

## Human Rights Research Fellowships

Congratulations to **Dr. Susan Katz** and **Dr. Shabnam Koirala-Azad**, from our International and Multicultural Education Department, for winning a Human Rights Research Fellowship from The Center for Law and Global Justice, the Human Rights Working Group, and the McCarthy Center for Public Policy and the Common Good.

The Fellowships seek to further USF's mission of *Educating Minds and Hearts to Change the World* and the pursuit of justice and human rights. Each recipient will receive a grant of \$5,000 to support research in the field of human rights and is designated a Center for Law and Global Justice Fellow for the upcoming academic year.

Their projects are succinctly described below.

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### ***Educating for Human Rights in a Post-9/11 World*** **Dr. Susan Katz (IME Department)**

“The primary purpose of this project is to conduct research for the first two introductory chapters of a book manuscript, *Educating for Human Rights in a Post-9/11 World*, to be published in partnership with Amnesty International.

The book is based upon the new course, *Human Rights Education: Concepts and Pedagogies*, which I taught in the Spring 2007 semester in the USF School of Education. The first chapter will discuss the state of human rights education in the U.S. and the world today, and the second will analyze the effectiveness of this particular course, based upon student feedback in interviews and evaluations. The remainder of the book - its core - will be the compilation of the students’ final projects - research-based pedagogical tools designed for human rights education in their own classrooms or communities. Experts from Amnesty International will provide an overview and commentary for each of these chapters.”



***The Development of a Human Rights Curriculum for Children in Post-Conflict Nepal***

**Dr. Shabnam Koirala-Azad (IME Department)**

Regarded as a Shangri-la and the home to some of the most peace-loving people in the world, Nepal was rocked by a decade-long civil war that changed its image to one that sustained some of the worse human rights abuses in the world. The most affected were the majority of the 24 million people that lived in the country's rural areas with the children bearing the brunt of the insurgency's worst impact. Despite some optimism in the currently on-going peace process, there are grounds for caution. One of the main concerns is the lack of attention and action to address the immediate needs of injured, displaced, and physically and mentally abused children in the post-conflict lull. While the need to protect these some 40,000 displaced children has been vocalized by many local and international human rights organizations, a long-term and sustainable plan for the instatement or reinstatement of their rights as children and their integration into community has not been discussed as a priority in the "re-building" process.

As a citizen of Nepal, as someone who has lived part of the conflict in Nepal, and as an educator, Dr. Koirala-Azad is deeply committed to the idea and the subsequent actions of using relevant educational opportunities and methodologies as a way of helping many of these children reintegrate into their communities. Believing that sustainable change comes from collaboration with those most affected by the problem, she has already created a network of "co-researchers" in Nepal. While her research is broad, she will use the support of the Human Rights Research Fellowship to collect existing human rights curricula for children, to assess their relevance to the situation in Nepal and to collaborate with Nepali educators in creating an informed curriculum relevant to the unique needs of destitute children in Nepal. She will be traveling to Nepal in June 2008 for the pilot implementation of this curriculum at the largest orphanage in Kathmandu.