



IA Update

Newsletter for the International Assembly of NCSS

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September 2002

A Message from Vicki A. Green, Chair of the International Assembly

Greetings to all !

Our attendance continues to be a committed group of international educators. The meeting last year in Washington after 9/11 was smaller than in other years as can be expected and understood.

The 9th annual meeting of the International Assembly in Phoenix reflects the hopes and aspirations of its founding members. In less than a decade, The IA has found a comfortable home within the NCSS community of social educators. As Chair, my two - year term is finished and I join previous Chairs, Bob Fowler, Hans Hooghoff, and Gavin Faichney. It is with great admiration and respect that I acknowledge the work done by previous executive members of the International Assembly. The Assembly has continued to grow as a clearinghouse for scholarship, curriculum development and teaching practice in social studies.

We continue to grow in many diverse ways within the International Assembly. Our paid membership is larger with many thanks from NCSS for automatically having

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Greetings From The Program Chair

Omiunota N. Ukpokodu, Ph.D.

Dear Colleagues:

As Program Chair, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to an exciting 2002 program with the International Assembly of the NCSS (IANCSS). I would like to thank those of you that submitted proposals to make our conference an intellectually and socially rewarding one. As we know the roundtable paper presentations are possible only when individuals send in proposals. We are working diligently to deliver an exciting program of papers representing an array of international perspectives on social education, and reflecting the latest thinking and paradigms on social education.

In addition, we will continue with one of our cherished traditions—the Jan Tucker Memorial lecture. I am pleased to inform you that we have secured an inspiring speaker for the 2002 Jan Tucker Memorial lecture—Sinha Shall. A leading expert on the life and work of Mahatma Gandhi, Sinha is well known for his extraordinary impersonation of the personality and wisdom of Mahatma Gandhi. The Jan Tucker Memorial lecture will be held on Friday, November 22 from 12 – 1pm. Also, don't forget about the IA reception, which will be held on Friday evening (location to be announced). As usual, we encourage each participant to bring a recorded tape of music/song and snack that represent his or her cultural/national heritage or international experience to make the evening an international and socially rewarding experience.

Further, as we plan to share our unique perspectives on social education, let me encourage each of us to think beyond our paper presentation and to reflect deeply on what we could be doing differently or more as global

all foreign members belong to the IA. Dr. David Hicks

Message from Chair

as the Webmaster has brought the IA into the future with the well-designed web page. Dr. Omiunota Ukpokodu, Vice Chair has organized excellent sessions for the IA in Washington and Phoenix. The Phoenix program offers participants insight into papers written by international scholars. Omiunota moves into the role of Chair and will provide the direction needed at this new stage of development for the IA. The newsletter is on an even keel as Dr. Guichun Zong has assumed the editorship.

The executive positions open this year include the Vice Chair as Oniunota Ukpokodu assumes the responsibilities of Chair. Three 1-year members-at large are needed. Please consider letting your name stand for these executive positions. We value your support and ask you to join us in Phoenix in November. Drop into the reception hosted by the International Assembly.

News from IA Members

Dr. William Gaudelli from University of Central Florida, along with a group of U.S. teacher educators in social studies ventured to Hungary in April-May of 2002. The trip was organized by the Civitas program and sponsored by the Center for Civic Education. The delegation, consisting of representatives from Florida, Mississippi, and Texas, traveled to Szeged University in the south of Hungary to engage in a week-long dialogue about preparing teachers to be civic educators. While in Hungary, the group visited a bilingual secondary school where delegates observed a lesson about ancient Greek society, witnessed the national finals of the student competition, Polgár a Demokráciában (Citizen in a Democracy, roughly equivalent to the We the People... competition in the U.S.), observed a discussion among teacher candidates about the treatment of Roma people, and had rich conversations about the challenges of civics education in old and new democracies. In reflecting the trip experience, **Dr. Gaudelli** highlighted three characteristics of Hungarian civic education: eagerness to promote civic education, willingness to connect this knowledge area with tradition of intellectual rigor, and tentativeness in addressing controversial issues vital to civics, such as ethnic minorities.

Dr. Guichun Zong from University of Kentucky was invited to make a presentation, "Integration Internet Technology to Prepare Teachers for A Global Age" at **9th Annual International Education and Resource**

Network (iEARN) Conference and 5th Youth Summit, which was held in Moscow, Russia during

Message from Program Chair

I would like for us to take a few minutes during the conference to have some conversations about how we can revitalize IA and to increase its impact and role in the NCSS and social education across the globe.

We are excited by the possibilities that this program hopes to bring to all IA participants through the exchange, sharing of ideas, perspectives, and collaboration, as we continue our efforts toward educating for critical citizenship in order to promote a more just, equitable, and humane world.

I look forward to seeing you in November!!!!

News

July 7-14. Educators and students from 63 countries attended the conference. iEARN (www.iearn.org) is a non-profit organization made up of over 4,000 schools in nearly 100 countries. It empowers teachers and young people to work together online at very low cost using the Internet and other new technologies.

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