



# Bulletin

International Democratic Education Institute

Fall 2006

## The Director's Desk

I hope this Bulletin reaches you relaxed after a happy holiday season and beginning to a new year. As you will see from the following pages, we have all been hard at work over the Fall and early Winter on our partnerships and other activities to support democratic education.

In addition to our regular exchange activities, we have been proud to be involved in some *firsts* for IDEI. For instance, our South African partnership assisted with the *first* international Project Citizen showcase in the CIVITAS Africa program. We also hosted our *first* international scholar for a semester at BGSU that brought a new perspective to our programs and research. Lastly, we were successful in competing for our *first* million dollar project for a new program to work with colleagues in our *first* Middle East partnership.

While all of these *firsts* have us busy, we still hope to hear from you about how we can help you in fulfilling your plans for democracy education in the new year as well.

Happy New Year and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

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

## IDEI is awarded \$1M for new partnership

The International Democratic Education Institute at Bowling Green State University has received \$1,060,000 from the Higher Education Development program office of the U.S. Agency for International Development to conduct the Civic Education Partnership Initiative (CEPI) for the Middle East.

Dr. Alden Craddock, an assistant professor in the School of Teaching and Learning who directs the institute, and Dr. Awad Ibrahim, an associate professor in the School of Leadership and Policy Studies, both in the College of Education and Human Development, will lead the effort to assist partners in two different countries to develop democratic citizenship curricula for schools and universities.



Drs. Craddock (right) and Ibrahim

"Being awarded this grant is really a testament to the success of our institute's efforts in our other partnerships," Craddock said. "I believe our success results from the fact that we don't tell our partners what to do or simply translate our materials for them. Instead, we work together to provide them with an understanding of our

experience, both good and bad, and trust them to choose what they think will work in their context."

The CEPI program was originally planned to include partners in Lebanon and Morocco. However, events in Lebanon have excluded their participation at this time. Craddock said, "We hope to continue our Lebanese partners' involvement but the issues in that country are too difficult at the moment for them to be a primary partner currently." For this reason, Craddock and Ibrahim are exploring the possibilities of including partners from other nations in the region to join with them and their partners in Morocco (Hassan II University and Moroccan Center for Civic Education in Morocco) and the Center for Civic Education, Calabasas, CA to participate in the program.

Activities will begin immediately with travel to the region to begin planning the three-year project. According to Craddock, the new program will include activities on educational policy and practice in both countries based on the successful model IDEI has used with previous partnerships in Poland, South Africa and Ukraine.

## IDEI has its first International Scholar

On July 1, 2006, Bowling Green State University welcomed the arrival of visiting scholar Dr. Grzegorz Mazurkiewicz from Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland. During the course of Dr. Mazurkiewicz's visit, he taught two classes related to school reform issues, in addition to civic education. He also worked on the development of research and writing plans on democratic education.

One of the courses, EDCI 653, focused on action research philosophy and design. It was oriented on self-evaluation and allowed students to develop and conduct research projects in their schools and classrooms. The other course, EDTL 647, Inquiry in Secondary Social Studies known as "Democracy across Boundaries", focused on methods in teaching democracy, this course allows participants to practice, reflect and discuss the experience of their classrooms.

During his six month visit, Dr. Mazurkiewicz participated in multiple presentations, as well as other valuable scholarly work including class instruction and research projects. One notable example was his active involvement in the Phi Delta Kappa presentation "Expedition Inside Culture"; Building Awareness for Life in

Multi-ethnic Democracies." In the presentation, he shared how teachers, high school students, college students involved in EIC gain a raised awareness about world integration problems connected with the understanding of intercultural values. From his perspective, Dr. Mazurkiewicz believes EIC's main educational objective is to teach tolerance, openness and an understanding in global society.

While speaking of his first time at BGSU and with the IDEI, Dr. Mazurkiewicz stated, "This visit is a proof how powerful an exchange of ideas and practice are for the professional development of academics, researchers and teachers." In addition, he said that, "Well planned, organized and developed processes of learning through observation, discussion and cooperation within the area of democratic and intercultural education brings extraordinary results." He also felt that the number of "products", meetings and conferences show the efficacy of this kind of initiative and that the exchange of perspectives enriched both sides involved in the activities of this visit.

According to Mazurkiewicz the visit was successful for all. "It has to be mentioned that IDEI prepared this visit perfectly,



Dr. Grzegorz Mazurkiewicz, Jagiellonian University

showing deep thinking in designing the steps and stages of this visit, but also extremely high involvement and great skills of the logistic preparation of this visit. Working and living conditions allowed concentrating on assigned tasks. Accessibility of the needed facilities (library, offices, computers and printing equipment) supported effective work flow."

Scholarly products resulting from this visit included, "*Learning Schools: Democratic School Reform in Poland*", "*Building Connections and Community: the Roles Technology can Play in Tolerance and Democratic Education*", and "*Shades of Grey*" a research study, including Poland, Romania, and the States. This latter research focuses on an international study of teachers' beliefs and behaviors within areas connected to teacher efficacy and schooling in democratic society. Dr. Mazurkiewicz returned to Poland on December 20, 2007 and is preparing completion of more work regarding democratic citizenship resulting from his residency with the International Democratic Education Institute. Mazurkiewicz's time and impact were felt by all at IDEI. Our best wishes for his future academic endeavors and a successful year.



Dr. Mazurkiewicz (left) and Fischer presenting to Phi Delta Kappa

## Expedition Inside Culture Holds Fall Workshop at Put-In-Bay

In Fall, Expedition Inside Culture met to share their work during a meeting held in Put in Bay, Ohio. EIC brings together schools and universities from Romania, Lithuania, Ukraine, Germany, U.S.A, Slovakia, and Poland together in a place of significant cultural history. They work together to discover the character of the region and people, they make an effort to understand themselves and others, and build a capacity to analyze and interpret complex issues related to stereotypes and biases in schools and the media. Afterwards individuals return home and work to use the strategies in their schools and communities.

During the introduction of the meeting Dr. Mazurkiewicz started with strong thoughts about EIC. While thinking about Expedition Inside Culture, its goals and vision should be our central

focus when we try to talk with others about it. Throughout his views on EIC, Dr. Mazurkiewicz said that we have to permanently ask the questions: "why are we doing this? What do we want to achieve at the end?" During the Put in Bay Meeting, others discussed various aspects of EIC educational data with the group and noted the



positive findings being brought up through the evaluation study.

EIC plans for next year include an American attempt at a "mini-EIC" that will involve 45 high school juniors and seniors from three different schools in Ohio. The students will participate in an extensive four day expedition at South Higgins Lake State Park on Higgins Lake in northern Michigan in May of 2007.

Plans are also moving along for EIC 2007, which will take place in north-eastern Poland. American applications have been collected and five applicants from Bowling Green State University have been accepted. The Expedition will go for approximately a two-week period involving kayaking, rustic accommodations and a local history study in an area of Poland that has encountered significant issues in cultural history.

## South African Delegates Visit United States

The Civitas Africa South Africa partnership conducted two international exchanges in 2006. A US delegation, including Sharon Subreenduth (project director) Glenn Manns (KY project coordinator), June Price, (Swanton teacher) Judith Jackson May (Assistant Professor at BGSU) Melissa Smith, and Ken Ward (Boyle County HS) visited South Africa in June/July 2006. The US delegation arrived a day before the Youth Day commemoration and attended the national celebrations on Constitution hill in Krugersdorp. This event had a profound effect of the delegation and gave them an authentic perspective on the historical and political struggles of the apartheid era. The delegation visited schools, met with governmental officials, the US consulate and visited cultural sites. The US delegation conducted two workshops on active teaching and learning strategies and one on administrative leadership. In addition, Glenn Manns and Ken Ward

conducted an initial Foundations of Democracy (FOD) training for 25 South African educators. Two significant new initiatives emerged during this exchange. One involved a professional development retreat for Project Citizen teachers and the other a Youth Leadership Academy for PC youth. The success and potential of the Youth Leadership Academy resulted in a financial commitment from the SA Department of Education for its continuance in the future.

During September /October 01, 2006, five South African delegates visited the United States. Included in the delegation was Ms. Nomathemba Duma (Ethembeni School for the physically challenged), Ms. Jabulisiwe Mgabi (Sithengile Secondary school), Dennis Pillay (Manager of Strategic and Special Programs for the

Western Cape Education Department - WCED), Sindiswa Shayi (Chief Director of Regional Services with WCED), and Anash Mangalparsad (Director of The Centre for Community and Educational Development). The delegates participated in a number of activities in Ohio and Kentucky, including cultural enrichment, government meetings, school visits, workshops, professional development activities and other activities associated with the furthering of goals and ideals in the CIVITAS Africa project plan. Some specific discussions were held on *The Role of PC/Youth Programs in Engaging Civic Participation: An International Perspective*, dialogue on Teacher Driven School Reform Efforts with East Broadway Middle School educators and a BGSU CIVITAS Africa Presentation on *Strategy for Racial Integration: A South African Case Study* by Dennis Pillay and Sindiswa Shayi.

## Results are in on *Teaching for Democracy*

Much of Fall 2006 was spent on analyzing the data collected during the year-long comparative civic education research project, *Teaching for Democracy*. This project was designed to look at the impact of Project Citizen on student civic knowledge, attitudes and skills in four of our international partnerships sites: Poland, South Africa, Ukraine and the United States. Funding for the research was provided by the Center for Civic Education, the creator of the original US *We the People: Project Citizen* curriculum.

*Project Citizen* is a problem-based learning curriculum used for middle and secondary students in classrooms and other organizations. According to the Center for Civic Education, the curriculum, helps participants learn how to monitor and influence public policy. In the process, they develop support for democratic values and principles, tolerance, and feelings of political efficacy. Although each country adapts the US program to fit their own cultural needs, in all of the countries around the world where it is implemented, students identify community issues and attempt to contact local officials to discuss and address the issues.

To assess the impact of the program in our partnership sites, more than 400 students were surveyed and interviewed

before and after participating in the program. In addition, another set of students, who were not involved in Project Citizen, were also assessed in most sites to provide an additional point of comparison. Looking at the responses of these two groups provides us with a better understanding of the impact of Project Citizen in each site and also allows us to compare the results for each country.

The survey was cooperatively designed by all the partners using a variety of questions. Some of the items were drawn from the International Educational Association (IEA) 28 country study, while others were developed specifically for the needs of the research and partners. The student responses to both the survey and interview questions allow us to make several conclusions about Project Citizen's effectiveness in each cultural context.

Our research has identified areas of strength and difference in the students' responses to our inquiries. From our findings we are confident that Project Citizen does have an impact on student learning of democratic knowledge, skills and attitudes but those who want to know more will have to wait until our findings are made public this Spring.

### *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:

Alden W. Craddock, Ph.D.  
Director, IDEI  
Bowling Green State  
University  
529 Education Building  
Bowling Green, OH 43403

(T) 419-372-7320  
(F) 419-372-3998  
(E) [aldenc@bgsu.edu](mailto:aldenc@bgsu.edu)  
[www.bgsu.edu/idei](http://www.bgsu.edu/idei)

© 2007 by IDEI  
All Rights Reserved.

### International Democratic Education Institute

Bowling Green State University  
529 Education Building  
Bowling Green, OH 43403



**BGSU**