



## THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Dear Friends,

You may be visiting this website for the first time or checking for updates on one of our programs with which you are already familiar. In January, 2009, the Barbara L. and Norman C. Tanner Center for Nonviolent Human Rights Advocacy celebrated its third anniversary! Based in the College of Social and Behavioral Science at the University of Utah, the Center's work extends collaboratively across our campus and with our widening array of partners in the Salt Lake metropolitan area.

We are pleased to join the more than 800 academic programs in conflict resolution, peace studies, human rights, and security studies worldwide with our Peace and Conflict Studies undergraduate disciplinary minor, established in 2004 and housed in the College of Humanities. That program and our annual conference involve several other colleges, including the S. J. Quinney College of Law, the College of Social Work, the College of Education, and the College of Science--with more to come.

Every February, we bring together distinguished scholars and community experts on a topic of pressing importance: in 2007, on the intangible aspects of terrorism; in 2008 on migration, rights and identities; and in 2009, on the evolution of human aggression. The conference is a major effort of our staff for several months each year; for this event we invite proposals each fall and the help of many.

Other programs described in this website include our K-12 educational outreach program (for both students and teachers), the Utah Citizens' Counsel (modeled on "The Elders"), the Campus-Community Dialogue Project (designed to bring together groups for deep discussion of differences that divide them), student internships (locally, nationally and internationally), and our budding Peace Library (in Orson Spencer Hall). We are also exploring ways to stimulate and support collaborative interdisciplinary activities among graduate students who share these interests yet work in many different departments.

Partnering with units across campus and organizations across our community, we aim to model sound processes of dialogue, bridge-building, and consensus-seeking even as we treat some of the most vexing issues facing our communities, the nation, and the world. Thanks to the wonderful generosity of the Tanners, the University of Utah is poised to become an important center of such work, drawing upon the scholarly and practical resources that abound here.

We invite you to check out our programs, get in touch, share your ideas, and get involved. At a time of hope in a world still wracked by hatred, oppression, and violence, the need for our common work is clear. The horizons of possibility are open to each and all of us: as Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams put it, in response to a question from an interviewer about her work with the International Campaign to Ban Landmines: pick an issue, get moving, and help bring people together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George".

George Cheney  
Director