



Bulletin

International Democratic Education Institute

Summer 2007

The Director's Desk

The end of the academic year has brought many challenges, changes and successes to IDEI. As you will note in the following pages, our programs continue to be successful and evolve.

The biggest challenge we have faced this year has been starting our Morocco partnership due to administrative delays from the funding agency.

Next year's changes include the departure of Awad Ibrahim and Leigh Chiarelott. Both have accepted new positions, Awad at the University of Ottawa and Leigh at the University of Toledo. They have been valued contributors to IDEI and we hope to continue their involvement. Lastly, Josue Cruz is stepping down and while we will miss his support and encouragement, we wish him the best of luck for the future.

I am very pleased to share with you some personal successes. The first is how proud we are of John Fischer for being selected as a Fulbright Scholar. This recognition reflects well on both him and our Polish partnership. Secondly, I have recently been awarded tenure and promotion. This is something that my family and I have been working towards and appreciate very much.

Wherever your summer travels take you, I hope that you will keep in touch and think of ways we can work together to strengthen democracy education in the upcoming year.

Alden W. Craddock, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, STL
and Director, IDEI

IDEI Project Director Selected for Fulbright

Dr. John Fischer, associate professor in the School of Teaching and Learning and IDEI Poland Program Director, will be heading to Krakow, Poland in September as a Fulbright Scholar. During his four-month stay, he will be teaching two seminar courses, "School Reform Issues around the World" and "Democratic Classroom Practice" at Jagiellonian University. This honor comes in recognition of his nearly 10 years of work with the Center for Citizenship Education in Warsaw and other cooperative partnerships with Polish colleagues.

When asked why he chose to apply for a Fulbright Dr. Fischer responded, "I have a partnership with a non-governmental organization in Poland called the Center for Citizenship Education. My work here in the International Democratic Education Institute has involved collaborating with them on curriculum development, teacher training and school reform efforts. As a result, I felt the need to spend a significant period of time in Poland so that I will have a better sense of issues in Polish schools, especially things such as democratic education, tolerance education, and how to design successful school reform models."



Dr. John M. Fischer

Dr. Fischer will be teaching at Jagiellonian University, one of the oldest universities in all of Europe. He will be working with their program in Educational Management on two seminars. The first seminar is on democratic education and the second focuses on school reform around the world. "I will continue my research on the various efforts we have been involved in, including our program "Expedition Inside Culture", a two-week workshop that takes BGSU students and young teachers recently graduated from college to Poland each summer and involves them in issues about culture and life in multi-ethnic democracies."

He feels that, this experience will, "help me to improve my abilities as a teacher when I return to BGSU in the Fall of 2008 and continue to strengthen the partnership between the International Democratic Education Institute in the College of Education and Human Development and the Center for Citizenship Education in Warsaw, Poland."

CIVITAS World Congress in Buenos Aires Argentina

The 11th Annual CIVITAS World Congress took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, May 17-20, 2007, co-sponsored by Asociacion Conciencia, Center for Civic Education and Civitas International. Approximately 250 people, from various civic, educational, community and governmental organizations, and representing over 20 countries, participated in the Congress. The congress theme: "Education for Democracy: Citizen Conscience and Action" reflected Argentina's history and politics and provided a timely forum to discuss this theme from various international perspectives and contexts.

In keeping with the above theme, the Congress was appropriately opened with a video on the universal historical moments related to the fight for freedom, democracy, political and civic rights. This moving video served to energize and guide the discussion and presentations of the Congress. The Congress had a diverse panel of speakers that included Deborah



Sharon Subreenduth, IDEI (left) with World Congress Participants

Price, Deputy Secretary, US Department of Education. She praised the work of the CIVITAS International Program in providing opportunities for people across the globe to discuss, share, understand and implement projects and activities that work towards the development of democracy and citizenship education. She highlighted the importance of the Congress "as a vehicle for learning about practices and programs to develop citizen consciousness."

Other august speakers included Blanca Ovelar de Duarte, secretary of Culture and Education, Paraguay and Earl Anthony Wayne, Ambassador for the United States of America. The Congress ended with plenary session titles: Looking to the past, struggling to the future. This plenary, reflective of the general Civitas programs, provided a forum for four organizations at various levels of development to reflect on the impact of their current and future work in civic education.



Oz Cuan, Florida Center for Law Related Education and Melissa Nowak, IDEI

IDEI was well represented at the Congress by Melissa Nowak, IDEI graduate student, who gathered data for her upcoming Master's project on Art and Democracy, and Sharon Subreenduth, who presented her recent research on civic education in South Africa. Other representatives from IDEI's international partnerships included Polina Verbytska (Ukraine), Jacek Stremieczny (Poland) and Anash Mangalparasad (South Africa). Glenn Manns (Kentucky) and Jan Cowin, Ponya Parks and Louis Smith (Alabama) were also present, making the 2007 World Congress a strong example of IDEI's many successful partnerships.

Currently the Center for Civic Education does not have plans for hosting a World Congress next year because of financial considerations. Hopefully, this annual event can continue because it serves as the only time and place where civic educators from around the world come together to learn from each other.



Closing Plenary of the World Congress

Poland Partnership Activities

The Ohio/Poland partnership activities have again shown the power of educational exchange. Three past participants of *Expedition Inside Culture*, Doug Bell, Jen Preslan and Matt Daniels, recently led a mini-Expedition in Northern Michigan, May 10-13.

The four-day, three-night workshop took place with twenty-six high school students representing Toledo Scott, Toledo Waite and Elyria high schools. The students represented many ethnicities, including African-American, European-American, and Latino ethnic groups under the leadership of Jen Preslan, Joe Czyzewski, Matt Daniels and Doug Bell. The idea for the workshop was originally generated in Silesia, Poland in 2005 during an *Expedition Inside Culture* workshop involving participants from Germany, Poland, Ukraine, Romania and the USA.

The creation of a smaller, condensed version of the Poland expedition took nearly two years of planning and fundraising to make the *Higgins Lake Expedition Inside Culture* become a reality.

The weather was beautiful, the food was incredible, and all of the scheduled guests and visits occurred without a hitch. The group had the entire campground to themselves and made use of its facilities without having to worry about infringing on anyone else's space. They stayed focused on the goals of developing the students' communication skills, leadership, teamwork, tolerance, awareness of cultural traits, and experience in field research. Daily and nightly meetings were held to review the day's events and to tweak the upcoming schedule as needed.

The student-participants exceeded all expectations during the workshop, and the advisors were impressed by their maturity and seriousness. One key to this success was the pre-trip meetings, held at each individual school, to prepare the students on the necessity of active participate to reap the full benefits of this opportunity.

The real test of what kind of impact was made on the students will now come from the steps they take to finish up their project. Every student understood that upon returning from the expedition, each school group would be expected to produce a "product" that would educate others about something they gained from their participation in the workshop. Based on their performance at Higgins Lake, we all are looking forward to what they will produce.

South African Partnership Activities



**PC Training Participants
Hermanus, South Africa**

Based on the success of the 2006 SA delegation visit to the US, the South Africa - Ohio - Kentucky partnership has successfully expanded to include the implementation of Project Citizen activities in the Western Cape. One of the offshoots of the 2006 visit was the identification of schools in Ohio and Kentucky to develop sister school collaborations with schools in KwaZulu Natal and Western Cape provinces in South Africa. Currently two schools in Ohio and one school in Kentucky have begun this collaboration. Other schools in Ohio and Kentucky and South Africa have been identified and will be paired when the new school year begins.

Significant developments have taken place with the expansion and use of Project Citizen in South Africa, particularly in the West Cape Province. On November 29 2006, the Western Cape Province held its first Project Citizen Showcase in Kuils River, Cape Town. In March 2007, Project Citizen training, sponsored by the Western Cape Education Department (WCED), took place in Hermanus (pictured above).

Thirty- four teachers from the Western Cape province participated in this Project Citizen training session. Key WCED representatives, Dennis Pillay, Manager of Strategic and Special Programs and Sindi Shayi; Chief Director Rural Education both spoke during the event. Rachart Job, Senior Circuit Manager represented the District; Yolisa Nciza represented the Eastern Cape and Ramond the North West Province. Subsequently, three teachers have been retrained and prepared to become trainers of PC in the Western Cape province. A facilitator workshop has been scheduled for July 2-3, and a Project Citizen teachers workshop for July 4- 6, 2007. The second Project Citizen showcase in Western Cape is scheduled

for October 2007, to coincide with the US delegation visit to South Africa. Congratulations to Sithengile Secondary School students who were selected to represent South Africa Project Citizen in the International Project Citizen showcase in Washington DC from July 13-17, 2007.

The Ohio and SA partnership is also pleased to announce a new initiative, Global Youth Parliaments, which will take place in Bowling Green and Toledo from July 18-24, 2007. The Global Youth Parliaments is a new initiative of the partnership between the Bowling Green State University's International Democratic Educational Institute, Human Values for Transformative Action (Toledo, Ohio) and the Centre for Community and Educational Development (Pietermaritzburg, South Africa). Through the creation of youth parliaments, these organizations seek to create networks between local teens and their counterparts abroad by training them to become Youth Ambassadors for Social Action. As Youth Ambassadors, young people will become empowered to raise social consciousness, promote civic engagement, and prompt social action within international communities.

Strengthening our Civitas Partnerships

In February 2007, partners from Ukraine, Ohio, and Alabama gathered in Birmingham Alabama to discuss future project plans and talk about partnership reporting for the 2005-2007 years. The greatest change discussed and decided upon involved bringing the partners together into one large partnership instead of continuing as linked partners working on distinct projects. The main goal of this new organization is to increase the sharing across all partnerships in both Europe and the US. Representatives from Ukraine, Ms. Polina Verbytska; Ohio, Dr. Alden Craddock, Dr. John Fischer and Ms. Melissa Nowak; and Alabama, Ms. Jan Bedford, Dr. Louis Smith, Ms. Ponya Parks were present throughout the course of the meeting. During this time, the partners discussed the development of Dr. Louis Smith's newly designed online course and options to strengthen its development. They also worked closely with a technology specialist from Alabama to discuss practical ways to design the course to be an effective tool for individuals learning the material internationally as well.

In addition, the group attended the Alabama Center for Law and Civic Education's state conference. Dr. Alden Craddock opened up the conference with an engaging message bringing light to the ideal focus of the conference and the

importance of contextual education practices. Following the opening message, Drs. Craddock and Fischer shared a presentation about teaching and democracy and three curricula to teach content, skills and attitudes necessary for effective democratic citizenship. Upon completion of the visit, the group worked together to discuss administrative details, development of a web-based course, and future meeting plans with possible locations for the partners. Next year's activities will include:

- an international exchange of educators and educational leaders between international partners and their US counterparts;
- continued expansion of teacher training workshops and involvement of schools in Project Citizen;
- the Expedition Inside Culture workshop, taking place June 2007 in the Mazury Lakes region of Poland;
- development of online courses targeted at youth and inservice educators;
- and continued support for democratic education reform efforts in Poland and Ukraine.

IDEI Mission

The mission of the International Democratic Education Institute is to engage in cooperative partnerships that advance scholarship, teaching, and dissemination of teaching and learning about democracy through contextual educational practice within schools in Ohio and partnering regions of the United States and the world.

Our Partners in Democracy

Administrative Office of the Courts,
Department of Court-Community Relations
Frankfort, KY USA

Alabama Center for Law and Civic
Education
Birmingham, AL USA

All-Ukrainian Association of Teachers of
History, Social Studies and Civic
Education "Nova Doba"
Lviv, Ukraine

Center for Civic Education
Calabasas, CA USA

Center for Citizenship Education
Warsaw, Poland

Centre for Community and Educational
Development
Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

Council for Citizenship Education
The Sage College, Troy, NY USA

The IDEI Bulletin is an occasional newsletter published by the International Democratic Education Institute (IDEI). Each edition highlights recent activities of the faculty of the Institute. For questions about the content of this edition or for more information about IDEI contact:

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