

Connexus

Connexus ~ Latin ~ bound together by ties of friendship, kinship, etc.

Spring 2008

From the Dean

International opportunities abound within the College of Education and Human Development. In this issue of *Connexus*, we highlight just some of those international opportunities through which our College is impacting not only our own community of faculty and students but our entire world as well.

In addition to those international opportunities mentioned in this edition of *Connexus*, partnership programs such as the one with the Aldine Independent School District in Houston, Texas, enable our students to work with more diverse populations than that which northwest Ohio can provide. For more information about this partnership, refer to the Fall 2007 issue of *Connexus* at www.bgsu.edu/colleges/edhd/connexus. Our study abroad programs enable our students to learn about different cultures. All of these types of endeavors enable us to better educate our students, further our faculty's research, and impact our world for the future.

On behalf of all of us in the College of Education and Human Development, thank you for your continued interest in and support of the College of Education and Human Development. Without your support, we could not continue to broaden our reach throughout our community, our nation and our world.



D. Rosalind Hammond

Democracy education gets boost

The International Democratic Education Institute (IDEI) brings together BGSU faculty, community leaders and other educators from the U.S. and abroad to promote democracy through education. IDEI projects have raised nearly \$2.5 million in external funds over the past three years to support ongoing partnerships between BGSU and organizations in Morocco, Poland, South Africa, Russia, Ukraine and other states in the U.S.

The partnerships in Morocco (Drs. Alden Craddock and Awad Ibrahim), Poland (Dr. John Fischer), South Africa (Dr. Sharon Subreenduth) and Ukraine (Craddock) have all recently been awarded new funds to support their various democracy education activities such as curriculum development, professional development and educational research. BGSU faculty and students as well as local teachers will participate in these programs to further the understanding and practice of democracy education.

For more information about IDEI, refer to www.bgsu.edu/idei or contact IDEI Director Dr. Alden Craddock at aldenc@bgsu.edu or 419-372-7315.



Drs. Alden Craddock (back row, from right) and Awad Ibrahim work with Moroccan colleagues outlining a new high school course on democratic citizenship for Moroccan schools.

SEEDS OF CHANGE:

Global Youth Parliament has roots at BGSU

From July 18-24, 2007, young leaders from the KwaZulu-Natal province in South Africa visited the Bowling Green area to kick off the creation of a Global Youth Parliament (GYP). Throughout the week, a core group of four South African students ages 15 to 16, accompanied by two teachers, six teens from Toledo and two from Marion, met with other area youth to participate in activities and conversations related to common youth issues, the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, human rights and social justice.

Spearheaded by Dr. Sharon Subreenduth (assistant professor, School of Teaching and Learning) and Dr. Lorna Gonsalves (executive director of Human Values for Transformative Action, a Toledo-based nonprofit organization), the GYP is a new initiative of a partnership among EDHD's International Democratic Education Institute (IDEI), Human Values for Transformative Action, and the Centre for Community and Educational Development (Pietermaritzburg, South Africa).

The parliament is designed to build networks of communication and collaboration between teenagers from South Africa and the United States and to develop the students' abilities as youth ambassadors for social action.

While in the U.S., the South African and Ohio students worked together on identifying common issues within their local communities and discussing their national and international implications. They began creating a plan of action to be implemented in both countries, and now that they are back in their own communities, they are further developing and implementing their plans. A future videoconference is planned with the youth ambassadors to share the progress of their action plans.

"As part of the GYP," Subreenduth said, "these young ambassadors learned how to communicate concerns about their communities, to identify ways to affect social policies, and to agree on an action plan to be implemented in both countries. Through these cross-national skill-building activities, these teenagers have become empowered to raise social consciousness, promote civic engagement and prompt social action within international communities. Hopefully, this experience will increase mutual understanding and enable the youth to build networks of communication and collaboration that can be sustained over time."

The South African delegation is the first of what is expected to be numerous parliaments linking area youth with their counterparts around the world—prompting them to become responsible and active citizens. For additional information about GYP, contact Dr. Sharon Subreenduth at ssubree@bgsu.edu or 419-372-7510.



Global Youth Parliament members work together with Toledo GROWS at an urban garden (Patua Center) in Toledo.

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The College of Education and Human Development has been doing great things for our students, faculty, alumni and community for years, and with your help we can do even more.

On January 21, current BGSU students will begin calling our alumni as part of the annual telefund drive. It is important that you fully recognize and understand what a tremendous impact your contribution will have.

Much has been accomplished over the years with the help and generosity of our alumni and donors—in fact, many of our greatest achievements would not have been possible without the financial support provided by you and others just like you. Scholarships have been created, community outreach efforts have been initiated and expanded, teaching and research methods have been continually updated to ensure that we remain on the cutting edge, and international impacts have been made.



Continued shrinking state support and budget cuts make your gift to the College even more critical at this juncture. Your contribution makes a huge difference no matter the amount. Each and every dollar helps us maintain and enhance the reputation we have earned for high-quality programs and top-notch graduates.

Thank you for your help!

Focus on an Advocate: Magdalena Muniz-Fribley

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Magdalena Muniz-Fribley, known to many as Manana, has devoted her life to health, fitness and balance in life. She maintains that focus in all aspects of her own life, including her service to BGSU as a College Advocate for the College of Education and Human Development.



After graduating from BGSU in 1985 with a degree in sports management, as a fitness specialist and athletic training minor, she has worked more than 20 years in the health club industry. In 2002 she earned an MBA from Franklin University.

Currently she is the Bath and Tennis Director at the prestigious New Albany (Ohio) Country Club. Responsible for assisting in the opening of the club in 1992, Muniz-Fribley helped lead a team of more than 90 employees and independent contractors in exceeding the members' expectations in the operation, programs and delivery of services at the country club. Today, she is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the 30,000 square-foot fitness, swim and spa facility. During her tenure, usage of the facility and revenues have increased.

Prior to her work at the New Albany Country Club, she was assistant athletic director for the Capital Club in Columbus, where she coordinated and marketed programs and services, as well as managed the daily operations there.

She has been a strong proponent of her alma mater since she graduated. Claiming that she is "grateful for the education I received at BGSU and the guidance of the faculty in the Sports Management program and the Kinesiology Division," Fribley has created two scholarships in the School of Human Movement, Sport and Leisure Studies (HMSLS). Both scholarships, which bear her name, are provided to students in HMSLS—one for kinesiology and one for sport management, recreation and tourism. A frequent speaker to sport management students, she was the May 2004 commencement speaker for the College of Education and Human Development and the College of Musical Arts.

She also is a member of the BGSU Presidents Club and the College of Education and Human Development Dean's Council.

Her professional memberships include the Club Management Association of America, International Health and Racquet Sports Association, International Association of Fitness Professionals, American College of Sports Medicine and American College on Exercise.

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Center focuses on international scholarship of engagement

The first of its kind in Ohio, the Center for International Comparative Education (ICE) focuses on sharing knowledge between cultures for the purposes of improving education and social conditions at home and abroad. International comparative education is a field devoted to the cross-national study of education and culture.

BGSU's new center facilitates an international scholarship of engagement through interdisciplinary research as well as instructional enhancement and outreach among faculty, students and communities. The center focuses on educational improvement in developing regions, especially Africa and the African Diaspora as well as historically marginalized populations in the United States.

Research, instruction and outreach projects of the ICE Center will feature a number of distinct attributes: 1) an educational focus to a research or social problem; 2) an international or cross-cultural emphasis; 3) an interdisciplinary approach (i.e., involving two or more disciplines or fields of study) and 4) an emphasis on globally strengthening education, social well-being and development. In light of increasing pluralism and greater global interdependence, this interdisciplinary, cross-cultural and international focus is vitally important.

Faculty and students from a variety of colleges across campus, namely Arts and Sciences, Education and Human Development, Health and Human Services, Continuing and Extended Education and Technology, will work together with international partners to address questions such as: How can communities that have been historically marginalized from resources and opportunities overcome inequities and other barriers through education? How do race, gender and socioeconomic status influence the kind and amount of education students receive and their experiences in schools and communities? What are the possibilities and limitations of globalization and its effects on cultures, nations, education, health and communication?

For more information about the ICE Center, contact ICE Center Director Dr. Patricia Kubow at pkubow@bgsu.edu or 419-372-7380.

Next time in *Connexus*

For months, leaders from across the state have been engaged in working to develop the goals and strategies for the University System of Ohio's 10-year plan. Ohio's network of public colleges and universities includes 13 universities with 24 branch campuses; a public medical school; and 23 two-year technical and community colleges working in a collaborative, cooperative environment.

As one of Ohio's universities, BGSU has also been engaged in careful strategic thinking and focus so that we may maintain a coherent instructional vision and implement it in an efficient and effective way within the University System of Ohio.

In addition, the College of Education and Human Development also has been reviewing its existing strategic plans and benchmarking the basic criteria through a "compact" reporting process to the Office of the Provost. Our compact addresses several key questions, such as: 1) What is EDHD's core mission? 2) What support is essential for this core mission? 3) What are we engaged in that does not directly relate to this core mission?

As things are finalized, we will communicate this information through another issue of *Connexus* designed to share the strategic plans contained in EDHD's compact.

MACIE gains momentum

Starting with two students from South Africa and Colombia in its first year, the Master of Arts in Cross-cultural and International Education (MACIE) program has currently grown to 10 students in the 2007-08 academic year. With even more students potentially starting in January, this new program is gaining momentum. The program prepares professional educators to be effective leaders in the internationalization of schools and communities and to be positive facilitators of cross-cultural understanding.

The only program of its kind in the region, MACIE is designed to meet the needs of classroom teachers who plan to stay in the classroom, as well as people who will not be teaching in the traditional classroom but are nevertheless involved in educational outreach to disparate groups. Most other cross-cultural/international programs are doctorate programs designed for future professors.

After taking the core classes, MACIE students choose an interdisciplinary, cross-cultural focus in gender constructs, international development and marginal populations, or second language acquisition. This enables MACIE students to develop their own theme based on what they want to do or where they want to work.

Another requirement that sets MACIE apart from other programs is the cross-cultural, 120+ hour internship, either in another country or in the United States, working with a group that is under-represented or culturally different from the student. Some current locations include Siberia, Swaziland, Kenya and England, with more being added all the time.

For more information about MACIE, refer to www.bgsu.edu/colleges/edhd/edfi/macie.



MACIE students (back row, from left) Eric Beutikofer, Jim Pippin and Eric Roth; (middle row from left) Claudia Nieto, Annette de Nicker, Lihong Yang, Ronda Alexander, Megan Burley and Mary Zychowicz; (front row, from left) Adia Major and Amy Warfield.