

INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

WHERE LEADERS LOOK *forward*

Institute for Global Understanding
Bey Hall, Room 101A
732-923-4666

Dr. Rekha Datta
Director
732-571-4438
rdatta@monmouth.edu

Dr. Nancy Mezey
Associate Director
732-263-5631
nmezey@monmouth.edu

Janeth Merkle
Secretary
jmerkle@monmouth.edu

In this issue:

First Woman President of Ireland Speaks at the 10th Annual Global Understanding Convention

Tribute to Sister M. Cyril Mooney, Recipient of the 2011 Global Visionary Award

The Third Annual Fall Plenary Lecture with Ethan Zohn

Project B.A.M. Sessions

Monmouth University's 'Mon-Taj' Group Visited India

First Woman President of Ireland Speaks at the University Keynote Speaker at 10th Annual Global Understanding Convention

The Jack and Lewis Rudin Distinguished Speakers Series

By Joanna Zietara
Co-News Editor, *The Outlook*
(Reprinted with Permission)



Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland

The University welcomed Mary Robinson, Ireland's first female President, on Tuesday, April 5, in Wilson Auditorium as the keynote speaker for this year's Global Understanding Convention.

The former President of Ireland was brought to campus in a black limo with the Irish flag waving in the air, to the sound of bagpipers producing Irish folk music in front of Wilson Hall. She began her keynote speech at 6:00 pm, which was titled "Hard Times, Human Rights, and our Common Future."

The event began with a musical selection performed by professor Michael Gilette playing violin, adjunct professor Laura Dubois on the piano, Wayne Arndt from Georgian Court University on the cello, and junior Geoff Hipshmann playing guitar. The Highland Girls Ensemble, a group of several young women, also performed U2's "Love Rescue Me."

Following the musical selection, President Paul G. Gaffney II introduced Robinson and said she is "determined to leave this world in a better condition than how she found it."

Robinson rose to the clapping of the audience and stood proudly behind a podium on a stage facing the grand staircase in Wilson Hall. With many attendees and a limited amount of seats, many students sat on the grand staircase all the way up to the top to get a good view of Robinson.



Around 600 individuals gathered in Wilson Great Hall to listen to President Robinson's Keynote Address

Robinson began her speech by complimenting the University. "Being here and seeing the spirit and sense of community is very special," the former Irish President said. She also explained her cast that covered her left wrist as an incident that occurred on St. Patrick's Day; it involved stairs and an excited granddaughter that hugged Robinson too aggressively, she said.

After completing her term as President of Ireland from 1990 to 1997, Robinson became the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights from 1997 to 2002. Her keynote speech focused on her work around the globe, mostly in Africa. Her passion for the topic

First Woman President continued on page 3

Tribute to Sister M. Cyril Mooney, Recipient of the 2011 Global Visionary Award

The Institute for Global Understanding honored the dedication of an extraordinary visionary and educator with the 2011 Global Visionary Award. A native of Ireland, Sister M. Cyril Mooney has lived in India since 1956. Since 1979, as principal of Loreto Day School, Sealdah in Kolkata, India, she has been transforming the lives of thousands of poor children. Through the school's Rainbow Program, Sister Cyril

has opened one of Calcutta's best schools to the city's poorest of the poor, whose only home is the street.

Sister Cyril, who has a Ph.D. in Zoology, is internationally recognized as an educational innovator and winner of numerous prestigious awards. In 1994, she won the NOMA award from UNESCO for spreading literacy. In 2007, she received the Padma Shri Award, the Government of India's fourth-highest civilian honor, and has been presented seven times with the Kolkata Telegraph Award for Social Service. In 2010, she was conferred with a Doctorate in Education from Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland.

Sister Cyril's model of teaching integrates academic excellence with holistic learning and civic engagement, through which students of Loreto Day School have become advocates of social change. A true believer of education as a vehicle for empowerment, she understands the challenges of poverty, and has introduced programs such as Barefoot Teacher Training, Training for Domestic Care Workers, the Rural Child to Child Program, and Training in Income Generation and Job Exchange for poor parents.

An innovator and a beacon of hope for the poor, Sister Cyril has inspired Monmouth University students who visited Loreto Day School and worked with the children of the Rainbow Program as part of a service-learning project, to become leaders in their communities by addressing issues of inequality and promote social justice.

On April 5, 2011, Monmouth University was honored to present Sister Cyril with the 2011 Global Visionary Award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to empowering the disadvantaged through education, and in appreciation for offering our students the opportunity to be involved in a transformative life experience.



Sister M. Cyril Mooney with Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland

Ethan Zohn Delivers the Third Annual Fall Plenary Lecture The Jack and Lewis Rudin Distinguished Speakers Series

Ethan Zohn, a former professional soccer player and coach, and the winner of "Survivor Africa" reality show, delivered an inspirational message to the audience during his lecture "From 'Survivor' to Grassroot Soccer for AIDS Prevention in Africa - One Man Making A Difference in the World" at the Third Fall Plenary Lecture on December 6, 2010. Mr. Zohn spoke about his experience with children infected with HIV in Africa. His passion to help AIDS victims caused him to put his \$1 million survivor winnings to a nonprofit organization called Grassroot Soccer, a foundation that promotes HIV and AIDS prevention education to Africa's youth.

During his presentation, Mr. Zohn challenged students "to stand up and help make a difference by getting involved in various non-profit organizations that help AIDS victims." He also shared his experience about enduring a rigorous cancer treatment when he was diagnosed with a rare form of Hodgkins Lymphoma in 2009, in which Mr. Zohn became a national spokesperson for Katie Couric's Stand Up to Cancer

Ethan Zohn not only encourages others, but also serves as a role model for anyone looking to make a difference in this world.



Ethan Zohn (center) with (from left) Kristen Gillette, Nancy Mezey, Janeth Merkle, Rekha Datta and Saliba Sarsar

Reflections from the Director

A decade ago, the Global Understanding Project, and its flagship event, the annual convention began with a vision and an e-mail. An idea, an inspiration, and selfless enthusiasm from many across the campus community underscore its continuity and success. Today, the Institute for Global Understanding (IGU) is continuing its mission of raising awareness, understanding, and action to improve our lives in the global commons.



Rekha Datta, PhD
Founding Director
Institute for Global Understanding

During this same decade, 9/11 challenged our world. This year, 2/11 is changing our world! It is renewing our faith and understanding of the values of democracy, nonviolence, and the power of youth among a diversity of global cultures.

For the last fifty years, generations of Americans, inspired by President John F. Kennedy, have been spiritedly serving in the Peace Corps. That same flame keeps burning through the services of countless young people across the world, including our students, who serve as ambassadors of service and freedom. That spirit of service blossoms with understanding and respect for others and a belief in our shared well being as global citizens.

Ten years after leading this campus-wide effort to enhance global understanding, with a tinge of parting pain but a world of shared joy, I welcome the new IGU leadership and wish everyone much success in continuing to offer the annual convention. This world is all we have.

Let's understand it, respect it, and care for it; therein lies our happiness. More than two hundred years ago, William Wordsworth reminded us so succinctly,

*But in the very world, which is the world
Of all of us, --the place where in the end
We find our happiness, or not at all!*

First Woman President from page 1

of human rights and equal treatment filled the room and her strong will to push for change was the theme of her delivery.

"In other parts of the world, human rights mean anything from right to food, right to water, right to human dignity, or freedom from violence," Robinson said.

Robinson mentioned the post effects of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, in human rights issues and awareness of equality. She said that because the attacks became a predominant subject, human rights issues were put to the side.

She also said that the war in Iraq divided the world and that we now have "a clash of civilizations." This divide, according to Robinson, is widening and the fear of large groups of Muslims is more prominent than ever before. She finished that subject by saying, "we also have those who still yearn for human dignity."

Throughout her speech, Robinson referred often to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that was written in 1948 and contains 30

articles addressing the issue of human rights.

She began her next topic by stating Article I of the declaration, "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights."

She mentioned working in Sierra Leone to improve healthcare and access to medicine. She also pointed out the problem with working in third world countries. "Because it's a poor country, it doesn't get a lot of attention," Robinson said. Robinson also said that Ernest Koroma, Sierra Leone's President, recently agreed to give free health care to pregnant and lactating women and children under five to reduce high mortality rates.

Robinson brought her speech to an end by talking about the changing weather patterns and how negatively they are affecting the crops on the African continent. She quoted a friend that lived in one of the African tribes, who commented on the destroyed crops. "It wasn't God punishing us, it's the rich people and their way of living," the friend said. As Robinson said, the changing weather patterns are caused by the ozone depletion over the African continent.

The 11th Annual Global Understanding Convention

Freedom, Sustainability, and Security:
Creating Interconnected and
Inclusive Communities

April 2-6, 2012



IGU Retreat - May 20, 2011

Institute for Global Understanding Liaisons to the United Nation for 2011 as UN-DPI-NGO Representatives

Dr. Rekha Datta

Dr. Nancy Mezey

Dr. Christopher Hirschler

Ms. Alexandria Matz, MU Senior

Project B.A.M. Session Calendar 2011-2012

FALL 2011

- Oct 11, 2011 Project B.A.M Training Session
- Oct 18, 2011 Project B.A.M Kickoff
- Nov 1, 2011 WMCX Radio
- Nov 15, 2011 Debate Workshop
- Nov 29, 2011 Holidays Around the World
- Dec 13, 2011 Capoeira Workshop

SPRING 2012

- Jan 24, 2012 Non-Violence T-Shirt Project
- Feb 7, 2012 Health Education
- Feb 28, 2012 Admissions/Residential Life
- Mar 21, 2012 Athletics
- Apr 11, 2012 Recognition Celebration



Project B.A.M.

A Collaborative Mentorship Program between Big Brothers Big Sisters of Monmouth County, Asbury Park High School, and Monmouth University

Event 1: Project B.A.M Training Session – Monmouth University students who are recruited to serve as mentors through an application and selection process that includes a background check, receive training on proper conduct, confidentiality, purpose of mentorship, and overview of program goals.

Event 2: Project B.A.M Kickoff – Orientation with welcome introductions from Monmouth University President, Provost, IGU Director, Asbury Park High School, and President of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Monmouth County.

Event 3: WMCX Radio – Students are given a tour to the radio station. The discussion includes college study and career opportunities in the field of radio.

Event 4: Debate Workshop – Members of Monmouth University Debate Hawks conduct a workshop to encourage students to develop self-reasoning, confidence, communication skills, and sportsmanship, as students brainstorm on the pros and cons of an issue in this academic sport.

Event 5: Capoeira Workshop – Introduction to Capoeira, an Afro-Brazilian martial art/dance combining the elements of martial arts, music, and dance. This program is geared toward self-discipline, using art to create self-esteem and confidence, and strength building.

Event 6: Holidays Around the World – Focuses on different holidays around the world and how different cultures celebrated them. Students make holiday crafts, taste food from around the world, and learn about global holiday traditions.

Event 7: Non-Violence T-Shirt Project – Recognizing violence is a major issue in our society, this workshop, held in reverence to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi, includes a presentation of the philosophy



of Gandhi and King and how their messages can be used in personal and community living situations. Students write messages of non-violence on t-shirts that they can don publicly.

Event 8: Health Education – This session seeks to spread awareness about substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and other health issues, preventive methods, and healthy lifestyles.

Event 9: Admissions/Residential Life – Presentation by Monmouth University Admissions officers about the college admissions process, such as what to focus on, how to complete the applications, when to apply.

Event 10: Athletics – This presentation focuses on how sports can serve as a channel for self-esteem, self-control, team spirit, cooperation, and inclusivity.

Event 11: Recognition Celebration – Mentors and mentees share their experiences and assess outcomes of the year’s program.

Monmouth University’s ‘Mon-Taj’ Group Visits Kolkata, Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur, India December 2010 - January 2011



Monmouth University’s ‘Mon-Taj’ group traveled to India for a volunteer experience in Kolkata, and a tour of Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur. Being a challenging country, India offers unique experience to our undergraduate students. Students gained hands-on experiences as they interacted with the rescued street children at the service learning site. It was encouraging to see the joy of the children’s faces as our volunteers played with them, cared for them, and as they got involved with the school’s community kitchen and the cleaning of the school’s premises. Our students also had the opportunity to tutor the less fortunate children who occupy the school.

The principal of the school, Sister Cyril Mooney was very pleased with our students. Her work is much commended worldwide, including coverage by PBS. She recently received an honorary doctorate from Trinity University, Ireland. Sister Cyril gave a two-hour presentation of her work and shared a video demonstration of the different projects that the school is engaged in, including teacher training, domestic child labor, trafficking, rescuing street children, and educating the girl child. That session was perhaps a major turning point in shaping the perspectives of many of our students.