Communicating Change in a Complex World: Conference To Focus On Using Digital Communication To Foster Change

Student-Organized Conference at Monterey Institute to Be Streamed Live Worldwide

Monterey, CA – The sheer volume of information in circulation today can make the delivery of a clear message difficult. Under those circumstances, how do dynamic communicators connect with the right people? How are critical messages being shaped to cut through the clutter, and who is defining these messages of change? And where can people turn to feel more connected to the issues they care about?

These and other provocative questions are the central focus of “Communicating Change in a Complex World,” a November 20 iConference at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in Monterey, CA. Communicators for Change, a graduate student organization, will welcome over a dozen professional communicators and media managers from the San Francisco and Monterey Bay Areas to participate in discussions exploring how social networking and other digital communication tools can empower agents of change.

Representing a variety of world views, values and success strategies, conference speakers will include:

- Andie Grace, communications manager at Burning Man
- Bernhard Drax, musician and Second Life journalist
- Colin Gallagher, Returned Peace Corps Volunteer and civic engagement professional
- Doniga Markegard, Earth Action Mentor
- Dr. James Lindholm, director, Institute for Applied Marine Ecology at CSUMB
- Emmanuel Vaughan-Lee, founder and director of the Global Oneness Project
- Joe Johnston, technology advisor at the Pachamama Alliance
- Kevin Epps, award-winning documentary film director
- Nina Rosete, executive director of Dare to Dream Fund
- Rangineh Azimzadeh, World Pulse board member
- Rita King and Josh Fouts of Dancing Ink Productions

The conference’s afternoon plenary session, focused on producing concrete recommendations to help transform the sustainability conversation at the upcoming UN Climate Change Summit Copenhagen, will be webcast on the Communicators for Change site at www.communicators4change.org. The plenary session panel will feature...
James Hanusa, founder of Change SF; Michael Leifer, CEO of influenceXchange; and Alli Chagi-Starr, senior community engagement strategist at Green for All.

Other panel topics will include:

• Empowering Communities: The Art and Science of Building Networks
• Virtual Diplomacy?: The Role of Social Media in Bridging Divides
• Demystifying Scientific Messages: Building Awareness in the 21st Century
• Communicating Social Consciousness Through the Arts

For more information regarding the conference and panelists, visit www.communicators4change.org. This conference is free and open to the public.

What: “Communicating Change in a Complex World,” a student-organized iConference

When: Thursday, November 20 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Where: Irvine Auditorium
Mc Cone Building
499 Pierce Street
Monterey, CA 93940

The Monterey Institute of International Studies is at the forefront of international professional education, preparing students for global careers in the private, public, nonprofit and educational sectors. A private graduate institution located in Monterey, California and affiliated with Middlebury College, the Institute offers fully accredited degree programs in international business, translation and interpretation, international policy studies and language teaching. The Institute’s approximately 800 students come from more than 50 countries. For more information about the Monterey Institute, visit www.miis.edu.

Communicators for Change is a student group on the campus of the Monterey Institute of International Studies interested in promoting a variety of innovative communication strategies for collaboration, agency and sustainability to tap into the global community of empowered individuals who can identify mutual problems and collaborate to find solutions.