

Visit of Program Officers from the
United States Institute of Peace (www.usip.org)
October 23 - 24, 2008

Visit Themes: "Educational Strategies and Approaches to Teaching about Global Peace" and
"Leadership for Sustainability"

Head of the USIP group: David J. Smith, Education and Training Center/Domestic
<http://www.usip.org/specialists/bios/current/smith.html>

Other USIP Participants: Lauren van Metre - <http://www.usip.org/specialists/bios/current/vanmetre.html>

Willene Johnson is a development economist with experience in Africa and Latin America who currently serves on the United Nations Committee for Development Policy. Dr. Johnson's previous positions include: adjunct professor of applied economics and management at Cornell University, advisor with the Federal Reserve System, and U.S. Executive Director at the African Development Bank. Her work focuses on economic and financial development, including microfinance, security-sector resource management, and the role of economics in conflict management.

Keith Watenpaugh - <http://religions.ucdavis.edu/people/faculty/watenpaugh>

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Thursday, October 23

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast at the Virginia Tech Inn with Jerzy Nowak, VT Center for Peace Studies and Violence Prevention (www.cpsvp.vt.edu), Jim Dubinsky, Director of the Center for Student Engagement and Community Partnerships (www.engage.vt.edu) and Ioannis Stivachtis, (VT Political Science)

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Fralin Auditorium – "Peace Studies Approaches in Undergraduate Education in US" – presentation by David J. Smith (USIP) and a follow up discussion on the curriculum for the projected VT Minor in Peace Studies and Violence Prevention coordinated by Peter Schmitthenner (Interdisciplinary Studies www.idst.vt.edu) in collaboration with Jerzy Nowak (CPSVP)
Workshop Facilitator: David J. Smith

10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Room 406 Wallace Hall. Meeting with Steve Darr and his collaborators from Peacework Village Network (www.peacework.org)

11:30 – 1:00 p.m.

The Inn - Lunch meeting with Political Science faculty (www.psci.vt.edu) and presentation by David J. Smith and Willene Johnson on USIP grants, fellowships, and other opportunities for collaboration.
(Lunch sponsored by the Department of Political Science)
Host: Ilja Luciak, Department Chair
Facilitator: Ioannis Stivachtis, Director of International Studies Program

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Graduate Life Center Room D - Meeting of the School of Public and International Affairs, Institute of Policy and Governance (www.ipg.vt.edu) and discussion on the scope of the Master's International Program (Peace Corps; www.uap.vt.edu/programs/mip/html) and opportunities for collaboration with USIP Facilitator: Max Stephenson, Jr., Program Director

3:00 – 3:45 p.m.

526 Prices Fork Road, Conference Room A - Meeting with the staff of the Office of International Research, Education and Development (OIREd, www.oired.vt.edu) and faculty from the Department of

Sociology (www.sociology.vt.edu) to discuss potential for Virginia Tech's participation in the African Higher Education collaboration initiative (www.nasulgc.org)

Co-facilitators: Mike Bertelsen, Associate Director of OIRED, and John Ryan, Chair of Sociology

4:00 – 5:15 p.m. Graduate Life Center, Room G – (presentation targeting university employees and students from Agriculture and Natural Resources)

“Economics and Conflict” - seminar by Willene Johnson, USIP.

Providing an overview of the relationship between economic activity and violent conflict, the discussion will identify conflict risks associated with certain economic vulnerabilities and assess the risks and rewards of economic interventions at various points on the conflict cycle. We identify elements of a broad strategy for economic development in vulnerable and conflict-affected states, focusing on protecting and managing natural resources, increasing productivity in agriculture, and providing infrastructure and services within the context of sound fiscal and monetary policies.

5:30 – 6:45 p.m. Dinner

7:00 - 8:00p.m. CHEMP 130 - “Learning from Genocide”, Public seminar by Keith Watenpaugh, USIP Fellow. Speaker introduction: David J. Smith

Genocide — a cluster of violent acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group — is the definitive social phenomenon of the 20th century and will be a feature of our new century. As a matter of grave concern, genocide has taken on an unprecedented prominence in American political conversations and plays an ever increasing role on our college and university campuses. However, as a concept – including its history - it is less well understood. This is in part because of the professional, personal and political difficulties inherent to the study and teaching of genocide. In this talk, I argue the despite those difficulties, genocide can and should be taught; moreover, learning from genocide is integral the study of peace and human rights and stands at the forefront of efforts to promote international peace, the stopping of genocide in the present and its prevention in the future.

Friday, October 24

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. *The Inn* - Breakfast with graduate students

9:00 – 11:00 a.m. 406 Wallace Hall – “Leadership in Conflict Environments”, presentation by Lauren van Metre, followed up by a discussion on curriculum development and implementation for the proposed “Leadership for Sustainability” post graduate certificate at Virginia Tech

Facilitator: Jerzy Nowak

Look at leadership at the national (strategic) level and also in the field, discussing what practitioners say are the training and education needed to lead effectively in these situations. L. van Metre will talk about the need for more effective cross-disciplinary exchange on leadership to enhance effective decision-making in conflict environments, and discuss what skills are necessary to operate in these complex, volatile environments.

10:10 – 11:00 a.m. 223 Engel Hall – Overview on the USIP program by David J. Smith and a brief presentation on “Economics and Conflict” by Willene Johnson.

Audience: class of 150 undergraduate students in Mike Ellerbrock's course on “Microeconomics” (with segments on international development and trade) plus guests. Facilitator: Mike Ellerbrock, Agricultural and Applied Economics (www.aaec.vt.edu)

11:15 – 12:15 p.m. 406 Wallace Hall - Meeting with undergraduate students group working on an international development project in Honduras

Facilitator: Emily Barry, Undergraduate Student

12:15 – 1:00 p.m. 406 Wallace Hall - Debriefing session and action plan

Co-facilitators: David J. Smith (USIP) and Jerzy Nowak (CPSVP)
(Box lunches provided)