SCHEDULE
PROGRAM DAY 1: Monday, April 7, 2014

8:30am  Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:15am  Welcome

9:30am  Keynote 1: Religion, Conflict Resolution, and US Foreign Policy

Jerry White, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, US Department of State

10:30am  Break

10:45am  Session 1: Religious Peacebuilding through Personal Narrative: the IMC Model from Nigeria

This session will review the interfaith work in Nigeria of the Interfaith Mediation Center (IMC), and efforts like the Center for Peace, Democracy and Development (CPDD), Public Conversations Project (PCP), and Drew University to support that work through organizational change, early warning systems, and the development of a hybrid model of interfaith conflict resolution and dialogue.

Presenters

Imam Mohammed Ashafa, Interfaith Mediation Center (IMC), Kaduna, Nigeria
Pastor James Wuye, Interfaith Mediation Center (IMC), Kaduna, Nigeria
Dave Joseph, Public Conversations Project
Madhawa Palihapitiya, Associate Director, Massachusetts Office of Public Collaboration (MOPC)

Moderator: Darren Kew, Associate Professor, Conflict Resolution, McCormack Graduate School, and Executive Director, CPDD

12:15pm  Lunch

1:00pm  Keynote 2: Lessons from US Efforts to Engage Muslim Communities for Inter-Religious Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution

Farah Pandith, Former Special Representative to Muslim Communities, US Department of State

2:00pm  Session 2: Reaching Across Religious Divides in the US: The BRIDGES Model and the Effort to Improve Dialogue between Muslim and Sikh Communities and US Law Enforcement

This session will review the efforts since 9/11 that the BRIDGES processes have made in Boston and other cities to improve relationships between Muslim and Sikh communities on the one hand, and law
enforcement agencies on the other. These BRIDGES processes have had varying degrees of success, and we will examine the impacts of their efforts.

**Presenters**

Abdul Rahman Mohammed, and Aloke Chakravarty, Boston BRIDGES, Participants from the Los Angeles BRIDGES effort (TBA),

Moderator: Eben Weitzman, Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director, Conflict Resolution, McCormack Graduate School, and Senior Fellow, CPDD

**3:45pm**

Break

**4:00pm**

**Session 3: Foster Inter-Religious Peace amid Power Disparities: Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam and Transforming Israeli-Palestinian Relationships**

Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam in Israel/Palestine is a unique intentional community consisting of half Palestinian families and half Israeli families living together since the 1970s. NSWS has a well-established methodology of conflict resolution and coexistence.

Most inter-group dialogue processes focus on “getting-to-know-you” and a process that seeks to reverse demonization, while a smaller number focus on reaching agreement on at least some issues. They can be powerful, and occasionally life changing. Both approaches also generate emotion and are often very frustrating. The School for Peace at Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salaam is unique in that it focuses in part on the power relationship of the parties as it exists outside the dialogue group (in Israel and Palestine). They do not just discuss the power relationship; they experience it, they enact it. These are very difficult to manage, and they leave a deep mark on the participants.

**Presenters**

Nava Sonnenschein, Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam
Charles Sennott, Co-Founder, Editor-at-Large, GlobalPost
Padraig O’Malley, UMass Boston
Chris Taylor, Director, Drew University Center on Religion, Culture, and Conflict

Moderator: David Matz, UMASS Conflict Resolution Program and CPDD Senior Fellow

**5:30pm**

**Day One Report Out: Summary and Reflections**

Key symposium participants will be invited to join Conflict Resolution supporters to think about a new research and policy agenda for the Center for Peace, Democracy and Development.

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**PROGRAM DAY 2: Tuesday April 8, 2014**
9:00am  Continental Breakfast

9:30am  Session 4: Supporting and Learning from Interfaith Peace Efforts

Leading centers and universities have undertaken multiple efforts worldwide to address religious conflicts and promote interfaith dialogue, and to develop research initiatives to gauge their impact. Several will be asked to review their work and to share thoughts on what they have learned.

Presenters
Joyce Dubensky, CEO, The Tannenbaum Center for Inter-Religious Understanding
Douglas Johnston, President, International Center for Religion and Diplomacy
Andrea Bartoli, Dean, Seton Hall University School of Public Service
Rodney Petersen, Executive Director, Boston Theological Institute

Moderator: David Smock of US Institute of Peace

11:00  Facilitated Group Dialogue

11:45  Lunch

12:30 pm  Keynote 3: Lessons for Inter-Religious Peacebuilding from the Tenth Parallel

Eliza Griswold, Journalist, Poet, and Author of The Tenth Parallel: Dispatches from the Fault Line between Christianity and Islam

1:30pm  Session 5: Report on Key Themes
The final session of the symposium will have the outside review scholar and Professor Kew discuss key themes from the conference in terms of charting key next steps for research and practice in Inter-Religious Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution

2:45pm  Closing Remarks