

REGISTRATION

CREATING CONNECTIONS: NEW PARTNERSHIPS FOR UNDERSTANDING IN THE MIDDLE EAST

October 6th-7th, 2007, Norwich University

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Town, state, zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

SATURDAY WORKING SESSIONS:

(Please circle one choice in each time slot)

I or II (1:30 – 3:00) III or IV (3:15 – 4:30)

REGISTRATION FEE: \$50

Include: lunch, coffee and snacks

Scholarships are available

Free for Students

PAYABLE TO:

Vermont Peace Academy

123 Pitkin Road

Goddard College

Plainfield, VT 05667

REGISTRATION TO:

Rose-Ann Robins, (802) 454 8315 x 295

ypa@goddard.edu.

*Return completed registration and payment to
Vermont Peace Academy. Thank you!*

CREATING CONNECTIONS: NEW PARTNERSHIPS FOR UNDERSTANDING IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Norwich University, the Vermont Peace Academy, and Vermont Council on World Affairs will hold a conference at Norwich University from October 6th to 7th 2007, to consider how grassroots and civil society organizations can network to improve communication and understanding between the United States and the Middle East.

The conference will bring together leading experts on the Middle East, key government representatives, and leaders of non-government organizations and civil society institutions, to begin to identify small, locally based initiatives that can create partnerships and networks with their counterparts in the Middle East to help build greater understanding from the ground up.

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

*Aiken Lecture Series
New Vision Foundation
Vermont Humanities Council
Vermont Peace Education Fund*



CREATING CONNECTIONS: NEW PARTNERSHIPS FOR UNDERSTANDING IN THE MIDDLE EAST



NORWICH
UNIVERSITY™



**NORWICH UNIVERSITY
NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
OCTOBER 6TH-7TH, 2007**

SCHEDULE

SATURDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 6TH

- 8:00-9:00 Registration at Dole Auditorium
- 9:00-9:15 Welcome: **Dr. Richard Schneider, President, Norwich University**
- 9:15-10:15 Plenary Session: *Exploring U.S.-Middle East Relations: Past and Present*
- **Laurence Pope**, Retired Ambassador, United States of America
 - **Dr. Gregory Gause**, Professor of Political Science and Middle East Studies, University of Vermont
 - **Dr. Febe Armanios**, Professor of History, Middlebury College
- Presiding:* Dr. Harold Kearsley, Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Norwich University
- 10:15-10:30 Coffee Break
- 10:30-12:30 Roundtable Discussion: *Essential Steps to Improving Communication between the West and the Middle East*
How do grassroots organizations in the U.S. and the Middle East start a dialogue? Are there civil society organizations within the Palestinian Territories, Lebanon, Iran or Syria that are most appropriate for grassroots partnerships? What are the biggest obstacles? Can they be overcome?
- **David Marash**, News Anchor, Al Jazeera Television
 - **David Hamod**, President, National U.S. Arab Chamber of Commerce
 - **Alina L. Romanowski**, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. State Department
 - **Laura Abrahams Schulz**, Civil Society and Rule of Law Program Manager, Office of the Middle East Partnership Initiative, U.S. State Department
- Moderator:* Dr. Mark Schulman, President, Goddard College

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

- 12:30-1:30 Lunch Keynote Speaker: **Dr. Saleem Ali, Environmental Cooperation in the Middle East: A Catalyst for Peace?**
- 1:30-3:00 Working Sessions: *Middle East Experts with Leaders of NGOs and Educators*
- Working Session I: Imparting Knowledge about the Middle East: What Can Academia Do?**
How do we enrich our college curricula with knowledge about the Middle East? What would be the best way for colleges and universities to network and collaborate for increasing understanding between the West and the Middle East?
Facilitator: **Steve Hinds, Professor of Social Science, Springfield College**
- Working Session II: Increasing Understanding Between the West and the Middle East: What Can the Media Do?**
Where does the media fall short and what can we do to fix it? Information exchange through film, joint film projects, newspaper articles and exchanges, television documentaries, journalist exchanges, twinning news-papers and television stations.
Facilitator: **Rob Williams, Professor of History and Media Studies, Champlain College**
- 3:00-3:15 Coffee Break
- 3:15-4:30 **Working Session III: Creating New Student Exchange Initiatives with the Countries in the Middle East**
Can we develop student videos or film projects to help enhance understanding? Arts and music programs? Can we develop school partnerships with schools in Arab countries? Should we look to develop more “virtual” exchanges with computers and connecting classrooms?
Facilitator: **Ann Martin, Executive Director, Project Harmony**

Working Session IV:

What Can Vermont Professionals Do?
Can we develop hospital partnerships? Judges exchanges? Chamber of Commerce and small business leader exchanges? Can we identify essential public projects that Vermont agencies can assist? Would it be possible to bring Israeli and Palestinian lawyers to Vermont?
Facilitator: **Dave Kelly, Attorney, Co-Founder of Project Harmony**

5:00 – 6:00 **Film and Discussion: *Imagining Peace***
This film is about 22 teenage Israeli and Palestinian girls who participated in a women’s leadership program, and for ten days made a home together in New Jersey, U.S.A.

SUNDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 7TH

- 8:30-10:00 Workshop: *Sources of Funding, Strategies, and Tactics*
- Alina L. Romanowski (*see Saturday morning roundtable*)
 - Laura Abrahams Schulz (*see Saturday morning roundtable*)
- 10:00-12:00 Group Discussions: *Action Plans for Follow-up Projects*
Facilitators: **Dr. Thomas Taylor, Dean of the School of Social Sciences, Norwich University**
- 12:00 – 12:15 Closing Remarks:
Dr. Richard Schneider,
President, Norwich University