

Building Bridges

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS FOR STRONGER FOUNDATIONS

April 9-10, 2019 | Holiday Inn Fargo

New people are moving to North Dakota from around the world to find jobs and a better way of life. With them comes broader diversity in religion, race, and belief systems, more complexity in human interactions, and greater need for understanding and intentional welcoming in our communities, state and region.

As our communities grow and become more diverse, a strong network of collaborators is needed.

Join us at the Building Bridges conference for timely discussions about strengthening partnerships throughout North Dakota.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

IMMIGRATION: MYTHS AND REALITIES

Dr. Cari Lee Skogberg Eastman

Independent Writer, Researcher and Educator



Cari Lee Skogberg Eastman is from Sioux Falls. Her doctoral studies focused largely on development communication, earning her a graduate interdisciplinary certificate in development studies. Her primary focus, however, was on issues involving media and civil society, particularly in relation to the immigration debate. Her dissertation research focused on public reception and understanding of border and immigration issues, particularly those involving the U.S.-Mexico border that were influenced by media coverage of civil society organizations active in that area.

WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM 'NEWCOMERS'

Helen Thorpe

Author and Journalist



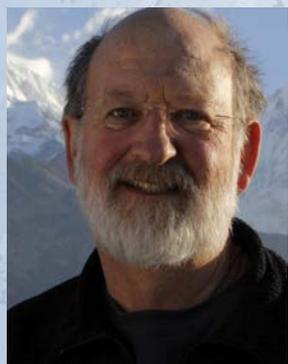
Helen Thorpe has written three books, *Just Like Us*, *Soldier Girls*, and *The Newcomers*, which are works of narrative nonfiction that document in a human and intimate way the lives of immigrants, refugees, and veterans of foreign conflicts. *The Newcomers* was described by The New York Times as “a delicate and heartbreaking mystery story” about 22 immigrant and refugee teenagers who share one classroom while learning English together. That newspaper went on to say, “Thorpe’s book is a reminder that in an era of nativism, some Americans are still breaking down walls and nurturing newcomers, the seeds of the great American experiment.”

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

A GENTLE RAIN OF COMPASSION

David Shlim, MD

Medicine and Compassion



Dr. David Shlim is a world-renowned expert on travel medicine who voluntarily organized the health care of hundreds of Tibetan refugees from Nepal to China. He was a pioneer in travel medicine research on typhoid fever, hepatitis, altitude illness and other serious traveling ailments. He helped discover a new protozoal pathogen (Cyclospora) that causes diarrhea in humans. He is co-author of “Medicine and Compassion: An American Doctor and a Tibetan Lama on How to Provide Care with Compassion and Wisdom.”

EMPOWERING ASYLUM-SEEKING FAMILIES AMIDST THE BORDER CRISIS

Basel Moussly

Program Manager for Detention Visitation at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service



Basel Moussly is Program Manager for Migrant Services at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS). He oversees services provided to migrants and asylum seekers. His portfolio of programs includes Reception & Welcome, Detention Visitation, and Family Reunification Support. Prior to working with LIRS, Moussly was an R&P Case Manager and then a Resettlement Supervisor at Refugee Services of Texas. He has over six years of experience in serving refugees and displaced populations internationally.

CONFERENCE AGENDA Tuesday, April 9



7:30 a.m. **REGISTRATION Coffee and tea available** Dakota Hall

8:30 a.m. **KEYNOTE Immigration: Myths and Realities** Royale & Embassy

Dr. Cari Lee Skogberg Eastman, Independent Writer, Researcher and Educator

Immigration has become one of the most contentious and debated topics of our time. Contradictory messages about immigration and its effects have created confusion for those seeking accurate analysis of the issue, leading many to wonder what is happening and what types of fundamental changes are required to reform a broken system. In this presentation, “Immigration: Myths and Realities” Dr. Cari Lee Skogberg Eastman helps to clarify these questions by addressing many of the common myths and misconceptions about immigration and offering empirical data to support or deny the veracity of those claims. She provides documented evidence and historical context to help participants better understand the fundamental challenges related to immigration today and how those challenges came to be. Above all, she offers communicative strategies that promote respectful and productive dialogue and hopefully inspire greater cooperation in finding valid solutions.

10:15 a.m. **BREAK Light refreshments & Vendor and Exhibitor Booths Open** Dakota Hall

10:45 a.m. **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Using Stories to Create Empathy in the Workplace & the Classroom Conference/Directors

Leah Juelke, Fargo South ELL English Teacher, 2018 ND Teacher of the Year | Noella Akech, Sophomore at Fargo South High | Van Tran, Senior at Fargo South High
Learn how to use stories in the workplace and the classroom to help build relationships, increase productivity and create an empathetic environment. Learn about the Narrative 4 story exchange, Green Card Voices and the Journey to America project. High school immigrant/refugee students will also facilitate this interactive session. The first 30 participants in the room will receive a free book.

Using Data in Discourse to Speak Confidently about Immigration Royale/Embassy

Dr. Cari Lee Skogberg Eastman, Independent Writer, Researcher and Educator

As a continuation of the keynote presentation, this workshop will focus on additional data, specific talking points and communication strategies that can be used when engaging in conversation about immigration-related issues. The purpose of the workshop is to empower participants to speak confidently and truthfully about aspects of immigration and/or the immigrant experience that the wider community may not fully understand. Special attention will be placed on the DACA program, the impact of refugee populations on their communities, and the current status and experiences of asylum seekers along the southern border.

12:00 p.m. **KEYNOTE What We Can Learn from ‘Newcomers’** Lunch session — Sterling/Crowne

Helen Thorpe, Author and Journalist

Helen Thorpe spent one complete school year following 22 teenagers from around the world as they learned English together in one ESL classroom. She then returned to see how they fared in their second year in the United States. Many of the students came from refugee camps, and others were seeking asylum. They mapped the world’s crises almost perfectly, and their stories illustrate most of the world’s important conflicts. The author then traveled to the Democratic Republic of Congo and visited one refugee settlement in Uganda where a family she had gotten to know was formerly living. She will share slides of the students and their time in the U.S., as well as from her trips to the Congo and Uganda.

2:15 p.m. **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Using Storytelling as a Tool to Educate, Empower and Build Empathy Across Differences Conference/Directors

Anna Zeisel, Operations & Communications Associate, Green Card Voices

It is more important than ever to confront individual bias and build empathy so that all people can contribute to our communities and thrive. First-person storytelling facilitates understanding and empathy more effectively than mere fact propagation alone. In this session, you’ll learn about the innovative and unconventional storytelling work of Green Card Voices (GCV), a nonprofit that records and shares the stories of immigrants. You will learn how effective storytelling educates and empowers both the teller and the audience, and you’ll leave with resources and ideas to incorporate storytelling into your own work. The session will offer the chance to listen to first-person immigrant narratives, engage in group discussions and play the newly released “Story Stitch” card game.

Accompaniment Royale/Embassy

Helen Thorpe, Author and Journalist

A conversation about accompaniment as various faith traditions understand it, and how the speaker understands others to have applied it to the concept of accompanying refugees on their journeys. The ideas of accompaniment involve a genuine relationship and true exchange and being present for others as they move through challenging transitions. Thorpe will also speak briefly about vicarious trauma and the need for service providers to seek renewal and care for themselves to be present for others.

Interpretive Services: Language Access Planning Board/Executive

Amar Hussein, Interpreter Services Coordinator, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota

Language access planning is essential for organizations of all sizes. In this session, attendees will consider the needs of limited-English clients and learn of options available for interpretive and translation services through Lutheran Social Services. Hussein will cover ethics, confidentiality and best practices for engaging and working with interpreters and considerations when using video, phone or on-site interpretation.

3:30 p.m. **BREAK Light refreshments & Vendor and Exhibitor Booths Open** Dakota Hall



Continued Tuesday, April 9 **CONFERENCE AGENDA**

3:45 p.m. **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

How to Engage Unique Communities in New American Integration Conference/Directors

Leah Hargrove, Executive Director of Global Neighbors

How do smaller communities and communities new to changes in diversity welcoming and engage New Americans successfully? Leah Hargrove shares how her organization, Global Neighbors, used Bismarck's unique strengths and citizen leaders to fill voids and create new programs. Attendees will explore their own community's strengths and challenges, and how to incorporate New Americans into the local culture.

Unaccompanied Refugee Minors: A Conversation Royale/Embassy

Facilitator: Rebekah Jensen | Panelists: Dave Carlson, trust officer, Fargo Police Department; Aline Muhimpundu, foster parent; Alliance Utamuliza, alumna; Divine Lubungo, alumna

Join us for a discussion about the Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program. You'll hear from URM alumni about their experiences in integrating into a new community. You will also hear from foster parents as well as community partners on their work with Unaccompanied Refugee Minors and the dynamics of working together.

Wednesday, April 10 **CONFERENCE AGENDA**

7:30 a.m. **REGISTRATION Coffee and tea available** Dakota Hall

8:30 a.m. **KEYNOTE A Gentle Rain of Compassion** Royal & Embassy

David Shlim, MD

Although we often encourage each other to cultivate empathy and compassion, there is no tradition in the West on how to train the capacity for compassion. As human beings, we will inevitably have to confront suffering, both in ourselves and others. Compassion is the desire to relieve suffering in others, but it often remains a struggle throughout our careers, diminishing rather than increasing over time. Understanding the basis of compassion and learning techniques to make compassion more stable, more inclusive and more effortless could have great benefit, not only in one's work but in one's life.

10:15 a.m. **BREAK Light refreshments & Vendor and Exhibitor Booths Open** Dakota Hall

10:45 a.m. **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Immigrant Rights, Immigration Consequences of Crime and Attorney-Client Relations: Insight from the Field

Conference/Directors

Olufemi Adisa, J.D., OLAP-Accredited Representative, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota | Mariam Bassoma, Immigration Specialist

Discussion of immigrant rights, immigration consequences of crime, and how advocacy and civic engagement could help immigrants stay safe in the prevailing landscape.

Making Compassion More Stable, Vast and Effortless Royale / Embassy

David Shlim, MD

The workshop will delve deeper into understanding the basis of compassion, and how to train one's capacity for compassion, and try to achieve the goals outlined in the title of the workshop.

Grand Forks' Welcoming Community Roadmap Project Board/Executive

Robin David, Strategic Initiatives Welcoming Coordinator, City of Grand Forks | Cynthia Shabb, Cynthia Shabb, Executive Director, Global Friends Coalition | Reginald Tarr, Site Supervisor, Lutheran Social Services Grand Forks

The Welcoming Community Roadmap project is part of a continued effort by the city of Grand Forks to find ways to welcome all new residents and better integrate immigrants and refugees into the community. The integration initiatives being investigated in this project are adopted from the key focus areas of the Welcoming America program, Gateways for Growth. The mission is to "create a roadmap of tangible and measurable actions to promote a warm and continued welcome to Grand Forks that fosters inclusion and equity and a connection to community that enriches the lives of all Grand Forks residents."

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Exhibits and vendors will be available throughout the conference.

Continuing Education Units are available for social work, counseling, nursing and educators. See the registration desk for details.

Final conference schedule may vary.



CONFERENCE AGENDA Wednesday, April 10 Continued



12:00 p.m. **KEYNOTE Empowering Asylum-Seeking Families Amidst the Border Crisis** Lunch session — Sterling/Crowne
Basel Moussly, Program Manager for Detention Visitation at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

Every day, children, families and adults arrive at our border and seek our nation's protection; while it is legal to seek asylum in the U.S., many asylum-seeking families are often turned away at the port of entry. Further, many families who do gain entry are then unable to find legal representation to enable them to navigate the legal immigration system successfully. During this session, you will learn about the challenges asylum-seeking individuals and families face during their journey to the U.S., including their experiences in immigration detention, family separation and the current unstable situation at the border. We will also shed light on how our local communities, churches and non-profits are stepping up and showing solidarity and support for this vulnerable population.

2:15 p.m. **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Understanding and Responding to Human Trafficking Conference/Directors
Cari Logan, Humanitarian Special Projects Team Lead, Lutheran Social Services of ND

This presentation will provide a basic understanding of human trafficking, especially labor trafficking. Special attention will be given to understanding human trafficking as it relates to immigration and foreign-born victims and survivors. An overview of recent research, trends and experiences will be included, as well as resources for recognizing the indicators of human trafficking and identifying a response to human trafficking.

Decoding the Complexity of the Asylum System Royale/Embassy
Basel Moussly, Program Manager for Detention Visitation at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

Although the U.S. asylum system offers protection to thousands of persecuted individuals, it is indeed one of the most complicated processes, involving multiple government agencies. Additionally, asylum seekers are facing new rules and policies which make the application process even more complicated. This session will cover the asylum-seeking process, as well as latest trends and policies in the U.S. asylum system.

United Hopes and the Syrian Crisis Board/Executive
Dr. Thomas Ambrosio, Professor of Political Science, North Dakota State University

During this session, attendees will watch a short film by filmmaker Arwa Sawan. This documentary addresses the Syrian refugees' concerns and the current humanitarian crisis. After the screening, there will be a presentation from a local expert and a conversation about the impact of the Syrian refugee crisis on the F-M area.

3:30 p.m. **BREAK Light refreshments & Vendor and Exhibitor Booths Open** Royale/Embassy

3:15 p.m. **Final Session - Film & Conversation | Final remarks. Beverages and snacks available** Royal/Embassy
Shirley Dyskshoorn, Vice President of Humanitarian Services, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota | A.M. Lukas, Award-Winning Director

Shot in Fargo, N.D., "One Cambodian Family, Please for my Pleasure" is based on the true story of a lonely refugee from Czechoslovakia who paints an all-too-appealing picture of her American life as she writes a letter begging an organization to send a Cambodian refugee family so that she can help resettle them in her new "hometown of dreams": Fargo. Set in 1981 and steeped in the humor and visual quality of childhood memory, the film's subject matter is incredibly timely, even urgent, considering the Trump administration's divisive stance on refugees and immigration. "One Cambodian Family, Please for my Pleasure" was an opening night, official selection of the 2019 Sundance Film Festival, and has received the following honors: "Grand Jury Prize for Best Short Film" at the Edmonton International Film Festival, qualifying the film for a 2019 Oscar nomination; "Best Screenplay" at the Rhode Island International Film Festival; and "Special Jury Prize Best Screenwriting" from the SCAD Savannah Film Festival.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 SPONSORS



Sarah Vogel

