

## IA Update



## **Newsletter for the International Assembly of NCSS**

http://www.towson.edu/internationalassembly/

Volume 7, Issue 1

**April 2009** 

## **Message from the President**

Iftikhar Ahmad, IA President Long Island University iahmad@liu.edu



Dear Colleagues:

#### Greetings!

It gives me great pleasure to share with you exciting news about the International Assembly (IA). First, IA is growing fast. This year several dozen new global educators from around the world are joining IA and will be, for the first time, participating in our annual conference. The new members will enrich IA with their fresh ideas and diverse expertise in global education. They will also enhance the IA intellectual capacity, enabling it to pursue its goals with a new vigor and vitality. On behalf of the Executive Board and members, I warmly welcome all new members to the IA family.

Second, our new Vice President/Program Chair, Professor Yali Zhao, is undertaking a commendable task of putting together the program for our 2009 annual conference. Recently, Professor Zhao and I met in Atlanta to plan for the conference. Together we examined and approved the conference facilities for our program events on Thursday, November 12 through

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## Message from the Vice-President and Program Chair

Yali Zhao, IA Vice-President and Program Chair Georgia State University yzhao@gsu.edu



Dear Colleagues:

#### Greetings!

First of all, let me say "Thank You" to all who attended the International Assembly roundtable sessions and other IA activities at the 2008 NCSS conference. Your inspiring thoughts, insightful teaching ideas, and wonderful research made our 2008 conference a great success. Special thanks go to our international social science educators and scholars who traveled from different parts of the world to Houston to enlighten us with stimulating presentations and crosscultural/global perspectives. It is such a joyful and rewarding experience to see our colleagues and friends across nations come together to share our visions and our work with the common goal of making this world a better and more peaceful world in which to live.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to Mrs. Eleanor Goldstein and EGEG Foundation for their generous support of the mission of the International Assembly in the past few years. In 2008, with Eleanor's monetary support, IA was able to hold two important and successful events: a) Jan L. Tucker Memorial Lecture by Dr. Caiphas T. Nziramasanga of the University of Zimbabwe, and b) an invited luncheon in honor of the Distinguished Scholar of Global Education, Professor John J. Cogan from the University of Minnesota. Once again, we appreciate Mrs. Goldstein's generosity and contributions as a global educator who inspires us all to work together as global citizens.

Thank you, Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad (IA current president) and Dr. Gloria Alter (IA past president) for your inspiring leadership and dedicated work. I deeply admire your talents, time, and efforts that created such a successful program. Special thanks also go to Dr.

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### **Message from the President (continued)**

Saturday, November 14, 2009. All IA events are scheduled at two adjacent locations: The Georgia World Congress Center and the Omni Hotel at the CNN Center. Thank you, Professor Zhao, for your sincere efforts, organizational skills, and enthusiasm.

Third, presenters in this year's roundtable sessions on Friday, November 13, 2009 explore a variety of interesting and timely global education themes including human rights, world peace, and global citizenship. These themes are consistent with the 89<sup>th</sup> NCSS conference theme, *Dreams and Deeds*: The Civic Missions of Schools, in that in an age of deep global interdependence and rising human migration, the civic mission of schools should be about fostering inter-cultural understanding, building bridges between nations and communities, and teaching global citizenship skills to students. Hence, it is essential that schools incorporate the global education agenda into the school curricula and pedagogy. I am encouraged that presenters, especially the new presenters, selected the IA roundtable format for sharing their scholarship. We will all benefit from their insights.

Finally, I wish to thank all members of the Executive Board for contributing their time and wisdom to the IA mission. Dr. Laura E. Meyers, our newsletter editor, deserves special thanks for volunteering her time and skills. Special thanks also go to our two past presidents who continue to enlighten us with their wisdom and experience: Drs. Toni Fuss Kirkwood-Tucker and Gloria Alter. Most importantly, I wish to express my gratitude to Eleanor Goldstein who has once again very graciously agreed to sponsor our two events: the Jan L. Tucker Memorial Lecture and the Distinguished Global Scholar Award Luncheon.

I look forward to meeting you all in Atlanta. Until then, have a productive and fruitful summer!

With Peace and Love,

Iftikhar Ahmad



## **Useful Websites**

World Health Organization (WHO) http://www.who.int/en/

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) http://www.cdc.gov/

## Message from the Vice President (continued)

Toni Fuss Kirkwood-Tucker, IA Liaison to EGEG Family Foundation, chair of Distinguished Global Scholar Selection Committee and Invited Luncheon of the EGEG Foundation. Her efforts and tremendous work on these events are much appreciated. Of course, I'm very grateful to all IA Executive Board members and IA members who have shown great support to the continuous development of IA.

Despite recent economic recession and budget cuts in many institutions, we still had over 50 presenters at the 2008 IA round table sessions representing many parts of the world, such as U.S., Canada, Australia, China (mainland of China, Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan), Japan, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey. The themes for the IA round table sessions included social education in different regions, models of global education, human rights education, national identity in global contexts, models of civic education, social studies pedagogy and curriculum reform in different countries. IA also held joint sessions with CUFA and CS4.

This year we will meet in Atlanta, Georgia. The conference theme is *Embrace the Future*. International Assembly welcomes this theme because it is consistent with our mission, and it urges us to think about and prepare for the challenges we will face in global education. Our proposals for the roundtable sessions should address some aspect of this theme. Guidelines for proposals are given in "Call for Proposals." I look forward to receiving your proposals by April 30.

Colleagues who are non-U.S citizens and will be traveling from overseas may apply for a travel grant. Information about travel grants was sent to IA members via email.

Additional note: NCSS Executive Board is interested in holding an international social studies conference in Beijing or Shanghai, China in 2014. There will be a meeting about this international conference on Saturday, November 14, 2009 at the NCSS conference in Atlanta (1:30-3:30 p.m.). We encourage interested IA members to come to this meeting and see how you can contribute to this conference. We have set up a web blog to facilitate more inputs and discussions about this conference: http://ssinternational.wordpress.com. As scheduled by the NCSS Board, there will be an International Visitors Reception on Thursday night, November 12, 2009 (5:30-7:30 p.m.) and also an International Visitors Panel session on Saturday, November 14, 2009 (11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.).

I look forward to meeting you all in Atlanta.

Sincerely,

Yali Zhao

## 2008 Distinguished Scholar of Global Education Award Winner Dr. John Cogan

The Executive Board of the International Assembly of the National Council for the Social Studies was proud to honor Dr. John Cogan as the Distinguished Global Scholar of the Second Half of the 20th Century at the 2008 IA conference. The Global Scholar Award was sponsored by the generosity of the Eleanor and Elliot Goldstein (EGEG) Family Foundation.

Dr. Cogan completed his formal educational studies at The Ohio State University where he has received both his MA and Ph.D degrees in Social Studies Education while teaching elementary school in the Columbus Public Schools. He has been teaching and doing research at the University of Minnesota for over 38 years as a professor of global and comparative education. He has published numerous articles in this field. Dr. Cogan won the Global Engagement Award from the University of Minnesota in 2007. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Education by the University Council of Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University in Thailand in 2005. Other awards include: NCSS Exemplary Research in the Social Studies for 2000 (with Walter Parker and Akira Ninomiya), AERA Research in the Social Studies SIG "Outstanding Paper of the Year" for 1998 (with Walter Parker and Akira Ninomiya), and recipient of the Fulbright-Hays Senior Research Grant: Comparative Study of Global Teacher Education in Japan and U.S., 1982-83.

Congratulations Dr. Cogan, and thank you once again for your amazing contributions as a global scholar.

## **IA Journal Update**

IA is developing a new journal with the working title of *Journal of International Social Studies*. It will be an online, open-access journal, and the first edition will be coming out during the next academic year. The emphasis will be on social studies scholarship and research with an international focus. The journal is particularly interested in social studies in an international setting. Submission guidelines and topics for articles will appear on the IA website in the very near future. Stay tuned!

Visit this link for IA Journal updates: http://www.towson.edu/internationalassembly/journal.html

Inquiries regarding the IA Journal may be sent to the editor, Dr. Lee Bisland, via email: Beverly.Bisland@qc.cuny.edu.

## Nomination for 2009 Distinguished Scholar of Global Education Award

This International Assembly award, sponsored by the EGEG Family Foundation, recognizes scholars who have made seminal contributions in teaching, writing, and leadership in the field of global education during their careers.

Our culture pays homage to pop celebrities, athletes, politicians, and movie stars. In a world made small by internet communications and jet travel, it is important that our society begins to recognize global educators, people who have made international and cross-cultural understanding their life's work. This award honors scholareducators: as scholars they have devoted time to research, using the best techniques of problem-solving and inquiry; and as educators, they have transmitted this information to their peers and students.

Jan L. Tucker was the first recipient of this new award in 2005; James A. Becker was the second recipient in 2006; Charlotte and F. Lee Anderson were the recipients in 2007; and Dr. John Cogan was the recipient in 2008.

For information about the Distinguished Scholar of Global Education Award, and to submit nominations, please contact directly Dr. Toni Fuss Kirkwood-Tucker of the International Assembly at kirkwoodtf@aol.com. *Nomination deadline is May 15, 2009.* 

## The International Assembly of Social Educators 2009 Travel Grant

Persons applying for the travel grant must meet the following criteria:

- "International scholar" traveling from overseas;
- NCSS/IA member at the time of application;
- Expected to attend the conference, taking advantage of the conference sessions offered;
- Expected to use information and skills gained at the conference to improve your education efforts:
- If awarded a grant, the person will not be eligible for a grant for two subsequent NCSS/IA annual conferences;
- If declining to attend, the award is forfeited and cannot be applied to other conferences.

The complete application form is available on the IA website:

http://www.towson.edu/internationalassembly/conferences.html

Please send completed applications by May, 30 2009 to: \_Dr. Patricia Pederson, Travel Grant Administrator ppederson@ets.org

## IA 2008 CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



Colleagues from around the world share their work, ideas, and plans to develop more globally-minded citizens.



Lin Lin, Hsueh-chun Chang, and Yali Zhao.



Eleanor Goldstein speaks at award lucheon (left), other prestigious colleagues (from left to right): Dr. John Cogan, Dr. Caiphas T. Nziramasanga, and Dr. Toni Fuss Kirkwood-Tucker.



Iftikar Ahmad, new IA President, speaks during the luncheon.



Thank you to all of our colleagues who traveled from near and far to join us in Houston, Texas!



We collected interesting information from all speakers - from round tables to key note addresses.



Dr. Cogan signs one of his books after the presentation.



A special thank you to Gloria Alter for all of her hard work!

## Special Project Supported by the International Assembly

#### Adopt-A-School Project

The Adopt-A-School Project provides resources (e.g., backpacks and school supplies) to needy schools in the developing world. The International Assembly recently selected the Mwanje Full Primary School (grades 1-8) as our first recipient. Josiah Tlou has a long-standing relationship with the school, and can assure us that donated resources will be transported and utilized effectively.

The International Assembly will support this effort through an annual \$500 donation. Individual members will provide matching funds to bring the total to at least \$1,000/year. This is a minimal amount, as it would cover only one grade level. So we are also encouraging the National Council for the Social Studies State Affiliates and Associated Groups to join us in supporting the Mwanje School.



## **2009** Update on the Adopt-A-School Project Contributed by: Lin Lin, Project Coordinator

Greetings from Cortland, Central New York! Thank you, all donors, for your generosity and best wishes. The Adopt-A-School Project has been moving along very well this year. Credit goes to Dr. Masato Ogawa from Indiana University at Kokomo, who collected and deposited \$1128 as the total donation as of March 30, 2009 to NCSS on the International Assembly account. A number of backpacks – 105 to be exact! – are being ordered for 7<sup>th</sup> graders at the Mwanje School. Dr. Patricia Kelly and her students from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (known as Virginia Tech) will be taking these backpacks to the children in Malawi in June 2009. We wish Dr. Kelly and her students safe travels!

Additionally, we can't thank Dr. Josiah Tlou enough for his efforts in making this project possible. Also, I would like to thank Dr. Gloria Alter who coordinated this project last year for the first time. I could not have taken over this worthwhile project without the paper trail Dr. Alter left. She is always a call or email away, if I need her advice or suggestions. I would also like to thank Dr. Mary Johnson, and many others for helping us advertise for our project at last year's IA session. Dr. Frans Doppen of Ohio University has done an amazing job with his students. They raised \$600 for the Adopt-A-Well Project, which will hopefully be approved by IA at this year's upcoming conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Their contributions and successful fundraising are highly appreciated and greatly encouraged! If you haven't donated to this meaningful project and want to be a part of it, please contact Dr. Masato Ogawa at mogawa@iuk.edu for the best and easiest way to make a donation.

## MWANJE PRIMARY SCHOOL Malawi, Africa





## **Professor Inspires Students to Act as Global Change Agents**

Dr. Frans Doppen, Associate Professor at Ohio University, incorporated a service learning project into his Middle Childhood Social Studies Methods course this year. His 30 undergraduate students learned about the country and people of Malawi, located in the southeastern region of Africa. More specifically, they learned about the needs of the young children at the Mwanje Primary School.

Dr. Doppen introduced this information to his students using brochures and guest speakers. "I used the brochure [I received at the IA annual conference] to introduce the class to the Mwanje School," he shared. "Next, I organized the class into six groups. Each group developed a mini-unit of four lessons on Malawi." The guest speaker made a sincere impact on these students. A native speaker from Malawi who grew up in Blantyre visited the students and gave a presentation about political developments and democratization. The speaker emphasized how that has positively impacted AIDS policies in the country. The speaker also touched on internal cultural differences.

At this point, students were divided into 3 groups and charged with the task of "finding a way to support the Mwanje Project." Since the school's inception in 1997, the local community has sought assistance in continuing to repair and construct facilities, purchase teaching materials, and provide students with basic learning tools. Although it has been a difficult road for the community, citizens persevere because of their dedication to providing an education to their young children. Of Dr. Doppen's three groups, two groups decided to raise funds while one group opted to solicit school supplies. Posters were created, flyers were distributed, and donations started rolling in from local businesses, offices at Ohio University, and college students. A total of \$600 was collected by the end of the project. "The students really came through in a big way," Dr. Doppen stated. The monetary donation will go toward a "bore hole for safe drinking water" which typically costs \$5,000 – \$6,000. "I think we've made a great start!" said Dr. Doppen.

As a closing activity, the 30 Ohio University students participated in a teleconference with the principal of the Mwanje Primary School, Mrs. Makiyi. They called her cell phone at 9:00 a.m. their time, 4:00 p.m. Malawi time. Although the phone connection was poor, the personal connection experienced by these students and the principal was great.

The reflections the students wrote about the Mwanje project were generally very positive. The students very much liked learning about Malawi and developed a better notion that Africa is a very diverse continent. They also liked that they were able to make a difference in the lives of children in need. For many, the phone call with Mrs. Makiyi helped to make a personal connection, which was an important lesson learned not only by the students but Dr. Doppen as well. Dr. Doppen hopes that when his students are in charge of their own classrooms one day, they will be able to lean on this experience with the Mwanje School as an example for their young students. He offers a bit of advice to other university instructors. "The key has been, I believe, to build it into your course syllabus, but let the students themselves decide what to do to support the objectives of the project." Service learning projects need to incorporate buy in on behalf of the students, scaffolding on behalf of the practitioner, and reflection throughout. Dr. Doppen added, "I hope to repeat this project next year."

If you would like to contact Dr. Frans Doppen regarding this project, he can be reached via e-mail: doppen@ohio.edu.



Dr. Frans Doppen of Ohio University.



Dr. Doppen's students who initiated a service learning project to assist the Mwanje Primary School.

## International Assembly Executive Committee & Appointed Positions 2009-2011

**IA Executive Board Members** 

President: Iftikhar Ahmad (2008-2010)

Long Island University

iahmad@liu.edu

Vice President Program

dent Yali Zhao (2009-2011) Georgia State University

Chair:

yzhao@gsu.edu

Past President: Gloria Alter (2008-2010)

Beloit College

galter9@comcast.net

Chair Toni Fuss Kirkwood-Tucker (2008-2010)

EGEG Family Foundation Liaison Distinguished Global Scholar Selection

Committee

Invited Luncheon of the EGEG Foundation

Florida State University kirkwoodtf@yahoo.com

Secretary/

Sadiq Abdullahi (2008-2010)

**Treasurer:** Homestead High School/

Florida International University abdullahis@dadeschools.net

Newsletter

Laura E. Meyers (2009-2011)

**Editor:** 

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Frans Doppen (2008-2010)

at-Large:

Ohio University

doppen@ohio.edu

Lin Lin (2007-2009)

Adopt-A-School Program Chair (2008-2010)

SUNY at Cortland linlin@cortland.gsu.edu

Carolyn Mahony (2007-2009)

Administrator for our new IA-FASSE Grant

for International Understanding

Oakland University omahony@oakland.edu

Misato Yamaguchi (2008-2010)

The Ohio State University misatoy2000@gmail.com

Appointed Positions

Historian: Josiah Tlou (2008-2010)

Virginia Technological and

State University tlou@vt.edu

Membership: Gail Vander Heide (2008-2010)

Oregon Council for the Social Studies

gail@vanderheides.com

Travel Grant Administrator: Patricia Pederson ppederson@ets.org

Journal

**Editor:** Beverly Milner (Lee) Bisland

Queens College of the City University

of New York

Beverly.Bisland@qc.cuny.edu

Editor....Laura E. Meyers

IA Update is published twice a year by the International Assembly. Previously published newsletters are available on the NCSS website: http://www.towson.edu/internationalassembly/. A special thank you to all those who contributed to this issue of the newsletter! If you would like to contribute to future issues, contact the editor directly (lemeyers@gsu.edu). We welcome stories, photos, and other worthwhile contributions!

# The International Assembly (IA) of Social Educators Meeting 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the National Council for the Social Studies \*Dreams and Deeds: The Civic Missions of Schools \*Atlanta, Georgia, USA \*Friday, November 13, 2009

The International Assembly (IA) represents the principal international forum of The National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) Annual Conference for social educators from around the world. Participants in the conference interact, share, and develop ideas, approaches, and solutions to problems, issues, and the growing challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century as we address and implement social studies in our respective learning communities.

Dreams and Deeds: The Civic Missions of Schools is a fitting theme for the 2009 conference. As global educators we prepare global citizens who hold inspiring dreams for our future and contribute to the betterment of our world. We need to help our students become citizens who are equipped with appropriate skills, attitudes, and approaches in this constantly changing and increasingly diverse society. The 2009 NCSS conference will highlight the central role of social studies in our schools: preparing 21st century citizens who have learned to serve and to participate actively in improving our world. We sincerely hope you will make plans to join us in Atlanta this coming November for the 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference!

International Visitors Reception – Thursday night, November 12, 2009 (5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.)
International Assembly of Social Educators Meeting – Friday, November 13, 2009
International Visitors Panel session – Saturday, November 14, 2009 (11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.)

Should you have any questions or inquiries regarding the conference, please contact Dr. Yali Zhao, IA Vice President and Program Chair (yzhao@gsu.edu). For more details about the conference, visit the IA website http://www.towson.edu/internationalassembly/index.html or visit the NCSS conference website http://www.socialstudies.org/conference.



Atlanta skyline at night.

#### **IA MEMBERSHIP**

The International Assembly provides a forum for collaboration and interchange of ideas among NCSS members from the United States and foreign countries. The Assembly promotes linkages among NCSS educators to enhance professional development, to enrich social studies learning, and to share research, learning activities, and teaching methods with global perspectives. The Assembly conducts its own program and business meeting during the NCSS Annual Conference.

Annual dues: \$20 for residents of the United States and for residents outside of the United States.

Each associated group has its own membership dues, which are in addition to NCSS membership. For more details on membership, go to <a href="http://www.socialstudies.org/membership/">http://www.socialstudies.org/membership/</a>

International members of the International Assembly are required to be members of the National Council of the Social Studies (NCSS). International members of the NCSS are automatically also members of the INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY. If you are a current US member of NCSS and wish to join the INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY, please send a \$20.00 (US) check or money order to:

National Council for the Social Studies, Membership Department 8555 Sixteenth Street – Suite 500 Silver Springs, MD, 20910 Phone: 1-800-296-7840

#### INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The International Assembly is a forum within the NCSS for discussion of the international dimensions of the Social Studies. Membership is open to all members of NCSS who are interested in the development and implementation of Social Studies within the Global Village.

## The International Assembly of Social Educators 2009 Travel Grant

Please Type

| Name:   | Address:                   |
|---|----------------------------|
| City:   | State/Province:            |
| Country:  | Zip/Postal Code:           |
| Telephone:  | Fax:                       |
| E-mail:   | Institutional Affiliation: |
| National Council for the Social Studies Membership Number:  |                            |
| How many years have you been a member of the International Assembly?                              |                            |
| How many International Assembly/NCSS annual conferences have you attended in the last five years? |                            |

#### Please answer the following on a separate page. Responses should be 1-2 paragraphs each. Please type responses.

- 1. Briefly describe your current position as a social studies educator.
- 2. Briefly describe the value you see in attending an Annual NCSS/IA conference. Please identify specific information, skills, or contacts you seek at the conference, and indicate how they will be used and shared with your colleagues *and* students.

#### I understand that:

- *U.S. citizens and persons living in the U.S. are ineligible for this award;*
- I must be an "international scholar" traveling from overseas to be eligible for this grant;
- I must be an NCSS/IA member at the time of application to be eligible for this grant;
- I am expected to attend the conference, taking advantage of the conference sessions offered;
- I am expected to use the information and skills gained at the conference to improve my education efforts;
- If awarded this grant, I will not be eligible for this grant for two subsequent NCSS/IA annual conferences; and
- If I decline to attend, the award is forfeited and can <u>not</u> be applied to other conferences.

By submitting this application, I certify that all statements made above are true and correct.

#### Please send the completed application to:

Patricia Pederson, Travel Grant Administrator: ppederson@ets.org

The International Assembly of Social Educators reserves the right to review, accept or reject any and all applications without penalty and further reserves the right to pursue legal recourse in the case of fraudulent application for funds.