caux Scholars, to put into practice our teachings for the maximum benefit of creation.

This is the case all over the world but especially in America. I say this because after the Civil Rights movement of the 60's, there rose an attempt to move us forward through the concept of color blindness, basically denying difference as a way to create unity and harmony. This step was taken without any acknowledgement of past hurts or real national effort to heal our wounds. The result has been layers of artificial skin covering a deep festering wound that has never been healed, which we have been taught to not talk about. But due to recent events, the layers of dead, artificial skin is being removed and the raw open wound is being exposed to air and light, the necessary step towards healing.

Now is the time to really stand in the gap, help all parties develop a mutual understanding that the raw emotions of now, emanating from fear, lack of acknowledgment and unhealed wounds can be transformed into really seeing one another and beginning the process of building a shared future from a divided past.

It will require great courage and fixity of purpose, but I am confident this is the reason we have received all of this training, to enable us to walk with our communities now.

this was the business I was called to create and pursue. The passion for Mission: Launch was sparked by my personal experience.

One Saturday in 2006 I walked across the stage at Old Dominion University, earning a bachelors degree, and 3 days later my mother walked into a courtroom. Ultimately my mother would be found guilty on charges related to a business in which she was an Administrator. While she denied the charges it was clear they would not be overturned. After winning a late partial appeal she ended up serving 70 months in a Federal Prison Camp. Meeting the women my mother was incarcerated with and learning just how damaging a criminal record can be to gaining self-sufficiency inspired me.

The major challenges of starting a business include financial backing, marketing and outreach, strategic planning as well as team building. Every business, no matter the structure, requires startup funds. The nonprofit model allows me to compete for grants, but less than 1% of philanthropic dollars goes to this social justice issue. Raising the money to operate Mission Launch as a viable business has been a major challenge. That being said, the lack of funds did have a positive side. I was forced to learn how to be innovative; constraints often lead to creativity.

During the time of learning, relationship building and reflection at Caux I renewed my commitment to social justice and social enterprise. I think back to the late night chats with my roommate Vanessa Bassil from Lebanon, who is the true essence of women's leadership. We came from different worlds and had unique passions (she is working to use the power of media for peace), but we connected in our shared struggle to build programs as millennial women.

## Dismantling privilege

**Jose Carlos Vargas** (CSP 2005) attended the [Healing History](#) gathering in Richmond this past April. He and his wife created an organization called [Solidaridad Internacional Kanda](#) (SiKanda), which focuses on social inclusion and economic development of people who live in slums and landfills in southern Mexico.

In Mexico there is a common belief that we are a society where economic disparities and classism exist, but we do not acknowledge the presence of racism in our culture. Yet in every TV advertisement, in every TV program, and in the majority of universities, companies and government entities, middle or top officials featured are



## Healing History 2015



### Conference Report

A report of the conference is now published online. If you would like hard copies please be in touch with our office.

## Peace Circles in Washington, DC



Two Caux Scholars participated in Creators of Peace Circles this year held in the Washington, DC, area. Both shared that the experience reminded them of Caux. Do consider participating in the [Creators of Peace network](#) which is active in many parts of the world.

If you are interested in Peace Circles in the US be in touch with Kathy Aquilina. [kathy.aquilina@us.iofc.org](mailto:kathy.aquilina@us.iofc.org)

white, or have a fair skin tone.

The Healing History conference made me better understand how various practices, customs and ideologies in my society seek to justify the unequal distribution of privileges, rights or goods among different racial groups and also across gender.

One important lesson that I learned at the conference is that privilege, particularly the one linked to whiteness and maleness, is an institutional, rather than personal, set of advantages granted to those of us, who by race or gender, resemble the people who occupy powerful positions in our institutions.

But how do I change that privilege? A simple, but effective step that I learned is not to fall into the making-decisions-for-everyone syndrome.

This means that as a male, fairly white, Latino person, I actually have more opportunities to make decisions than others do. As a director of an NGO, I unconsciously (and sometimes not) make plans in my head, and then present that scheme to my co-workers for approval.

But if I truly want to involve people in creating a project, then it means building things together from the beginning. Not presenting a defined plan to my colleagues, and then adding some of their ideas to make them feel involved.

As I enter a meeting room, facilitate a community meeting, or simply walk into the office, I now take the time to see who is around me, especially those who may not have the same opportunities because of their race, gender or class. I am convinced that I must include the voice of others in conversations, planning and action. This is an effective way of undoing racism, dismantling the privilege of my race and gender embedded in our society.

## A cup of humanity

**Janjarang Kijitikhun** (CSP 2010) was chosen as one of the finalists for the Social Impact Award for a project called 'TeaRak', or 'the beloved' in Thai. She writes about the needs that propelled her to take on this work:



Just like most tea growers in many countries, tea farmers in Thailand receive low and fluctuating prices for their produce and are the most vulnerable group in the supply chain.

Last year, through my work

## A film from South Africa

### Beyond Forgiving



This award winning film depicts the true story of two South Africans trying to move beyond their pain towards forgiveness and healing.

[Order a copy from our office](#)

### Caux Scholars is a program of Initiatives of Change (IofC)

A diverse global network with an 80-year track record of peacebuilding, conflict transformation and forging partnerships across divides of race, class, religion and politics.

#### Our vision

We inspire a vision of community where a commitment to reconciliation and justice transcends competing identities and interests.

#### Our mission

We equip leaders to build trust in diverse communities through a process of personal change, inclusive dialogue, healing historical conflict and teambuilding

#### Our focus

We connect core values with personal and public action with a focus on racial reconciliation, economic inclusion and interfaith understanding.

For more information

<http://us.iofc.org>

on rural development, I visited the region called Mae Salong, a mountainous area between the boarder of Thailand and Myanmar. The area is home to many ethnic minority groups known collectively as the hill tribes. All year long, the region is surrounded by mist, mountains, and vast areas of tea plantations.

Amid all the natural beauty lies the not so pretty story of hill tribe people, who are the poorest and the most marginalized group in Thailand. An average hill tribe person lives on less than 1 USD a day and most of the families do not have enough means to support their children through primary school.

I believe that we can change this inequality, and we can do so by marketing one of their best products, which is 'tea'. Cultivated with great care and long tradition, our tea collections come from different hill tribe groups. It is one tea, one tribe, and one unique flavor.

TeaRak's ultimate goal is to empower hill tribe people and assist them in preserving their beautiful way of life through fair business practice.

Janjarang will launch a crowdfunding campaign in October and plans to have the first batch of products delivered by November. Just in time for winter!

## Follow-up Links

[Initiatives of Change](#)

[Hope in the Cities \(HIC\)](#)

[Caux Scholars Program](#)

[IofC on Facebook](#)

[Trustbuilding on Facebook](#)

[HIC on Facebook](#)

## Remembering a peacemaker

### Footprints in the sands of time

*For years Berea College in Kentucky has been sending students to participate in the Caux Scholars Program. **Dr. Michelle Tooley**, an Associate Professor of Peace & Social Justice at Berea College, ensured this connection continued*



*through a Berea-funded CSP scholarship. Sadly, Michelle passed away in May 2015. We asked some of her students, who are also CSP alumni, to share her impact on their lives. We have been so grateful for her support over the years.*

**Winnie Arthur**, Ghana, (CSP 2012): Michelle was my advisor for all four years at Berea College. She encouraged me. She pushed me. She taught me. I unlearned so much because of her. During my fourth and final Model African Union conference in DC, Michelle came knocking on my door to wake me up: "Winnie, have you forgotten that you are chairing Assembly of States today? Why are you still asleep?" In my head, I was like,



"Bruh, it's 5:30am!" But that was Michelle. Always making sure you knew what was expected of you.

She was left-handed and scribbled fast when she wrote on the board. She talked about Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HPIC). She talked about dialogue and systemic violence. She talked about undocumented students and access and nested models of peace and the language of debt and forgiveness and self-care. She was a boat-rocker, gathering her truth and laying it neatly at your feet. She was clear.

I am a Caux Scholar because of Michelle. I'll be resuming my studies, focusing on post-conflict reconstruction in the fall because of Michelle. Yet I have no language for this loss.

**Nadine Umutoni**, Rwanda, (CSP 2014): Dr. Tooley always found time for her students in and out of class. She personally encouraged and supported me, as I pursued my degree in Peace and Social Justice. With her support, I was able to be part of the Caux 2014 class, an experience that has impacted my life positively.

**Sai Thiha**, Burma, (CSP 2012): In the Fall semester 2010, I took GSTR 310: Understanding Christianity taught by Dr. Michelle Tooley from the Peace and Social Justice Department. My friends told me that she was a very tough professor. Regardless of my friends' warnings, I took that class. However, on campus sometimes I avoided her, because there were disagreements between the Peace and Social Justice Department and the Economics and Business Department of which I was a part. I had a feeling of unease about the disciplines of Social Justice.

During the class I had a chance to tell her how Christians were oppressed in Myanmar (Burma). She taught us about Christian values of serving others, forgiveness, and peace. Although I am a Christian, I merely knew about these values in Christianity. Because of Dr. Tooley, I have devoted myself to those values of peace and forgiveness. In 2012, she encouraged me to go to Caux in Switzerland to study for peace and conflict resolution. She wanted me to become a change maker in global peace.

Winnie gets the last word: Someday I'll be able to write an ode to Michelle. But right now, I'll let Longfellow speak for me:

*Lives of great women all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And, departing, leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time;  
Footprints, that perhaps another,  
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,  
A forlorn and shipwrecked sister,  
Seeing, shall take heart again.*

We hope you enjoyed 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!

Kathy Aquilina

[Forward email](#)



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Initiatives of Change | 2201 W. Broad Street | Suite 200 | Richmond | VA | 23220