Dr. Joyce Neu is a conflict resolution specialist and Founder and Senior Associate of Facilitating Peace, a consulting network that has worked with governmental, intergovernmental, and nongovernmental organizations, visited the Program for the Advancement of Research on Conflict and Collaboration (PARCC) at the Syracuse University Maxwell School April 15 through 18, 2015. During her visit, she spoke at PARCC’s weekly Conversations in Conflict Series on Wednesday, April 15th. The title of her talk was “Blurring the Lines in International Mediation” where she discussed the fact that official mediation processes conducted by the UN and governments still remain largely the purview of high level diplomats. And how over the past decade, we have witnessed a blurring of the lines within and between official and unofficial processes resulting in more inclusive processes.

On Thursday, April 16th Neu addressed the LDF - Leaders for Democracy Fellowship Program in her talk titled, “Who Cooks Peace (and what ingredients do we need)?” she provided an examination of the different skills, professions, and genders needed for the peace “pot” and a discussion of the different capacities of governmental and nongovernmental “chefs” in cooking peace.

Then on Friday, April 17th she taught the foundation course of PARCC’s Conflict Resolution certificate-of-advanced-study program, Fundamentals of Conflict Studies. She explained the use of mediation as an intervention. In the afternoon, she held a workshop for students interested in careers in International Mediation.

Neu has engaged in conflict analysis, mediation, facilitation, dialogue processes, and women’s inclusion in peace processes for more than 20 years. She has led mediation efforts in the Republic of Congo, Mali, Sudan, and Uganda and has assisted in conflict resolution and national dialogue processes in Albania, Bosnia, the Central African Republic, Comoros, Cote d’Ivoire, Cyprus, Estonia, and Madagascar. Neu was the first Team Leader for the United Nations’ Standby Team of Mediation Experts and founding Executive Director of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice at the University of San Diego. At USD, she co-created the Women PeaceMakers Program as well as the Masters Program in Peace & Justice Studies in which she taught. As Senior Associate Director of the Conflict Resolution Program at The Carter Center, she advised former President Jimmy Carter on conflicts in more than two dozen countries. Neu has a Ph.D. in linguistics from the University of Southern California and has published on conflict resolution, negotiations, sociolinguistics, and international war crimes tribunals. She has taught at the University of Southern California, Penn State University, Adam Mickiewicz University (Poznan, Poland), Emory University, and the University of San Diego. She was a senior Fulbright scholar in Poland and a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal.