Volunteers & Continuing Support Needed!

KIPCOR works in part because of generous assistance from volunteers, many of whom have now retired from their volunteering days (thanks to every one of you!). So we are calling all volunteers! The gift of your time or a referral to others who might help is most welcome!

FOOD: KIPCOR is known for the quality of food provided during our trainings & events. Do you enjoy cooking and baking? Volunteer to help and we’ll contact you to see if it would be convenient for you to provide baked goods, or perhaps a full meal (which can be shared with another volunteer).

MAILINGS: We have a large mailing list and our mass mailings (newsletters, for instance) need many hands to help with folding, sealing, and labeling. Volunteer and we will add your name to the contact list so you will know when we need help.

ROLE-PLAYERS: KIPCOR trains student mediators throughout the year, and part of that training can include rigorous role-play practice...which requires help from volunteer thespians. Do you long for the stage every now and then? Volunteer and play the part of a parent fighting for more parenting time, a landlord or tenant, a consumer or business owner, or an unhappy neighbor.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT: We are associated with Bethel College, but almost entirely self-funded. Since money does not grow on trees, we need to find it somewhere else. Without the generous support of friends and corporate/foundation sponsors, our work simply cannot continue.

If you can help us in our mission of peacemaking, please contact our Office Manager, Doug Lengel, at 316-284-5217 or dlengel@bethelks.edu. He will be happy to explain the volunteer process to you.

We’re on the Web www.kipcor.org and on www.facebook.com/kipcorks

Training Helps Teachers Create Positive Discipline Through Restoring Relationships

by Melanie Zuercher*

Kansas is on the leading edge when it comes to creative ideas for classroom discipline, and the Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (KIPCOR) at Bethel College is helping make that concrete.

Over the past two-and-a-half years, KIPCOR staff have led a number of Restorative Practices trainings – aimed at public school teachers, administrators and social workers – on “classroom discipline and school climate.” The trainings are meant to introduce and begin to teach restorative practices that align with the Kansas Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) – a continuum of responses to students’ academic and behavioral needs.

“Restorative practices are first and foremost about healing relationships. They are not,” said KIPCOR Director Gary Flory, “‘part of’ the kind of discipline that schools typically use.”

They are what KIPCOR is about. And because Flory has a particular interest in public school issues and how to bring restorative practices into that environment, he

Palwasha Kakar presents 40th Annual Peace Lecture

Gender, Religion, & Peacemaking

Palwasha Kakar, KIPCOR’s 40th Annual Peace Lecturer and Bethel College’s 2014 Young Alumnus Award recipient, has dedicated her life to peacemaking and conflict resolution, especially with issues that affect women in the developing world.

Palwasha just completed four years with the Asia Foundation, based in Kabul, Afghanistan. From January 2013-January 2014, she was the Foundation’s director of women’s empowerment and development programs. At the end of January, she joined the staff of the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C., as senior program officer for religion and peacemaking.

Kakar was born in Seattle to medi- student parents – father from Afghanistan, mother from south-central Kansas. When it was time for her to go to college, she chose Bethel, the alma mater of her grandmother, the late Ruth (Smith) Graber, Class of 1946.

She did her undergraduate work in global studies, and Bible, and Religion, graduating in 1999 with a B.A. Among the benefits of her Bethel liberal arts education, Kakar is quick to credit the opportunity for gaining practical mediation skills through KIPCOR. Her first job upon graduation was director of the Newton Area Peace Center, which is now Peace Connections.

She has a decade of international experience in conflict and post-conflict settings in Afghanistan, including working with religious leaders and institutions on peace-building and women’s rights, and addressing differences in religious sects and groups regarding women’s issues and violence.

“Of course, I enjoy travelling to learn about local histories and cultures, especially with my family. Something I do is that between work and hobby is mentoring other young Afghan women, either through work or outside work in as many creative ways as I can think of.”

*Melanie Zuercher has been the writer and editor for Bethel College’s Office of Institutional Communications since 2004. She is a graduate of Goshen (Indiana) College and Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (Elkhart, Indiana). After 18 years living in Kansas, she still misses the eastern Appalachian mountains where she grew up.
Conversation with Sister Helen Prejean

Sister Helen Prejean, author of Dead Man Walking (1994) and The Death of Innocents: An Eyewitness Account of Wrongful Executions (2004) was at KIPCOR February 2 to meet with friends and supporters. The 1995 film version of Dead Man Walking nominated for four Academy Awards and put the phrase "dead man walking" into the national lexicon.

She got involved with death penalty issues in the early 1990s when she became a spiritual adviser to two death-row inmates in Louisiana, and later met the families of their victims. "I was a middle-school teacher between a murderer who had committed a horrible crime and the shattered families," she said. "Our culture says that the way we honor the death of a person by murder is to kill the murderer. We have to change the attitude: "Of course, the government shouldn’t kill anyone . . . it’s my: fill in the blank. ‘We have to recognize that both parts in ourselves.’"

"What art is about is not to preach or tell people what they’re supposed to think, but to bring two sides together to look at, talk to, consider each other."

"The evidence is clear," said KIPCOR director Gary Flo- rum. "There have been hundreds of studies showing the negative power of nonviolent struggle, and show how one person of faith can change the mind in connection with "health." However, the Kansas Health Foundation has recognized - through the award of a $23,425 Recognition Grant - KIPCOR for exactly that. Or, more specifically, for a proposal to help the 9th Judicial District develop a "triage" system that can better assess the most useful intervention for moms and dads in conflict over custody and parenting."

The goal: lessening the impact of divorce on children by preventing or reducing conflict between co-parents and helping them become better partners in the "business" of raising their children together.

"The evidence is clear," said KIPCOR director Gary Flo- rum. "There have been hundreds of studies showing the negative impact of parents in conflict on the physical and emotional health of children."

KHF Recognition Grants expands KHF support to a broad range of health-related organizations throughout the state. "Each year, we are amazed at the incredible projects being done by organizations across Kansas," said Steve Coen, KHF president and CEO. "This grant program allows us to support these innovative and impactful community initiatives and recognize the groups and individuals making them a reality."

"Hundred of studies show the negative impact of parents in conflict on the physical and emotional health of children."

KIPCOR, through its Community Mediation Center (CMC), has been working for some time in Harvey County to promote and facilitate mediation (rather than a court bat- tle) in divorce cases that involve minor children.

"While mediation works well for some families, it isn’t a panacea. Some families need more directed intervention through limited or full case management - a sort of quasi-judicial arbitration process where a case manager makes recommendations directly to the court if the parties cannot come to their own agreement. Still other families may be best served by going immediately to a child custody investigation provided by court services providers."

The KHF Recognition Grant will allow CMC to contin- ue providing mediation for divorce cases in Harvey County and extend that service to McPherson County (also part of the 9th Judicial District). In addition, CMC will obtain train- ing in the use of a validated assessment tool to channel parents into the intervention process best suited for them. CMC will also use grant monies to provide "divorce education" for parents, based on successful programs in several other states. Flory hopes this project can be a pilot, a model, for other judicial districts. "We want to help parents work out their differences without going to court."
We at KIPCOR are excited to introduce our student assistant, Tana Myer, who is a sophomore at Bethel College studying to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing. Tana started with us last year and has been hard working, delightful, and very dedicated. We are proud to have her as part of our team! Contact her at tmyer@bethels.edu or 316-284-5211 if she can be of assistance.

Doug Lengel (BA-History-McPherson College; MBA-Wichita State University) has joined KIPCOR as Office Manager. Doug has had a varied career, from selling Saabs, teaching (at Manchester College and Tri-State University in Indiana, and Sterling College), administering (Dean of Continuing Education and Associate Academic Dean at Sterling College), running the education program at the Master Builders Association (in Washington state, where he introduced a homebuyer mediation program and one of the first formal green building programs in the country), to working as the secretary to pastors and managing the office at the Presbyterian Church in Kansas. He and his wife, Evelyn, moved to Bethel in 2013 to retire and be near Evelyn’s mother. Doug came out of retirement to help us at KIPCOR because he believes in the work here. Doug has already “saved the day” many times since arriving. We are lucky indeed to have him on board.

Dan Wassink, Senior Mediator and Facilitator (BA, Central Michigan University; Master in Dispute Resolution, Marquette University), joined the staff of KIPCOR in July 2014. He is on the path toward becoming a Kansas Supreme Court-approved mediator, and will assist in providing conflict resolution training to the many constituencies served by KIPCOR. Based on his experience, Dan will also serve as a facilitator with a focus on fostering collaboration among diverse groups and individuals seeking to reach consensus on a broad spectrum of public policy issues.

Prior to KIPCOR, Dan enjoyed a brief but interesting early career as a radio news reporter and news director. He went on to serve more than fifteen years in all three branches of Wisconsin state government, specializing in policy analysis and facilitation of public policy and strategic planning teams. Then, as the slogan goes, "the toughest job you'll ever love." Dan spent more than two years in Albany as a community development specialist with the U.S. Peace Corps. He worked in a small town and collaborated with local leaders and residents to identify long-term economic development opportunities, secured grant funding for projects that enhanced community education and extracurricular offerings for children, and even taught English to city hall employees. Upon returning to Wisconsin, Dan enrolled in graduate school at Marquette University where he earned a Master in Dispute Resolution degree in 2012.

Dan has extensive experience resolving landlord-tenant disputes, having worked several years as a volunteer mediator in small claims court on behalf of the Tenant Resource Center in Madison, Wisconsin. He was also the owner of his own mediation and facilitation business. At KIPCOR, Dan is looking forward to putting his experience and education to use to strengthen the organization’s core mission, expand the Institute’s portfolio, and learn new skills he can apply on behalf of KIPCOR and the many groups and individuals it serves.

Outside of work, Dan pursues a number of interests that include reading, softball (anyone need a player for next summer?), bicycling, and creating craft beers. While growing up, he lived in several states due to his father’s military duties, and was fortunate enough to explore much of the country on summer vacations. That love of travel has continued into Dan’s adult years and has included adventures through much of Europe during and following his Peace Corps service. WELCOME ABOARD, DAN! You can reach Dan at dwassink@bethels.edu or 316-284-5880.

Using circles leads to creating connections... which leads to creating feelings of belonging, of being important.

Doug Lengel – office manager
Tana Myer – student assistant
Jenny Muret – director of training
Jan Petersen – training and program coordinator
What We’ve Been Up To....

Aside from the many private mediations, consultations, and facilitations we conduct, we thought you might be interested in what else KIPCOR staff and associates do. Here’s a sampling from the past year or so.

Attended
- ElderCare/Adult Guardianship Mediation Training, Missouri State University, Springfield, MO.
- Essentials of Parenting Coordination & Advanced Strategies in Parent Coordination, Academy of Family & Conciliation Courts, Loyola University, Chicago, IL.
- Teaching Peace in the 21st Century: 5th Annual Summer Institute for Faculty (with Bethel faculty Christine Crouse-Dick & Hamilton Williams), University of Notre Dame Kenoco Institute for International Peace Studies, South Bend, IN.
- 8th Annual Conference on Case Management for High Conflict Families, Washburn University, Topeka, KS.
- The Role of KIPCOR in Developing Peace Studies Programs, Rotary Peace Forum, Manhattan, KS.
- Dealing with Difficult People, Kansas Rural Water Association Annual Meeting, Wichita, KS.
- The Role of KIPCOR in Developing Peace Studies Programs, Rotary Peace Forum, Kansas City.
- Time of Discovery Curriculum, Ulster Project International Biennial Conference, Hutchinson, KS.
- Restorative Practices in Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS), Wichita West High, Greiffenstein Alternative Elementary, and Wells Middle School, Wichita, KS.
- Strategies for Dealing with Difficult People, 2nd Annual Blue Ribbon Conference for Newton Area Senior Center Employees and Boards, Newton, KS.
- Restorative Practices in Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) [with Bethel faculty Doug Siemens], Association of Teacher Educators Spring Conference, Olathe, KS.
- All-day workshop entitled New Approaches to Classroom Discipline & School Climate, sponsored by the KS State Department of Education, Wichita, Lawrence, Hays, Lawrence, Pittsburg, and North Newton, KS.
- Two-Day training entitled Advanced Training: Principles & Practice of Restorative Discipline in Schools, sponsored by the KS State Department of Education, Lawrence and North Newton, KS.
- The Role of KIPCOR in Developing Peace Studies Programs, Rotary Peace Forum, Kansas City.

Consulted
- Consulted with the Executive Secretary of MCUSA at the annual MCUSA Constituency Leaders Council, North Newton, KS.
- Consulted with the Executive Director of the League of Women Voters as Public Services Director, Art retired in December of 2013 from his position as Dispute Resolution Coordinator for the Kansas Supreme Court’s Office of Judicial Administration. His last official act in that position was to present a program for KIPCOR’s annual CME Shorts (Continuing Mediation Education) workshop.
- Consulted with the Executive Director of the League of Women Voters.

Facilitated
- Strategic planning, Heritage Conservation Council.
- Interest-Based Bargaining for Goddard USD and the Goddard Education Association.
- Multi-session workshop to re-vision the Bethel College Peace Justice and Conflict Studies program.

Hosted
- Quarterly meeting of the KS Supreme Court’s Advisory Council on Dispute Resolution, KIPCOR’s Kaufman House.
- Quarterly meeting of the Institute for Civil Discourse and Democracy, KIPCOR’s Kaufman House.

Presented
- Restorative Practices and Bullying at Work: A Primer for HR Professionals & Mediators, Heartland Mediators Association Regional Conference, Overland Park, KS.
- 2014 Heartland Mediators Association Acorn Award - for planting the seeds of professionalism leadership and commitment to the practice of mediation, presented to Kirsten Zerger, KIPCOR Director of Education & Training, Overland Park, KS.

“The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.”

~ Marcel Proust

Peacemaker of the Year

Art Thompson was awarded KIPCOR’s Peacemaker Award for 2013 for his years of remarkable energy, perseverance, and leadership in promoting and guiding the growth and acceptance of alternative dispute resolution in the state of Kansas.

After spending sixteen years with the Kansas Bar Association and the Kansas Bar Foundation as Public Services Director, Art retired in December of 2013 from his position as Dispute Resolution Coordinator for the Kansas Supreme Court’s Office of Judicial Administration. His last official act in that position was to present a program for KIPCOR’s annual CME Shorts (Continuing Mediation Education) workshop.

Those who work in conflict resolution recognized Art as a tireless advocate for constructive ways to resolve conflict, and a person who has left a significant legacy in Kansas for solving problems with fairness and integrity.