

# UNIVERSITY NETWORK

## News

---

April 2006

### Our University Network

As all of you remember, a network of universities that have a common interest in Communication for Social Change was created during the seminar held in Los Baños (The Philippines) in September 2005, organised by the Communication for Social Change Consortium and hosted by the College of Development Communication (UPLB). Twelve universities participated in the meeting and agreed on a statement that underlines the purpose of helping “*to spread the principles of communication for social change and development, provide mutual support among existing programs, and legitimate the work of these programs in both academic and practitioner communities*”. Organising, researching and exchanging will be the three main levels of interaction within the network.

The individuals and universities involved in this initiative are: Celeste Cadiz & the staff of the **College of Development Communication**, University of The Philippines at Los Baños; Nancy Díaz Larrañaga, Facultad de Periodismo y Comunicación Social, **Universidad Nacional de La Plata** (Argentina), Erick Torrico, **Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar** (Bolivia), Helen Hambly & April Pojman, School of Environmental Design & Rural Development, Rural Extension Studies, **University of Guelph** (Canada); Jair Vega, **Universidad del Norte** (Colombia); Thomas Tufte, Communication Studies, **Roskilde University** (Denmark); Aslam Ansari, College of Agriculture, **G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology** (India); Nancy Muturi & Patrick Prendergast, Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication, **University of the West Indies** (Jamaica); Luis Peirano, Dean, Facultad de Ciencias y Artes de la Comunicación, **Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú** (Peru); Oscar Hemer & Florencia Enghel, School of Arts and Communication, **Malmö University** (Sweden); Sonia Marcus, Communication & Development Studies Program, **Ohio University** (USA); Kenny Makungu, Department of Mass Communication, School of Humanities & Social Sciences, **University of Zambia** (Zambia); plus Thomas Jacobson, Rosa María Alfaro, specially invited as resource persons, and the staff at the Communication for Social Change Consortium: Denise Gray-Felder, James Deane, Alfonso Gumucio Dagron and Jim Hunt.

We plan to keep the network informed, so we thought the best way to do it is to circulate once a month this sort of bulletin with brief news on the new developments. Please send us any items that may be of interest to the other members of the network, but particularly those that indicate progress in our attempt to facilitate exchanges among the members of the network.

### New members

Manuel Chaparro and Francisco Sierra, from the **University of Sevilla** and **University of Malaga**, in Spain, could not attend the seminar at Los Baños, however, they have expressed their desire to be part of the network, so we have invited both to join, as well as Alejandro Barranquero, a PhD student. We also invited Peter Taylor, Andrew Deak and Jethro Pettit to join the network, representing the **Institute of Development Studies** (IDS) in Sussex (UK), because

we consider that the research and practical work they are doing in relation to knowledge and participatory development is strictly related to communication for social change. Other individuals teaching in various universities have also expressed their desire to join the network.

## **Universidad del Norte, Barranquilla**

The CFSC Consortium has been relating with Universidad del Norte in Barranquilla (Colombia), for a number of years. We have supported their initiative to create a new Master degree with emphasis in Communication for Social Change and a strong component of participatory action research. The creation of the Master degree is now on the final stages. The Universidad del Norte is one of the four universities with the accreditation of "excellence" in Colombia. The process of obtaining the accreditation for the new Master degree in Communication, Culture and Social Change has followed all the steps established by the Colombian legislation. The last step was the visit by a delegation from the National Council of Accreditation of the ICFES (Instituto Colombiano para el Fomento de la Educación Superior) to evaluate the conditions for the Master degree so far. The mission was successful and we expect the Master degree to start during 2006.

Contact: Jair Vega <[jvega@uninorte.edu.co](mailto:jvega@uninorte.edu.co)>

## **Ohio University, Athens & Universidad del Norte**

As many of you already know, Rafael Obregón, formerly at PAHO (Pan-American Health Organisation) in Washington, Universidad del Norte in Barranquilla (Colombia), and a consultant for the Communication for Social Change Consortium, is the new Director of the Communication & Development Studies Programme at Ohio University (USA): <http://www.ohio.edu/commdev/>

A Memorandum of Understanding is currently being prepared between Ohio University and Universidad del Norte in line with the recommendations that came out from the seminar in Los Baños. According to Rafael, "*the MOU will include collaboration on faculty and student exchanges, research, publications, and training, among other activities*". Already, an agreement has been reached with UNINORTE so Rafael Obregón can spend three months of the year, between June and August, "providing support in several areas, particularly to the MA program".

Contact: [obregon@ohiou.edu](mailto:obregon@ohiou.edu)

## **Exchange visit to the University of Guelph**

Thanks to the 2006 Canada-Latin America-Caribbean Research Exchange Grants, Helen Hambly at the University of Guelph has invited Nancy Diaz Larrañaga (Universidad de La Plata, Argentina) and Florencia Enghel, also from Argentina, former student at Malmo University, to participate at a special research seminar on communication for social change and development in Guelph. The exchange will be coordinated by the student Marshall Gallardo Castaneda. If funding allows, a return visit by Helen and Marshall will be planned.

## **Reminder**

We would like to remind all the participants at the seminar in Los Baños, who subscribed the University Network Statement, that we had agreed to move forward bi-lateral agreements between universities by this time of the year. Initially, all participants at the seminar in Los Baños had committed to communicate by the end of January to the authorities of their universities, the University Network Statement and the information that resulted from the seminar in The Philippines. We encourage you to continue establishing agreements and exchanges with other universities in the network, and to send us the relevant information.

