

## What's Inside...

Letter from Luis E. Oré, International Section Chair 2010-2011 [page 1](#)

Letter from Walter A. Wright, Incoming International Section Chair 2011-2012 [page 2](#)

ACR Conference in Buenos Aires a Great Success [page 3](#)

Q & A with George Gachara [page 5](#)

Q & A with Gidon Bromberg [page 6](#)

Cristina Cavalli Receives Flag of Peace [page 7](#)

Announcing the Launch of the Chantal Paydar Foundation [page 7](#)

Elements of A Successful ACR Conference Outside the US [page 8](#)

## Letter from Luis E. Oré, ACR's International Section, Chair 2010-2011



Greetings to all our ACR's International Section friends and colleagues. It has been a great year of collaboration and hard work of many ACR members and volunteers. I cannot thank enough for the work and effort put into this year. Building on previous experiences I strongly believe we have accomplished many of our goals for the year 2010-2011. We certainly did spread the word and awareness of constructive ways of dealing with differences beyond borders. Thanks to our Argentinean colleagues, we had our first ACR Conference in Argentina last May, and I hope to see expansion of the ACR International Conference to other countries.

As in previous years, our ACR International Development Committee worked tirelessly getting nominations and electing outstanding dispute resolution practitioners who will receive the IDC Outstanding Leadership Award 2011. This year we will give the individual award to Mr. George Gachara and the organizational award to Eco Peace/ Friends of the Earth Middle East during the ACR international Day. October 12th, 2011 in San Diego. The awardees will be also recognized during a plenary session at the annual conference.

We have also worked on putting together an extraordinary International Day, which will have the presence of not only our 2011 IDC Outstanding Leadership Awardees, but also Sister Pauline Acayo, who was awarded the 2010 Individual IDC Outstanding Leadership Award will be present during our 2011 ACR International Day.



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## **ACR International Section Leadership 2010-2011**

Luis E. Oré  
**Section Chair 2010-2011**

Walter A. Wright  
**Section Chair-Elect 2010-2011**

David Plumb  
**Immediate Past Section Chair**

Lynn Cole  
**At-Large Director**

Kyra Buchko  
**At-Large Director**

Alba de Almeida  
**At-Large Director**

Gail Ervin  
**Communications Committee  
Chair**

Rochelle Arms  
**International Development  
Committee Chair**

Maria Damianakis  
**Nominations Committee Chair**

Maria Lucia Amoroch  
**CR Networks Committee Chair**

Trip Barthel  
**Sections and Ethics Liaison Chair**

This year we have also accomplished improving our ACR's International Section website, to help us be more dynamic and add value for the ACR membership. We want to use it as a platform for our ACR's International Section members.

I want you all to join me in welcoming Walter Wright as our new ACR International Section Chair 2011-2012, and look forward to keep working with many of you.

Stay engaged!

Luis E. Oré

## **Letter from the Incoming Chair**

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the International Section's Chair during the 2011-2012 term. Our section has over 400 members from around the world. I look forward to serving all of you and meeting and corresponding with many of you during the coming year.



During the past year as your Chair-elect, I have enjoyed working with colleagues from Consultora Equipo I.M.C.A., the Universidad de Ciencias Empresariales y Sociales, and other Argentine organizations and individuals to organize the ACR conference that took place in Buenos Aires on May 19-20, 2011. In preparation for ACR's conference in San Diego, I have had a wonderful time working with the members of the International Development Committee to choose the recipients of this year's Outstanding Leadership Award and organize International Day. And in my "spare time," I have learned a lot as I have been helping revamp the Section's website.

For my term as Chair, I have several ambitious goals:

- To increase communication with members through regular e-mail updates.
- To continue improving the website and increasing its value as a resource for our members.
- To publish quarterly issues of this newsletter.
- To organize an International Day at ACR's 2012 conference in New Orleans that is at least as good as this year's Interna-

tional Day in San Diego.

- To increase outreach to members and potential members from other countries.
- To make ACR a greater presence in Latin America by building on the dynamic energy the Buenos Aires conference generated in Argentina and other parts of Latin America.
- To identify and leverage the talents of Section members who can assist the Section in its outreach to parts of the world other than Latin America.

To accomplish all of these goals, I will need your help. Especially useful would be people with expertise in website design, newsletter preparation, and social networking. Several Section members are always available to

help with Spanish-language interpretation and translation, but we can use more bilingual members who can help us communicate and network with our large contingent of Spanish-speaking members. To expand our outreach to other parts of the world, we have a special need for members who speak languages other than Spanish and who can devote time to translating documents from English to those other languages and vice-versa. With additional language expertise, we can increase the breadth and depth of the Section's general communications, website, and newsletters.

The International Section, like every ACR section, relies on volunteers for its success. If you are able to volunteer your time and expertise, please send me an e-mail message at [ww05@txstate.edu](mailto:ww05@txstate.edu) or call me at (512) 245-2138

(office) or (512) 743-4941 (cell). Let me know how you would like to help, and I will do my best to put you to work.

Let's work together to make the next year the International Section's best year ever! Given the Section's outstanding accomplishments of prior years, I am aware of the challenge I am issuing here, but I know we can do it if we all work together. The world needs peacemakers now more than ever, so let's live up to the challenge.

Again, thanks to all of you for this opportunity to serve. I am looking forward to working with all of you.

Walter A. Wright

Chair, International Section  
2011-2012

## ACR Conference in Buenos Aires a Great Success

By Walter A. Wright

On May 19-20, 2011, ACR and its International Section co-sponsored a special conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina. ACR's co-sponsors were the Universidad de Ciencias Empresariales y Sociales ("UCES," a private university headquartered in Buenos Aires) and Consultora Equipo I.M.C.A. (an ADR consulting firm in Buenos Aires). Approximately ninety people attended the conference. In addition to participants from almost every Argentine province, there were participants from the United States, Ecuador, Paraguay,

Uruguay, and Chile. The conference took place in an auditorium at UCES, Paraguay 1336, Buenos Aires.

The conference began on the afternoon of May 19 with opening remarks from representatives of all three co-sponsors and a welcoming address from Dra. Elena Highton de Nolasco, Vice President of the Supreme Court of Argentina, who has been responsible for many mediation initiatives in Argentina. Dra. Gladys Alvarez, a former appellate court judge who also pioneered

mediation in Argentina, gave the opening keynote address, which focused on mediation's advances in Argentina over the last twenty years.

There were five panels of ADR experts who spoke during the conference:

- Family mediation panel, moderated by Dra. María Alba Aiello de Almeida (Buenos Aires). Speakers: Dr. Luis Méndez, Dra. Viviana Poblete, and Dra. María Elena Caram (all mediators from Buenos Aires).

- Panel on mediation in the Argentine provinces, moderated by Dra. Cristina Camelino (mediator and journalist, La Plata, Province of Buenos Aires). Speakers: Dr. Sergio Abrevaya (president of the Union of Mediators, Deputy in the Buenos Aires Legislature, and former National Director of Participatory Methods of Conflict Resolution of the Argentine Ministry of Justice from 2000 to 2002), Dra. María Inés Diez (Minister of Justice of the Province of Salta), and Dra. Alicia Garayo (mediator from the Province of Neuquén).



Dr. Mario de Almeida, Dra. Marcela Uthurralt, Dra. Alba de Almeida, and Dr. Walter Wright

- Business/Commercial Mediation Panel, moderated by Dr. Mario de Almeida (mediator, Buenos Aires). Speakers: Dr. Milton Castillo (mediator, Quito, Ecuador), Dra. Norah Mendias Abella (mediator, Buenos Aires), and Dr. Walter Wright (mediator and professor, Central Texas).
- Health and Environmental Mediation Panel, moderated by Dra. Cristina Cavalli (mediator, Buenos Aires). Speakers: Ing. Jorge Adámoli (environmental consultant and independent expert, Buenos Aires), Dra. Clara

Gómez (mediator and facilitator, Houston, Texas), and Dra. Nora Franco (mediator, Buenos Aires).

- Arbitration panel, moderated by Dra. Nélida Basabe (arbitrator and mediator, Buenos Aires). Speakers: Dr. Roque Caivano, Dr. Alejandro Ponierman, and Dr. Gualtiero Martín Marchesini (all arbitrators from Buenos Aires).

Dra. Marcela Uthurralt, National Mediation Director of the Argentine Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, spoke about the services her office provides. Dr. Walter Wright provided a closing keynote address on the subject of Collaborative Law, followed by closing remarks from representatives of all three co-sponsors. The conference closed with a sparkling tango show by two fantastic dancers and the singing of famous tango tunes by Dra. Liliana Elizabeth Jorge, a mediator who is also a brilliant singer. She is an excellent ambassador for mediation, especially Argentine mediation, to the rest of the world.



Keynote speaker Dra. Gladys Alvarez

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Throughout the conference, Dra. Cristina Camelino, a mediator and journalist, interviewed many of the conference speakers and other participants. She has placed those interviews on You Tube. UCES also recorded excerpts from several of the conference presentations and Walter Wright has made his album of photos on Picasa available to anyone who is interested in seeing photos from the conference. Anyone who would like to see them or has questions or comments about the conference is free to contact Walter Wright at [ww05@txstate.edu](mailto:ww05@txstate.edu).

The conference in Buenos Aires generated several new Virtual International Members and full members. We look forward to seeing those new members and all of the friends we made in Buenos Aires at ACR's conference in San Diego on October 12-15, 2011.

## **Q & A with George Gachara, Picha Mtaani**



### **1. How do you describe your work?**

For almost three years now, I have been working to help provide a safe space for reflection and dialogue to many young people (both victims and perpetrators) in the aftermath of Kenya's worst election conflict of 2007.

Other than some management roles I found boring, I enjoyed coordinating alongside a multi-talented team - five of our core strategies:

Reflection (traveling photo exhibition),

Dialogue (town-hall meetings and mediation),

Psychosocial Support (short and long-term counseling and reintegration),

Community Action (mobilization of community groups) and

Resource Mobilization.

We managed within the first year to help over 500,000 young people to participate in the reflec-

tion process. We were so glad when over 40,000 of them made a pledge to commit to peace, another 15,000 were able to get someone to hear their stories and to professionally help them through their hurt, and as many as 35,000 people across Kenya completed our questionnaires trying to study perceptions towards peace.

### **2. What personal traits make you good at what you do?**

I am full of life and it feels great to share it with my friends! I am deeply affected by the suffering of others, and I know suffering, and I always want to make a change for me and my friends because I am not separate! I love my friends.

### **3. In what situation can you and your organization have the greatest impact?**

When we are not pushed by practitioners to use checklists



and almost clinical methods to push people towards 'reconciliation'.

It would be amazing if the peace-building ecosystem allowed itself to support interventions that may not be time-based and which capture the essence of human relationships instead of overemphasizing scholarly models that may not embrace the cultural and social elements of human relationships.

### **4. In what area would you like to see the field grow?**

Fewer career peacemakers and diplomats but more artists, dancers, fathers, mothers, teachers, farmers, religious people, just more everyday people who would participate in peacebuilding activities.

### **5. In what area would you like to see the field grow?**

The ability of the practitioners to introspect!

For more information about George Gachara and his work please visit his website:

[www.georgegachara.com](http://www.georgegachara.com)

# Q&A

## Q & A with Gidon Bromberg,

### EcoPeace/Friends of the Earth Middle East



#### **1. How do you describe your work?**

Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME) brings together Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli environmentalists to promote co-operative efforts to protect our shared environmental heritage. In so doing, we seek to advance both sustainable regional development and the creation of necessary conditions for lasting peace in our region. FoEME has offices in Amman, Bethlehem, and Tel-Aviv with staff committed to promoting both “top-down” (advocacy) activities and “bottom-up” (grass roots / community) strategy that has proven to be a very effective work model.

#### **2. What personal traits make you good at what you do?**

My faith – in the goodness that exists in every person, in the potential of civil society groups to instill change, in the power to change one of the most protracted conflicts in the world – is by

far my most important trait for my work. This faith is so hard to find in a region of disrupted peace processes. But faith alone cannot create change, so my second greatest trait is my persistence. I do not shy away from the difficult decisions and actions that must be made and I realize that progress requires patience and energy to push peaceful and sustainable development forward.

#### **3. In what situations can you and your organization have the greatest impact?**

Our work model is based on shared environmental resource, particularly water, where the interdependent nature of the resource necessitates cooperation. We have the greatest impact on raising awareness and creating political will between communities sharing water, as they come to understand that they are the big losers from the conflict, while if they work together they can improve the situation for their respective constituents. In this situation it is self interest that leads to concrete cooperation that in turn builds trust between people that can be harnessed for much broader peacebuilding efforts. In this way we foster peacemakers out of youth, teachers, school principals, mayors and active residents who have come to trust the other side.

#### **4. What kind of people does the field need going forward?**

Committed but realistic, practical optimists who have their feet on the ground identifying opportunities to break down the stereotype of the ‘other’ as the enemy. These individuals need to move out of the confines of conflict resolution and integrate into other segments of society (health, environment, development, etc) to increase the potential outreach of sustainable peacebuilding.

#### **5. In what area would you like to see the field grow?**

I believe there is too much emphasis on traditional top-down peacebuilding approaches that try to bring about peace through diplomatic efforts. We need growth in grassroots and bottom-up approaches to peacebuilding – opportunities that empower common people to be the mobilizers of change and through them help create the political that they demand of their leaders for sustainable peace.

For more information about Gidon Bromberg and the work of EcoPeace/Friends of the Earth Middle East please visit their website:

[www.foeme.org](http://www.foeme.org)

## Cristina Cavalli receives Flag of Peace

On September 14, 2011, Dra. Cristina Cavalli, an ACR International Section member, received a Flag of Peace from Mil Milenios de Paz (One Thousand Millennia of Peace), an organization headquartered in Buenos Aires, Argentina whose mission is to spread peace throughout the world. Dra. Cavalli received the flag for her outstanding work to oppose violence in all its forms.

A special project of Mil Milenios de Paz (MMP) is to award 1,000 Flags of Peace to 1,000 schools, institutions, organizations and individuals who agree to dedicate themselves to MMP's mission. Recipients become Ambassadors of Peace who agree to promote a culture of peace in their

lives and communities.

The Flag of Peace (also known as the Banner of Peace) was designed by Nicholas Roerich, a Russian artist, author, archeologist and botanist. In 1935, he persuaded President Franklin D. Roosevelt and representatives of 21 Latin American countries to sign the Roerich Pact of Peace and Culture, which committed those countries to cultivating world peace and preserving the world's art and cultural patrimony. The Flag of Peace was adopted at the signing ceremony for the Roerich Pact.

Pictured with this article is Dra. Cavalli (center) receiving the Flag of Peace from two MMP rep-

resentatives in the hall of the Argentine Senate on September 14.

For further information about MMP and the Flag of Peace, visit <http://www.milmilenios.org.ar/> and <http://www.13moon.com/banner%20of%20peace.htm>.



## Announcing the Launch of the Chantal Paydar Foundation in San Diego following International Day 2011

The Chantal Paydar Foundation, newly created by family and friends of Chantal Paydar, former Rotary Peace Fellow, will hold its first fundraiser and awareness-building event on the evening of October 12th, 2011 to coincide with ACR's International Day. The Foundation was established to commemorate Chantal's life and continue her calling to peace-building and social

justice. The Foundation's focus is to create a strong endowment to fund Peace, Justice and Conflict Resolution initiatives within the United States and abroad. It is guided in part through a partnership with the Kroc Institute of International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame.

Last year, Chantal nominated Sister Pauline Acayo who was later selected for the International Section's Outstanding Leadership Award. Sister Pauline and Chantal worked together in Catholic Relief Services in Uganda before the onset of Chantal's major bout with Lymphoma. Sadly, she passed on in December of 2010

at the young age of 34, leaving behind a legacy of rich contributions and still unfinished dreams. Chantal was well-loved by hundreds of friends and colleagues around the world who carry on her spirit, including Sister Pauline Acayo. Both she and young Kenyan leader, George Gachara, will be guest speakers at the Foundation's fundraiser at 6 p.m. on October 12th in the Courtyard Marriott Hotel 2592 Laning Road, San Diego, CA 92106. Free transportation will be provided between the conference hotel and the event site. More information at [www.chantipaydarfoundation.org/events](http://www.chantipaydarfoundation.org/events). We hope to see you there!



# Elements of a Successful ACR Conference Outside the United States

By Walter A. Wright

Luis Oré, the current Chair of the International Section, asked me to reflect on the elements that came together to make the May 2011 ACR conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina a success. I am just one of many people who helped organize the conference. Although I cannot distinguish the essential elements from others that were merely important or nice, I do believe certain elements worked together for this conference's success.

The conference location was excellent. Buenos Aires has many decades of experience with arbitration and conciliation, and it can boast over twenty years of experience with various mediation models, including a mandatory pre-suit mediation law that has been in effect over fifteen years. Almost every Argentine province has some type of arbitration, conciliation or mediation law, and there are thousands of Argentine arbitrators, conciliators and mediators, many of whom live in or near Buenos Aires. As the capital city of Argentina, Buenos Aires is an attractive, cosmopolitan magnet for a conference of international importance.

We benefited from a generous conference host, the Universidad de Ciencias Empresariales y Sociales (UCES). A private university with modern facilities in the heart of Buenos Aires, UCES provided first-rate facilities at no cost to the conference organizers, and it donated ad-

vertising materials and coffee breaks. We had the full support of the law school's dean. Many hotels are near UCES, and their quality ranges from modest to world-class (with corresponding prices), so conference attendees were able to choose hotels that matched their personal styles and budgets.

ACR had an important local partner in organizing the conference, Consultora Equipo I.M.C.A., a local nonprofit that has promoted Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) processes in Argentina and other Latin American countries for over fifteen years. ACR entered into a cooperation agreement with Equipo I.M.C.A. Under the terms of the agreement, Equipo I.M.C.A. received ACR's authorization to organize the conference. In exchange, Equipo I.M.C.A. accepted responsibility for organizing and funding (or finding funding for) the conference. Equipo I.M.C.A. convinced UCES to provide the conference space, organized an impressive group of volunteers who made everything work smoothly, and persuaded many of the most prominent Argentines in the field of ADR to speak at the conference. The speakers included the Vice President of the Supreme Court of the Nation, the Minister of Justice of the Province of Salta, the National Director of the Mediation Directorate of the Ministry of Justice, a prominent legislator, and at least ten major pioneers in the field of

mediation and arbitration in Argentina. While most of the conference focused on ADR advances in Argentina, Equipo I.M.C.A. also arranged for speakers from Ecuador and the United States. Because of its successful advertising campaign, people from the United States and several Latin American countries also attended the conference.

Other people and activities added a sense of importance and fun. A local mediator who is also a journalist interviewed many of the conference speakers and uploaded their interviews and conference presentations on YouTube. As a result, many people who could not attend the conference have been able to view excerpts online. At the close of the conference, there was a tango show, and the woman who sang the tangos was a local mediator whose beautiful voice lifted everyone's spirits. We all left the conference knowing we had enjoyed a special, uniquely Argentine experience.

All of the above elements made the Buenos Aires conference a success, and they could provide a model for future ACR conferences outside the United States. At the same time, every conference is unique, and any future conference organizer should feel free to delete some elements and modify and add others in order to give that conference its unique style and flavor.

# ACR International Section

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