MAKING TALK WORK:
CUNY DRC SUMMER 2003 TRAINING INSTITUTE

The CUNY DRC is offering a three-session program called Making Talk Work from July 14-16, 2003.

- Appreciative Inquiry: A New Tool for Dispute Resolvers (July 14) will explore Appreciative Inquiry (AI) techniques used to address change involving individuals, organizations, corporations or communities by discovering, rediscovering, and building on positive core values and strengths so that changes never thought possible are actualized. Instructor: Timothy Germany, Commissioner and labor mediator with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services in New York City.

- Grappling with Standards of Conduct and Ethics in Mediation Practices (July 15) will examine appropriate practical and ethical responses to grievances filed against mediators in the context of the various standards of professional conduct. Instructor: Sharon Press, J.D., Director of the Dispute Resolution Center, a joint program of the Florida Supreme Court and Florida State University College of Law.

- Mediating Workplace Disputes: Practical Strategies and Ethical Issues (July 16) will focus on EEO laws governing civil rights disputes in the workplace as well as non-EEO disputes such as personality conflicts, abuse of authority issues, and insubordination. Instructor: Peter R. Maida, Ph.D., J.D., Mediator, Trainer, Consultant, and Director of the Key Bridge Foundation for Education and Research in Washington.

The Institute Coordinator for this series is Susan Romer. All courses will be held at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, 899 Tenth Avenue. For more program and registration information, please e-mail dispute@jjay.cuny.edu, call (212)237-8692, or visit the CUNY DRC website at http://johnjay.jjay.cuny.edu/dispute.

VOGLER FOUNDATION FUNDS PROJECT

The Laura B. Vogler Foundation granted an award to the CUNY DRC for its Seniors Swim and Solve Program which addresses participants’ holistic fitness by combining physical health with communication and conflict resolution skills. Participants will gain social support, an increased sense of well-being, and pain relief, as well as improved circulation, physical health, and self-confidence. The Seniors Swim and Solve Program will provide a structured forum for senior citizens of Manhattan to combine overall physical health with communication and conflict resolution skills, giving them the opportunity to enhance their mind, body, spirit and skills to make talk work. Professor Jane Katz and Professor Maria Volpe will serve as trainers.

CUNY DRC RECEIVES CRIInfo MINI-GRANT

In January 2003, the CUNY DRC was awarded a mini-grant from CRIInfo to develop a searchable database on the Internet that will make 9/11-related research available. The CUNY DRC continues its research project addressing two key questions: What did dispute resolvers do, and what lessons were learned from 9/11-related interventions. The research is designed to capture the initial thinking and responses to September 11th of the Dispute Resolution scholars and professionals. Since New York City was at the center of the most horrific terrorist attacks, dispute resolvers in New York City are urged to share their perspectives. This research, directed by Professor Maria Volpe, was initially funded by the PSC-CUNY Research Awards Program. Staci Strobl, a doctoral student at the CUNY Graduate Center serves as Research Assistant. The 9/11 survey for dispute resolvers is now available at http://www.crinfo.org/post9-11/.

Making Talk Work for Cops & Kids

In June, the CUNY DRC successfully completed its Making Talk Work: Cops and Kids Transition Dialogue Program, a project funded by the Andrus Family Fund and the Cottonwood Foundation. The program sought to improve relations between NYPD police officers from the 20th Precinct and young people from the Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center by providing them with conflict resolution skills, an opportunity to engage in an expressive, open discussion with each other within a supportive, respectful setting, and an opportunity to facilitate transition by participation in structured joint problem solving efforts. The young people involved in the project developed problem solving skills in their communities and created a photographic diary of the progression of their work. They were able to observe and record the charrette activities, as well as exhibit their efforts at meetings with police, young people, parents, and community leaders. Steve Lee served as Project Manager. Other partners included Search for Common Ground-USA and Westside Crime Prevention Program.

Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center youth and NYPD 20th Precinct officers
NYC HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

MEDIATION TRAINING

In January 2003, Maria Volpe, along with Justo Sanchez and William Hirschfeld trained staff of the NYC Commission on Human Rights in basic mediation skills. This training was in conjunction with conflict resolution training provided by Reinaldo Rivera and Victor Risso of the Department of Justice Community Relations Service. All sessions were held at John Jay College.

RESEARCH MINI-GRA NTS AWARDED

Since 1994, the CUNY DRC has funded 42 dispute resolution related research projects ranging from the interpersonal to the international, many of which have been part of ongoing research projects or been the stimulus for more elaborate research initiatives. Recent Research Mini-Grant awards were made to the following CUNY professors:

- **Professor Joan Hoffman** of John Jay College for her project entitled “Environmental-Economic Conflict Resolution in the New York City Catskill Area Watershed” to compare economic trends within the reservoirs of the Catskills mountain area as they relate to the impact of an innovative model in water protection.
- **Professor Monica Ciobanu** of John Jay College for her research project, “Legitimacy, Revolution, and Democratic Consolidation in Eastern Europe: the Case of Romania in Comparative Perspective”, which will assess the impact of the violent popular uprising that occurred in 1989 in Romania in shaping a democratic political culture characterized by the art of negotiation and compromise between political actors with divergent interests. This study of democratic consolidation will focus on democratic legitimacy.

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**CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION FEATURES TOWN MEETINGS**

John Jay College was featured in an article about how many colleges now use conflict resolvers in the March 21st issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education. The article mentioned a recent town hall meeting at John Jay College. The article is available at http://chronicle.com/free/v49/i28/28a01201.htm

For Directory of Dispute Resolution Programs in the New York City Metropolitan Area now available. Please send a check for $5.00 to the CUNY DRC.
CUNY DRC Research Published
The CUNY DRC is pleased to announce the publication of a new compendium of recently completed research reports from its Research Mini-Grant Program recipients.

Navajo Peacemaking and Restorative Justice
On March 12, 2003, James Zion, an attorney and partner in the consulting firm of Native Rights Advocates in Albuquerque, New Mexico gave a lecture on Navajo Peacemaking and the Restorative Justice Movement. This seminar on traditional Indian component to the restorative justice and therapeutic jurisprudence movements was co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost, Office of Graduate Studies and the CUNY DRC. Professor Sondra Leftoff, a CUNY DRC Research Mini-Grant Recipient along with Professor Anne Buddenhagen, organized this lecture.

Not Just Blacks and Jews in Conversation
As part of Multicultural Awareness Week at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, the CUNY DRC and the Office of Student Development hosted “Not Just Blacks and Jews in Conversation” featuring William Miller, Supervising Judge, Criminal Court, Kings County, Hirim Bell, Supervising Court Attorney, Kings County Criminal Court, and Shannon Taylor, Administrative Law Judge and Executive Director, Not Just Blacks and Jews in Conversation. The panelists addressed the importance of fostering dialogues about significant and sensitive intergroup issues regarding race, ethnicity, and religion.

Recent Events Co-Sponsored by the CUNY DRC held at John Jay College
- Along with the Family and Divorce Mediation Council of Greater New York and the Center for Mediation in Law, the CUNY DRC co-sponsored a two day training on the Understanding-Based Model of mediation for forty mediators, scholars, and attorneys. Jack Himmelstein, co-founder and co-director of the Center for Mediation in Law, served as trainer in February 2003.
- Carole Frampton of the Common Ground Partnership at Search for Common Ground in Washington, D.C., provided two facilitation trainings in May and June 2003 for a new Search initiative called “A Conversation about Conflict.” The sessions were an opportunity to reflect on conflicts in our lives, how we deal with them, and how they affect us.

An idea to consider...
CONFLICT IS A NORMAL PART OF LIFE

SUBSCRIBE TO NYC-DR LISTSERV
For information about dispute resolution events and issues in New York City, subscribe to NYC-DR listserv at the CUNY DRC website
http://johnjay.jjay.cuny.edu/dispute.
NYC-DR Breakfast Meetings Continue

The NYC-DR breakfast meetings initiated by the CUNY DRC immediately after September 11th continue to be held on the first Thursday of each month at John Jay College from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. The informal brainstorming work sessions have been addressing issues facing the dispute resolution field in New York City. Some of the specific topics discussed have included the updates on Uniform Mediation Act, Mediation Settlement Day, marketing strategies for dispute resolvers. For information on upcoming meetings, subscribe to the NYC-DR listserv or visit the CUNY DRC website at http://johnjay.jjay.cuny.edu/dispute.

NYC Mediation Opportunities Identified
The CUNY DRC has released a List of Compensated and Pro-Bono Opportunities for Mediators in NYC. Email the CUNY DRC at dispute@jjay.cuny.edu for the latest version.

EARS and CUNY DRC Collaborate
The CUNY DRC and EARS continued their ongoing collaboration in two recent events. On May 30th, the Fourteenth Annual T.E.E.N. Conference was held at John Jay College for middle school students trained in conflict resolution. The event was organized by Marci May, Executive Director of EARS. Workshops featured a wide range of topics on innovative ways to handle conflict. On March 13th, EARS and the CUNY DRC joined together with hands-on practitioners and experts for a facilitated discussion to find new developmentally appropriate strategies to address escalating violence among younger teens and to determine strategies that work.

SUPPORT THE CUNY-DRC
Make contributions payable to the CUNY DRC to further dispute resolution academic and programmatic work in one of the nation’s largest and most culturally diverse urban settings.