Effective July 1, 2013, the Werner Institute welcomed Patrick J. Borchers, Creighton University professor of law and former vice president for Academic Affairs, as director of the Werner Institute. Jacqueline Font stepped down as director to be a full time faculty member and pursue writing, research and other scholarly activities.

“Here at Werner, we are really looking forward to working with [Borchers]. He was the initial creator of the Werner Institute and we have always worked very closely. It’s a gift for us that he had decided to be in the position,” said Jacqueline Font. As the new director, Professor Borchers will be running the institute by managing the internal affairs as well as being the external face of the institute.

“There’s a great team of people in place now in the Werner Institute and I’m looking forward to working with them to make the Institute even stronger,” Borchers said.

“It also allows me to be located in the Law School and teach basic law courses like Civil Procedure. Although I always taught at least one course a year as V.P., I really missed the day-to-day interaction with students and my faculty colleagues.”

“One thing I really came to believe as V.P. is that the future of U.S. higher education is in interdisciplinary learning,” Borchers said. “The Werner Institute is a good model for that. It draws on multiple disciplines — law, psychology, economics, sociology, just to name a few.”

With his time as vice president for Academic Affairs, Professor Borchers had interaction with every school and college and their administrators. This helps with the interdisciplinary environment of the Werner Institute, which in turn will carry on to building relationships. “We are all very excited to see this transition and to take the Werner Institute to the next level,” Font said. “We have no doubt that the Werner Institute will continue to thrive under this leadership.”
Werner Faculty Presentations

In June, Noam Ebner gave two sessions at ACR’s Greater New York chapter’s annual conference. One of these was on the topic of trust in negotiation and dispute resolution, and the other on the benefits of graduate education in dispute resolution and the variety of approaches different institutions take to this issue. This conference was co-chaired by Werner-alum Jeff Thompson. Crossing over to the other coast (with a pause in Omaha for the summer residency), Noam gave two sessions at the International Association for Conflict Management’s conference in Tacoma. Both of these dealt with issues related to teaching negotiation and dispute resolution online. Noam reports that Werner is still way ahead of the pack in this area. He is now involved in setting up a network of online educators in this field. In Tacoma, Noam was invited by Werner-alum Jen Norlund of the Pierce County Center for Dispute Resolution to give a session to the Center’s volunteer mediators.

Professor Borchers Presents at University of Windsor Symposium

In September, Prof. Borchers presented a paper on changes in United States and European Union judicial jurisdiction. He suggested that both the U.S. and the E.U. would benefit from a more coordinated regime of private international law. The conference was attended by leading scholars of international law from the United States and Canada.

Jacqueline Font-Guzmán delivered two, two-hour presentations for CLE credits as part of a Seminar Series for attorneys in Nebraska. Nebraska Minority Justice Committee Ethics Seminar Series sponsored by the Lane Foundation. Topic: Cross Cultural Considerations in Alternative Dispute Resolution (Lincoln: September 9, 2013; Omaha: September 13, 2013). She also Delivered a two-hour presentation for CLE credits during the Law School Alumni Homecoming weekend. Sponsored by Creighton University. Topic - Ethics and Mediation: What Attorneys Need to Know (Omaha, September 21, 2013)
Werner Faculty Presentations

**Bernie Mayer** spent most of September touring New Zealand and Australia as the keynote speaker at five conferences for LEADR Association for Dispute Resolution. LEADR is a major bi-national organization of dispute resolution professions which has played a leading role in promoting constructive approaches to conflict in New Zealand and Australia since 1988.

Every other year LEADR holds a major professional conference, which they call the ‘kon gress, a term that implies dialogue, meeting, participation, and collegiality. This year, instead of holding just one conference, they decided to hold five regional conferences, anchored on either end my international presenters. Bernie was asked to deliver the opening keynote at each of these meetings, which were held in Wellington, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, and Perth. He spoke on Competition and Cooperation: The Essential Partnership in Conflict Intervention. In addition, he delivered three one day workshops on Staying With Conflict: Working with Enduring Conflict in a Time Limited Context.

Bernie was recognized in both New Zealand and Australia as having made a major contribution over a 25 year period to the development of ADR in both countries through trainings, consultations, presentations, and writing. His speeches and workshops were very enthusiastically received.
Appointments and Accolades


This summer, Noam Ebner taught the first online course offered by Creighton Law School as part of their JD program. His course, Introduction to ADR, served to introduce sixteen law students to the worlds of ADR and online learning at the same time.

Jacqueline Font-Guzmán has been appointed external member of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) Committee of the College of Saint Mary in Omaha, Nebraska.

Please join me in congratulating Noam Ebner, whose application to serve as one of Creighton’s three Academic Excellence and Assessment (AEA) Associates has been accepted for 2013-14, with a possible extension for the following year.

Noam’s project is to explore the role of interpersonal trust as an interdisciplinary concept (given its importance to so many areas, such as attorney-client, mediator-client, teacher-student, physician-patient) and the extent to which different fields and professions include teaching of this concept as part of their curriculum.

Noam will take part in this program from his home in Israel. Doing so, he notes, will present a unique challenge, but in the end should help “Creighton develop its capacity in distance learning and teaching.”
Appointments and Accolades (cont.)

Please join me in congratulating Bryan Hanson, who has just been elected as an At-Large Director of the Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR). This is a significant honor. ACR is the largest international professional association dedicated to CR practitioners from all educational backgrounds. The board, which is member-nominated and elected, consists of seasoned practitioners and academics in conflict resolution. The Board works on many initiatives in education, certification, legislative policy, and public awareness. Bryan has been serving as a tri-chair for ACR’s 2014 annual conference in Cincinnati. Here’s a link to ACR’s website:

http://www.acrnet.org/Page.aspx?id=530#.UieJ8D_3NbU

Presenter and Elected Chair for UNCG

At the annual meeting of the University Network for Collaborative Governance (UNCG) in June, Palma Strand co-presented on “CIVITY and Collaborative Governance: Systems, Networks, and Relationships.” She was also elected UNCG Chair for 2013-2014.

UNCG consists of institutes, centers, and programs in colleges and universities that engage in teaching, practice, and scholarship designed to support leaders and citizens working collaboratively to address public issues. The 2013 annual UNCG meeting was hosted by member Davenport Institute for Public Engagement and Civic Leadership of Pepperdine University and held on Pepperdine’s Malibu, California, campus.

Consistent with the theme of the meeting, “Thinking in New Ways,” Strand presented with consultant Malka Kopell on a pilot project on which the two are partnering: the Civity Network Pilot Project in Silicon Valley. The Project’s new “civity” approach embeds community engagement and collaborative governance deeply into communities and regions to enable better problem-solving. Moving collaboration “upstream,” the approach strengthens existing civic social networks by intentionally nurturing relationships across demographics, issues, jurisdictions, and sectors. More specifically, the Project is designed to “tune up” existing relationships, calibrate levels of collaboration, intervene in a deep versus broad manner to enhance collaborative governance, and foster authenticity in relationships, including meaningful information sharing.

At the meeting, the membership elected Strand UNCG Chair for the current academic year. Previously, she had been on the UNCG Steering Committee.
Appointments and Accolades (cont.)

Bernie Mayer was awarded the prestigious President’s Award at the annual conference of the AFCC in Los Angeles this past May. The President’s Award is given annually by the President of AFCC in recognition for the contribution of a professional to furthering the mission and the work of the AFCC. President Arnie Shienvold noted that not only had Bernie contributed over many years to the AFCC, but that his work for the Academy of Family Mediators (now part of ACR) and the Association for Conflict Resolution over many years had also been invaluable.

Among the specific services to AFCC that Arnie mentioned were his role in facilitating national policy dialogues on domestic violence and mediation (The Wingspread Process) and on shared parenting. Both involved bringing together researchers, policy makers, professors, advocates, judges, mediators, and others who represented very different views on these controversial subjects, and both resulted in constructive dialogue and significant policy recommendations. In addition, Bernie has frequently written articles for the Family Court Review, the professional journal of AFCC, and co-edited an issue of the journal on mediation and consensus decision making in child welfare. Bernie received the 2010 Meyer Elkin Award for the outstanding article in the previous year’s editions of the journal.
As part of the Haddix research grant awarded on February 2013, **Jacqueline Font-Guzmán** led a World Café Dialogue on the topic, *Starting the Conversation: First Steps Toward Articulating and Defining a 'Good Death' in Nebraska*. The World Café took place at Creighton University on August 24, 2013 and was very well attended. Some of the words used by participants to describe their World Cafe Experience: Enlightening, Encouraging, Thought-provoking, Cathartic, Insightful, Warm, Fulfilling, and proud of Creighton and your work. An additional dialogue was held in Nebraska this year at the Bellevue Medical Center, Bellevue, Ne.
Werner student Kathleen Fitzgerald was the recipient of a scholarship to complete Family Mediation Training through the Nebraska Mediator Association Training Institute. This scholarship was given by Dr. Glenda Cottam, an attorney, therapist and mediator who wished to honor the contributions of Ron Volkmer to the practice of mediation in Nebraska.

Kathleen became interested in the practice of mediation during the Mediation class as part of her studies in the Werner program. Participating in the Nebraska Family Mediation Training was the next logical step for the development of Kathleen’s mediation practice. Kathleen completed the training this summer, is now on the Nebraska Office of Dispute Resolution list of approved family mediators and has begun mediating parenting plan and family cases.

Ronald R. Volkmer, a professor of Law at Creighton Law School was a co-drafter of the Nebraska Dispute Resolution Act and has been instrumental in building a system of effective dispute resolution across the state of Nebraska. Concord Mediation Center has honored the contribution of Ron Volkmer by establishing the Ronald R. Volkmer Award.
Werner Institute Alumni Profiles

Werner Institute Alum Profile - Susan Santiago

As I was working on my Master’s Degree in Negotiation and Dispute Resolution at Creighton, I came up with the idea of a Pieces of Peace radio program on KWMR.org, West Marin (California) Community Radio. This idea materialized last February when the first show was aired. On it, I interview individuals who are involved in peace building locally, nationally, and worldwide.

This past year, in the West Marin community, a conflict was dividing the residents. The issue involved the Point Reyes National Seashore, the family who leased the Drake’s Bay Oyster farm, and the expiration of a 40 year federal land lease. This story received national media attention in The New York Times, and with NPR, PBS, and others.

In May, a community leader approached me and suggested that I bring individuals on my radio program who held opposite perspectives on the Drakes Bay oyster conflict (DBOC). In doing so, they would not be debating the issue but rather having a dialogue in which they would, hopefully, connect and, in some cases, re-connect in order to bridge communication, with the potential of having a positive and transformative effect. In addition, they would serve as an example for the listening audience in reflecting what is possible when people are able to openly participate in a dialogue that is aimed at having a clearer understanding of each other’s perspectives as individuals and community members. The rules were that the DBOC would not be mentioned since this was not a debate but a dialogue, and that each participant listen to learn and with compassion.

The fifth on-air dialogue was held on October 21st and we have received some very encouraging feedback on all of them. Since my aspirations are geared toward facilitating dialogues with conflicted groups, as well as post-conflict healing, I was truly honored and humbled to have been a part of these dialogic events with the courageous and open individuals who participated in them. As a result, I am more convinced than ever that, per Gene Knudsen Hoffman, “An enemy is one whose story we have not heard.”

www.kwmr.org

If you are a member of the Werner Institute Alumni and would like to share your story since completing the degree, please send an email to Bryan Hanson at bryanhanson@creighton.edu
We are currently accepting proposals for the monthly ADRHub webinar series. Presenting for one of these webinars provides a great opportunity to share your expertise and to spread your work across a large community of ADR practitioners, scholars and the public that is interested in alternative dispute resolution.

With over 2000 members, the ADRhub.com is a valuable web resource for all the alternative dispute resolution community. ADRhub.com is a portal where you may get all your ADR related news, events, and be able to stay in touch with others in the community.

Through the ADRhub.com webinar series, participants receive wonderful presentations and engaging dialogues that provide high-quality education and training without leaving the home or office. The ADRhub webinar series offers a broad range of presentations hosted by industry experts to help keep participants up-to-date on the latest activities, trends, industry practices, and hot topics.

**ADRHBUB WEBINAR FORMAT:**
A webinar is a live virtual presentation on the Internet utilizing a web-based video conference platform. The webinars are 45-60 minutes long. They typically include about 25 minutes of presentation and 25 minutes of Q&A. These presentations are typically accompanied by a PowerPoint.

The monthly webinars continue to bring in experts to present on various topics relevant to our field and provide an opportunity to engage in lively discussions. For those that cannot make it live to the event, they will also be archived so you can download it and watch it at your own convenience. The archives of previous webinar are available for viewing ([Webinar Archives Page](#)) and the discussion can continue in the forums.

**SUBMISSION OF INTEREST IN PRESENTING:**
We are always looking to provide topics that our community is interested in. Below you will find examples of contexts in which our audience will find interesting:

- Mediation
- Public Engagement
- Conflict Coaching
- Restorative Justice
- Role of the Ombuds
- Community Mediation
- Online Dispute Resolution
- Facilitation

If you would like to propose a topic related to these examples, or have another relevant topic of interest, please submit your proposal by **December 13, 2013**.

Simply provide:

- A one paragraph description of your presentation
- The months that you would be able to present
- Your contact information.

All submissions can be sent to Bryan Hanson at bryanhanson@creighton.edu, with the title “**Webinar Proposal Submission**” in the subject box.
The Werner Institute once again hosted the annual Cyberweek conference November 4-8 via their web resource www.adrhub.com. This virtual conference brought together 1600 participants from 80 different countries to discuss the integration of technology into our dispute resolution processes. The complexity of our world and our reliance on technology make this topic not only relevant, but imperative for our professional development as practitioners. Participants engaged in seven discussion forums, thirteen live webinars, product simulations, twitter chats, and a variety of competitions. It truly is a week packed with activities that are enjoyed both synchronously and asynchronously. One wonderful aspect of a virtual conference is it is completely archived for future viewing. You may check it out at http://www.adrhub.com/page/cyberweek-2013.