Kean University Welcomes Our First Fulbright Scholar in Residence – Monique Eckmann

Kean welcomed Monique Eckmann as our first Fulbright Professor-in-Residence in September. Prof. Eckmann will reside at Kean through May 2011. A professor in the School for Social Work, University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland in Geneva, Prof. Eckmann teaches sociology, social policy and social psychology. She is multi-lingual, speaking German, French, and English.

Her vast teaching experience includes: intercultural education and antiracist education, antisemitism and right-wing extremism, intergroup conflicts, human rights education, sociology of deviance, identities and memories, dialogue between groups in conflict, youth defiance, delinquency and youth policy.

Prof. Eckmann is widely published and has written over a dozen books, two dozen professional journal articles, and has contributed to an additional three dozen books. She has served as a member of the Swiss Delegation at the Holocaust Era Assets Conference, as an Expert Member of the Swiss Foundation for School Projects Against Racism, as a Member of the Swiss Federal Delegation in the U.N. Conference against Racism and, since 2004, is a permanent member of the Swiss Delegation in the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, of which the United States is a founding member.

Dr. Keith Nunes, scholar-in-residence for the Masters in Holocaust and Genocide Studies (MAHGS) program, recommended Prof. Eckmann as a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence because of her extensive background in human rights, racism, antisemitism, and xenophobia as exemplified by her participation in the teaching of human rights session at the Prague meetings on Holocaust Era Assets the summer before last. She will be involved in teaching and other activities on campus. Prof. Eckmann will teach the undergraduate course, ID 1800 “The Holocaust, Genocide & Modern Humanity” and give guest lectures in the MAHGS program. She is undertaking research on the perceptions of undergraduates who participate in Kean’s semester visits to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.: she intends to give a seminar on “History, Memory, Remembrance and Racism”. For the MAHGS program she is involved in developing a proposed new course, MAHG 5022 Social Psychology of Prejudice with Profs. Emily Filardo and Hank Kaplowitz as well as in the new “Science & Human Rights” course under Dean Jeffrey Toney’s science and human rights curriculum development committee. Prof. Eckmann will also present workshops on campus, and will address the Diversity Council, a group of over 70 schools in New Jersey committed to diversity and acceptance.

Professor Eckmann acknowledged that she is “quite excited about coming to Kean” in her first teaching assignment in the United States. Throughout her eight months at Kean, Professor
Eckmann will be able to extend her familiarity with American academia and in turn enable her U.S. colleagues to become more familiar with European approaches to Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights studies, to foster a more international approach to the field and a globalizing community.

We are pleased to welcome Professor Eckmann to Kean University.