



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The Institute for Modern Conflict,
Diplomacy & Reconciliation

January 15, 2008

Dear Colleagues:

On September 11, 2007, Texas Tech University established the Institute for Modern Conflict, Diplomacy & Reconciliation (IMCDR). The vision of our President and Board of Regents is an Institute that will build on the success of our Vietnam Center and Archive, which now houses over 20 million pages of archival material, and an extensive research library. As part of this endeavor, we have created another archive in the Center for War & Diplomacy in the Post Vietnam War Era. To complete the Institute, we have added the Departments of Aerospace Studies and Military Science.

The purpose of this letter is to announce the “academic face” of IMCDR. You are probably familiar with the Vietnam Center’s annual conferences and triennial symposia. We will continue to offer such programs – our 6th Triennial Symposium will take place on March 13-15, 2008. As an extension to these academic endeavors, the IMCDR will offer graduate and undergraduate courses, with an ultimate goal of granting graduate certificates in Strategic Studies. While still in the development stages, we will begin to offer IMCDR courses in the fall of 2008. Our offerings will include courses in intelligence design and history, military and diplomatic history, and courses in strategic thought. Our goal is to provide a certificate that, when coupled with a Masters of Arts degree in International Affairs, History, or many other available majors, will enable our graduates to compete for jobs in the foreign service, military, or intelligence community. Of course, students with academic career goals will also appreciate such course offerings, which could be part of their preparation for doctoral work in History or other fields.

Another unique feature of our program is the opportunity for our students to travel to the countries which played such an important role in America’s recent past: Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Led by the Director of the Vietnam Center, Dr. Steve Maxner, these trips afford graduate students a chance to visit universities, embassies, cultural sites and battlefields and to meet with veterans of America’s former adversary.

We invite you to visit our website, IMCDR.ttu.edu, and to browse not only our four units, but also the link to our affiliated faculty, which includes ambassadors, former CIA officers, a former Judge Advocate General, former military officers, and young scholars in diplomatic history, political science, and law. Students can contact our graduate advisor, Dr. Ron Milam, at ron.milam@ttu.edu for more information, or myself at james.reckner@ttu.edu.

These are exciting times here at Texas Tech! You can learn more about them at www.imcdr.ttu.edu. We look forward to a large inaugural class in 2008.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James R. Reckner', with a horizontal line underneath.

James R. Reckner
Professor, Executive Director