Borah 2000 a Great Success

In this century environmental issues and problems continue to be at the center of human activities. The Borah Symposium held April 18-21, 2000 addressed the theme of “Natural Resource Conflict in the 21st Century.” It had record attendance this year, with over 1500 people attending seven presentations dealing with the sensitive issues of human population, energy use, life style, management of private and common resources, ideology and appropriate technologies.

This program was designed to explore the relationship between the environment, human conflict and the conditions for peace. Speakers represented a wide range of disciplines and differing approaches to the global commons.

Gary Gardner of the Worldwatch Institute began the program on Tuesday, April 18 with a talk on “Global Resource Conflicts: Challenges for a New Century” in which he presented background material and statistics about effects of humans on the global environment and resources.

David Pimentel from Cornell University spoke on “Natural Resources and an Optimal Global Population” pointing out the effects of population growth, directly and indirectly, on the earth’s resources.

Jon Marvel, founder of the Idaho Watersheds Project, gave a presentation entitled “Cows ‘R’ Us: Mooing into the Millennium” which focused on issues of livestock grazing and its effect on the environment both in the western states and worldwide.

James Lichatowich of Alder Fork Consulting in Sequim, WA discussed “New Millennium Resource Conflicts: Root Causes” and provided background on conflicts involving fish and our stewardship of the oceans.

Claudine Schneider, a former U.S. Representative from Rhode Island and currently with the U.S. Committee for the United Nations Development Program, gave a presentation on “International Ramifications of Our Consumptive Ways” and encouraged students and the public in general to get involved with environmental issues, especially by keeping informed about the voting records of their elected officials.

Larry Craig, U.S. Senator from Idaho, spoke on “The Challenge of Resource Issues in Idaho,” and discussed the special problems involved with natural resource conflicts in the Northwest.

Finally, there was an overflow crowd to hear Ted Turner, Vice Chairman of Time Warner, Inc. and Founder of CNN, wrap up the Borah Symposium with a talk on “Environmental Challenges of the 21st Century,” in which he bluntly but humorously reminded the audience that they must assume personal responsibility for the state of the world’s resources and dedicate their own time and resources to the effort to resolve conflicts and improve the condition of the world in which we all live.

Economic Globalization to be Theme of Borah 2001

The Borah Symposium in 2001 will be the week of April 23-26 and will deal with issues of “Economic Globalization: Source of Peace, Source of Conflict?” Details about times, locations and speakers will be available early in 2001.
DIRECTOR'S CORNER

With this Director's Corner, I come to the end of my tenure as Director of the Martin Institute, four years after I began what was to be a two year commitment. With the new fiscal year, Rand Lewis will become interim Director of the Institute, allowing me to return to my private work on a full time basis, and support Martin from the outside.

We have had four energetic and event-filled years, in which much has happened to build the Institute. Curtis Brettin, as our mediation coordinator, conducted public input processes for the Bureau of Land Management and assisted the Environmental Protection Agency in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. He also co-founded the Northwest Institute for Dispute Resolution, which continues in the capable hands of the Idaho College of Law to offer basic and advanced mediation training at the end of the spring semester each year. His other projects included the Nezperce Peacemaker program to build mediation capacity in the Nezperce nation, and his advising of the law school's student negotiation teams.

In other areas, we moderated a series of debates on nuclear waste disposal in 1996, sponsored a State Department Town Meeting in cooperation with WSU, hosted a delegation of municipal officials from South Asia interested in conflict resolution techniques, launched a staff support capacity for the Borah Foundation, and initiated a series of Martin Forums on international issues, including two contemporary sessions on Kosovo and the appearance this year of Dr. Sergei Khrushchev.

Our most important initiative, however, has been to undertake administration of the International Studies academic degree program. This major, which began with 25-30 students, has now grown to over 70 majors and is still growing. The most significant contribution on my part was to hire Dr. Rand Lewis as Associate Director to oversee the program. Rand has moved forward aggressively, creating International Affairs Clubs at Idaho and WSU, initiating courses and a Model United Nations competition team that traveled to New York in April, advising and mentoring all IS students and strengthening their overseas experience, and laying plans for a high school Model United Nations to begin in April 2001. This program, which brings incredible synergy to our program, will introduce high school students to UI and Martin, help them build their own statewide networks, and train them in negotiation and in real international issues from multiple perspectives.

As the Institute moves forward even more growth can be anticipated. New programs can be expected to include the offering of conflict resolution coursework in place of the direct services that Curtis Brettin offered before his departure, and a much closer academic relationship with departments across the campus in the provision of international and conflict resolution programs for students.

On the downside, our greatest loss was the death of Dr. Boyd Martin in January 1998. Dr. and Mrs. Martin not only conceived the Institute in 1939 and provided for its initial funding, but he served as its first Director and its guiding light until the day of his death. His energetic presence is greatly missed.

It has been an absolute pleasure these four years to work with Boyd, with Rand, with Curtis, and with Mrs. Sharon Scott, our administrative assistant, who has been my strong right arm when I was away from the campus and in our continual dealings with all that is now the academic world. I thank them all, and look forward to many more years of working with them from the sidelines.

P.S.
Faculty Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following UI faculty for their support this past year:

Alwyn Rouyer, Professor of Political Science, who graciously gave his time to provide a lecture on Middle East water issues to our International Studies capstone class;

Lisa Carlson, Associate Professor of Political Science, who provided support during Sergei Khrushchev’s visit; and

Richard Spence, Professor of History, who also provided support during the visit of Sergei Khrushchev.

MI Sponsors Alumni Gathering in Washington D.C.

UI alumni in the Washington D.C. area provide an outstanding resource to the growing International Studies program administered by the Martin Institute. Over 1000 Idaho alums live in the region around D.C. Many of these people have either worked, or presently are working in jobs directly or indirectly associated with international organizations. With this in mind, the staff at the Martin Institute decided to approach many of these alumni to obtain support for International Studies programs and potential internships to aid students in finding post-graduate employment. On May 20th, approximately 30 alumni and friends gathered at Orval and June Hansen’s home in Arlington, Virginia for an afternoon of brainstorming and socializing.

Under the watchful eye of Orval, our volunteer chefs, Pat Pentland and Ronald & Margaret DeMarco, grilled hamburgers and hotdogs. Our two international studies students, Catherine Lewis and Christine Duvalis, acted as hostesses, providing a fresh approach to alumni gatherings. It was great to visit with the Bonins, Iversons, Frys, Mosher, Skiles, and Pentlands. The Martin Institute also wants to thank John Baer, Bill Bauscher, Larry Ellis, Gary Lewis, Joyce Finnerty, Dewey Newman, Gary Stubblefield, John Gray, and Liz Madison for attending our first annual Washington D.C. event.

Our goal was to introduce the Martin Institute to those in Washington who have an interest in our students. We see these alumni and friends as invaluable resources. These are people who can help UI International Studies students pursue opportunities in the international arena.

The event was a resounding success. We brought home a number of great ideas and we added two new potential internships for students. The Martin Institute will continue to develop “the D.C. connection” providing a UI and Martin presence in the Washington D.C. area into the future.

A special thanks goes out to Orval and June Hansen for hosting this first gathering. We look forward to meeting more UI alumni and friends at our annual D.C. gathering next spring.
INSTITUTE WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR

The end of June current Associate Director Rand Lewis takes over as full-time Director of the Martin Institute. Due to growth in the International Studies program and restructuring of some of the Institute mission, the University has agreed that the current half-time position must be expanded.

Having served as Associate Director since November of 1998, Dr. Lewis has been instrumental in greatly expanding the visibility of the International Studies major and developing outreach with the Martin Forum, the Model United Nations and other initiatives. His new duties will begin on June 25.

Dr. Richard Slaughter, who has been director since the summer of 1996, will return full-time to his economic consulting business in Boise, Idaho. His leadership has taken the Martin Institute in new directions and we owe much of our current success to his dedication and hard work.

HIGH SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE PLANNED

As a part of the continuing effort to develop an awareness among young people about the need for peaceful resolution to international issues, the Martin Institute and the International Affairs Club are organizing the first annual high school Model United Nations conference to be held at the University of Idaho. For one and one-half days (April 20-21, 2001) students from high schools in Idaho, eastern Washington, and western Montana will participate in a mock United Nations General Assembly Plenum and committees. Each school delegation will represent a nation. Each national delegation will deal with one or more issues that are being considered by the present U.N. committees, Security Council, and General Assembly.

Students involved in the Pacific Northwest Model United Nations (PNMUN) conference will learn more about international organizations, public speaking, negotiations, and the preparation of position papers and resolutions. The experience will enhance their understanding of international affairs. The University of Idaho and Washington State University will enjoy the benefits of a great recruiting tool. The Martin Institute will develop visibility throughout the region and will have an excellent opportunity to recruit outstanding students for the International Studies degree program.

TWO SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

In May the Martin Institute awarded the first two Boyd and Grace Martin Memorial Scholarships to International Studies students who will be studying abroad this coming fall semester.

A semester abroad is a requirement of the International Studies major and an important part of the educational experience, but travel to and enrollment in even the most reasonable universities in Europe, Asia and Latin America costs a great deal. Therefore, we have initiated a scholarship fund to help students meet these expenses and further their studies. For this year we were able to award two $1000 scholarships, but hopefully as further gifts increase the size of the fund we will be able to help even more students.

The two scholarships awarded this spring went to Kristi Heyd of Fargo, North Dakota and Catherine Lewis of Moscow, Idaho. Both young women are Senior IS majors and both will be studying in Germany during the fall semester. Our congratulations to both of them!
THE MARTIN FORUM SPRING 2000

The Martin Institute hosted two speakers this past spring semester under the auspices of the newly developed Martin Forum series. The forum was designed to provide insights on international issues to the local communities as an outreach program.

Dr. Pat Pentland, who holds a Ph.D. in history from Idaho, presented an excellent overview of his work with the U.S. Commission on National Security in the 21st Century on January 25th. This commission was chartered by the Secretary of Defense in mid-1998 under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Commission Act and was endorsed by the White House and Congressional leadership. Dr. Pentland is responsible for coordinating the efforts of the study group in developing a phased approach to identifying threats to the U.S. national security interests during the first quarter of this new century. Phase I, New World Coming, explores the world developments between now and 2025. Phase II, Seeking a National Strategy, develops an overview of U.S. strategic interests and objectives for the next 25 years. Phase III, Building for Peace, examines our current legislation, government structure, and policies to determine what needs to be done to address the changing international environment.

The Institute coordinated two audiences for Dr. Pentland, one with the History and Political Science departments at Washington State University and one with faculty and students at Idaho. Because these audiences were smaller, the questions and discussions concerning U.S. national security in the next 25 years were more in-depth and interesting.

On April 5th and 6th, the Martin Institute hosted the eldest son of Nikita Khrushchev, Sergei Khrushchev. A reception was held at Rand and Judy Lewis’ house on the 5th, where faculty from across campus had the opportunity to meet Sergei socially. The next day he was taken to Washington State University, where he spoke to approximately 150 students and faculty about his father’s premiership of the Soviet Union. That evening, Sergei spoke to UI faculty and students, as well as community members, in the UI Law School Courtroom. His lecture, titled “The Russian Road to Capitalism,” covered current economic and political issues facing Russia. His breadth of knowledge, having been the First Secretary of Technology in the Soviet Union, his continued contacts within the hierarchy of both the USSR and Russia, and his sense of humor, made Sergei an excellent choice as a guest for the Martin Forum.

Sergei’s evening lecture provided a sobering view of conditions in Russia today. His comments revolved around the theme that corruption and economic instability were major issues being faced by the Russians. He went on to say that “they changed the rules one day, January 2, 1992, and look what happened.” When queried about the election of Putin, Sergei remarked jokingly, “my wife, she says she likes his bright eyes, but I don’t know.” He did end his lecture by saying that he has hopes for Russia as his children and grandchildren still reside there.
"THE BIG APPLE" COLLEGIATE NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

For the first time in over 30 years, the University of Idaho was represented in New York at the National Model United Nations conference. Sponsored by the Martin Institute, a delegation of ten students, nine from UI and one from WSU, flew to New York City on April 17th and participated in a six day simulation of the United Nations. The delegation was selected from a class of over 30 students who took part in the fall semester class taught by the Institute, International Studies 200/400 (Model U.N.). Many of the students that were not selected for the actual delegation continued into the second semester and provided invaluable research and advice to their delegates.

The months of January, February, and March were busy times for the students. They were given the Republic of Moldova to represent at the United Nations. Needless to say, the first project was to find Moldova on a map. After three months of extensive research, our delegation was prepared to represent their country with strong backgrounds in economic, regional, and political awareness. The opening ceremonies were held in the U.N. General Assembly Hall, where Louise Frechette, the Deputy-Secretary-General, greeted the students and faculty advisors.

Over the next three days there were intensive committee meetings held where difficult issues were considered. Approximately 2600 students from 190 universities and colleges, coming from seven different countries, participated in this conference developing resolutions and working papers on major issues facing the U.N. in 2000. This afforded our students the opportunity to practice public speaking and negotiation skills. What became quite evident was that multi-national cooperation is difficult and often frustrating. On the other hand, when, on the final day, the delegations were in the actual U.N. General Assembly and were voting on resolutions hammered out in committees for three days, one could feel the energy of the students. As the voting machines indicated a majority for passage of one of those resolutions, the true feeling of accomplishment and spirit of cooperation was very apparent. With the final day being in the U.N., many of the students were able to meet Kofi Annan late in the afternoon, making this a truly memorable day.

All of our students came back to Moscow with a new sense of the importance of the United Nations in the process of peace and the difficulties associated with multi-national agreement on world issues. These students now will become the teachers and mentors of those who will vie for a position on next year’s delegation. Already, over 26 students have registered for the next UI Model U.N. class.

CURT BRETTIN LEAVES MARTIN INSTITUTE

After five years with the Institute, Mediation Coordinator Curt Brettin has accepted another position in Massachusetts. In January he moved to Boston to work with the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance, which deals with issues involving the homeless and others needing help with housing.

A tireless and cheerful worker, Curt developed a number of conflict resolution and training initiatives while at the University of Idaho. He is greatly missed, but we wish him well with his new and expanded responsibilities.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DONORS

We would like to acknowledge and thank the many individuals who have made donations to the Martin Institute for Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution during the past year. Without their continuing support, the many activities mentioned in the issues of this newsletter would not be possible. Gifts acknowledged below are those received during the period July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000.

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