

'The Fourth Thursday' lecture series features women in conflict mediation



Photos by Barbora Batokova

On Jan. 25, Lynn Hamilton Cole, a mediation specialist from a Tampa, Fla., opened "The Fourth Thursday" lecture series on women in conflict mediation with a lecture about her experience establishing conflict mediation programs in Jordan and Bulgaria.

By Barbora Batokova
Editor in Chief

As part of a collaboration between Chatham College and Mesites Foundation, "The Fourth Thursday" lecture series about women in mediation started on Jan. 25 in the Eddy Theater with a lecture by Lynn Hamilton Cole, who talked about her experience establishing mediation programs in Jordan and Bulgaria.

Cole explained to the audience that mediation and conflict management aims to resolve conflict outside of the courtroom and reach win/win resolutions, and can provide an alternative to trial for individuals, corporations and countries. According to Cole, the important thing about mediation is to get the parties to listen and help them accept responsibility. Cole said that in the end, mediation is very empowering.

The inaugural lecture was followed by a dinner in the Mellon Center foyer, where Creo presented Chatham College with his two-volume treatise on alternative dispute resolution (ADR) processes in both state and federal courts.

The Mesites Foundation that co-sponsors the lecture series, was established in 2006 by a Chatham College alumna Sandi DiMola, class of 1975. DiMola said she wanted to do more for the cause of international conflict than just writing a check and walking away. After meeting with her longtime acquaintance Robert Creo, DiMola decided to create a sister foundation that would introduce conflict mediation to undergraduate students and underrepresented groups,



Robert Creo, Pittsburgh lawyer and co-founder and director of Mediators without Borders Foundation, signs his two-volume treatise about alternative dispute resolution that he donated to Chatham during a dinner that followed the inaugural lecture. Also pictured are Sandi DiMola, class of 75 and founder of the Mesites Foundation that co-sponsors the lecture series; Anna Doering, vice president for Development and Alumni Affairs; Jean-Jacques Sène, Chatham's newest faculty member; and Allyson Lowe, director of Pennsylvania Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy.

particularly women. DiMola chose her alma mater to help in Mesites mission.

The first step in spreading the knowledge about conflict mediation to Chatham students is "The Fourth Thursday" series of three lectures about women in mediation. Future lectures will be held Feb. 22 and March 22.

Chatham College, DiMola, and Creo are currently discussing a possible creation of an on-campus center for conflict resolution and management, which, pending faculty approval, would offer a certificate in conflict resolution to students as

early as next fall.

Chatham's newest faculty member Jean-Jacques Sène, who graduated from Duquesne University in Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies and has experience with West Africa conflict prevention, is developing the coursework for the possible certification program with DiMola, Creo, Dean of Academic Affairs Laura Armesto and Vice President for Development and Alumni Affairs Anna Doering.

Both Doering and Sène said they are hoping to present the proposal at the faculty meeting on March 3.

Goldman discusses world-wide phenomenon of Barbie doll

By Kara Voorhees
Staff Writer

The Pericles Program, The Feminist Collective and the Women's Studies Program hosted a lecture by Karen Goldman, associate professor of Spanish, who has been researching Barbie and Mattel as a corporation for the past five years. Her work was recently published under the title "La Princesa Plástica: Hegemonic and Oppositional Representation of Latinidad in Hispanic Barbie."

Goldman is also focusing on women represented in culture in general. "I am interested in popular culture as well as women's studies and they go together in this case," she said.

The lecture consisted of Goldman's research shown through a power point and nearly thirty Barbie dolls. Goldman talked about the growth of the doll phenomenon and her ubiquity.

"You cannot ignore Barbie," she said. "There are few corners of the world where she is not there."

Barbie was developed in the 50's by Ruth Handler. In 1956, Handler visited Germany and discovered the Lilli doll, which Barbie is modeled from. Lilli is actually a "working girl" based from a comic strip, in which she used men to get what she wanted. Lilli was originally sold to adults. Handler named the doll after her daughter, Barbara.

Goldman also addressed the development of ethnic Barbie, especially the Hispanic doll. While a black Barbie was introduced in the late 60's, her facial features remained Caucasian and her hair was a copper color. It was not until 1979 that her true ethnicity was expressed, with textured hair and ethnic features.

In 1988, a Hispanic Barbie was introduced. Teresa, as she was called, lost her pigment and curly hair over the years, until she mainstreamed as Barbie's brunette "gal pal." Mattel had yet to cover any other nationalities.

The company did diversify in making Barbie's tomboy friend, Midge, married and pregnant, as parents and Mattel both worried that Midge gave the impression of being gay.

Peggy Stubbs, chair of the women's studies program and professor in the Human Development and Psychological Department, led the discussion following the lecture.

"One image of girlhood, a narrow, beautiful princess is being marketed to kids through TV and other products, very early on. And little children do not critique, they do," Stubbs said.

Some of the women who spoke out during the discussion talked about how they played with Barbies as children and whether or not they would allow their daughters to play with them. One woman talked about seeing Barbie with new eyes and making your own Barbie. Another woman mentioned that Barbie represents the worst kind of misogyny: women hating themselves.

"Barbie is interesting and she is important in establishing an identity for women," says Goldman. The truth is, Barbie is pervasive in culture."

Tuesday Night Edge program meets with varying success

By Megan Sutton
Staff Writer

Where can you find Stephanie Erdice and the student activities crew on Tuesday nights? At the Tuesday Night Edge of course.

Every Tuesday the Chatham Activities Board (CAB) provides a free, fun-filled night for Chatham students and guests.

Events this semester have included an international game night hosted by the International Student Association (ISA) and make your own clock night.

While some events like dodge ball did not draw a big crowd others have as many as twenty people.

Student activities coordinator Jacqueline Schall said, that the psychic fair and casino nights usually draw the biggest crowds.

"The number of people we get for an event usually is determined by the weather, or if people have a lot of homework and can't get out," Schall said.

Tuesday Night Edge is usually held from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. in the Athletic and Fitness Center (AFC) unless notified otherwise.

Erdice is always looking for new ideas from students who want to host a Tuesday Night Edge. "We look at ideas from different colleges and national trends to find what people might

like," Erdice said.

The idea of Tuesday Night Edge came from different activities that were held every week at the college.

"Instead of just having a sports night every week or a craft night we combined all of the events so that we could put them on a rotating schedule. This way we could get a variety of people to come to the events," Erdice said.

Student activities coordinator Heather Pond said, "It's a great opportunity to integrate first-years and upperclassmen into the traditions of Chatham."

The Tuesday Night Edge budget comes from CAB. "The cost usually depends on the project," Erdice stated. First-year Jessica Timberlake, said, "This event helps people get to know each other. When you come and see someone new you're like 'Oh who's that?'"

Sophomore Anne DeFazio's has been to Tuesday Night Edge twice and said that she liked getting free stuff.

Jennifer Herman, Student Activities coordinator said, "It gives you a break during the middle of the week and it's a good time to chill out."

Upcoming events include black history game show night in Anderson and a self-defense class.

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