

Our Unofficial Motto

Our conflict-resolution program (now 20 years old) and our new partnership with an Israeli counterterrorism institute evidence the theory/practice marriage that is a Maxwell hallmark.

Among the issues that we report on in this edition of *Maxwell Perspective* are two that demonstrate the School's unofficial motto: "Applying theory to practice." Our cover story on the Program on the Analysis and Resolution of Conflict (PARC) describes the exciting new directions in which this long-standing program is moving under its dynamic co-directors, Rosemary O'Leary and Catherine Gerard. PARC has a distinguished history, having been founded in 1986 by Professor Emeritus Louis Kriesberg (who remains actively involved in the program to this day), and it continues to be one of the premier conflict-resolution programs in the nation. Under the leadership of O'Leary and Gerard, PARC faculty and graduate students have been developing new ways to apply conflict-resolution theory and associated techniques to real world problems in public sector management. In the coming academic year, PARC's capabilities will be further enhanced by the arrival of a new "professor of practice," Christina Merchant, who has had an outstanding career as a labor mediator and conflict-resolution expert.

A second article reports on the exciting collaborative relationship that Maxwell has developed with the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) in Herzliya, Israel. This work, which is made possible through the generous philanthropy of Gerry and Daphna Cramer, focuses on student exchanges (both undergraduate and graduate) and on substantive faculty research collaborations between IDC's Institute for Counter-Terrorism and Syracuse University's Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism, in which Maxwell and SU's College of Law are partners. The two institutes are working on an extremely important problem—namely, how to apply the long-standing "Hague Rules" of war to modern-day situations, in which terrorist groups such as Hezbollah use civilians as human shields for their attacks and store weapons and ammunition in civilian areas.

During the hostilities in southern Lebanon, Hezbollah fighters launched hundreds of shrapnel-filled Katusha rockets into Israel and then melted back into the civilian population, thereby leaving the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) with little alternative than to attack these villages, both from the air and on the ground. But these IDF tactics received serious criticism from some in the international community regarding their proportionality and whether the resulting civilian casualties and damage were justifiable. This, in turn, begs the question of whether existing international law (i.e., the Hague Rules), developed long before the modern age of terrorism and asymmetric conflict, is adequate to govern the conduct of opposing forces—particularly when one is a strong national government and the other is a well trained and well armed non-state actor. The conflict that we witnessed last July in southern Lebanon may well represent the prototype for the majority of armed conflict that will occur in the foreseeable future. If this is correct, then the results of this joint Maxwell-IDC project are likely to be both timely and important.

—Mitchel B. Wallerstein, Dean