Global Center’s Summer Institutes Attract More International Participants

For the fifth year in a row, The Center for the Study of Global Change (CSGC) hosted two concurrent International Studies Summer Institutes, one for high school students and the other for grade 7–12 teachers. They took place July 8–22 at Indiana University Bloomington and were led by N. Brian Winchester, executive director, and Kenneth Steuer, the institutes’ director. These two-week institutes encourage participants to apply critical thinking and problem-solving skills to understanding international and global issues and expose them to a diversity of interdisciplinary perspectives, while taking advantage of the vast resources available at the university.

The institutes are offered through the collaborative efforts of IU’s many international and area studies centers, with combined funding from the U.S. Department of Education Title VI grants and other sources. These centers are the African Studies Program; Center for International Business Education and Research; Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies; Center for the Study of Global Change; Center for the Study of Institutions, Population, and Environmental Change; East Asian Studies Center; India Studies Program; Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center; Russian and East European Institute; and West European Studies National Resource Center.

This summer there were 35 student participants from 13 states and 4 foreign countries (Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, and Turkey), and 17 teacher participants from 4 states and 6 foreign countries (Japan, the Netherlands Antilles, Nigeria, the Philippines, Peru, and Thailand). International participation in both of the institutes is highly valued, and the CSGC worked very closely with IU’s International Alumni Clubs to attract and recruit overseas participants. These clubs helped with advertising and promotion, and also handled preliminary application procedures, including some interviewing. For this year, CSGC offered scholarships for one teacher and two student participants from abroad to cover their full program costs while within the United States. The international participants made up almost one-third of the total number.

Together with institute staff from Canada, Finland, Georgia, Italy, and Senegal, this year’s Summer Institutes embodied a truly global spirit and character.

Angene Wilson of the School of Education at the University of Kentucky was appointed as CSGC’s Distinguished Scholar in Residence and was the instructor of record for the teachers’ institute, supervising the academic program. The students’ institute was taught by four exemplary social studies teachers known for their innovative approaches to teaching international studies. They were Greg Lewis (Columbus East High School, Columbus, Indiana), Attilia Gogel (Signature School, Evansville, Indiana), Ron Reichel (Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School, Indianapolis, Indiana) and Susan Hume (Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas). Joining the staff were residence counselors drawn from the international graduate student population at IUB: Amadou Fofana (French-speaking HPER graduate student from Senegal); Sergo Japaridize (journalism graduate student from Georgia); Hanna Viljanen (music graduate student from Finland);

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Teachers Ruth Obaka from Nigeria and Blaine Van Der Snick from Bloomington listen to a presentation.

Natasha Vaubel (comparative literature graduate student with extensive experience in Africa); and CSGC’s institutes coordinator, Deb Hutton (from Canada).

The academic programs for both institutes featured guest lectures by national figures and IUB faculty, small group discussions, panel discussions, computer-assisted role-playing simulations, and live interactive video link-ups. Among the national presenters were Joel Pett, Pulitzer Prize winner and nationally syndicated cartoonist; Barbara Vogel of the STOP Campaign on Sudanese Slavery; and Fred Walk of the Population Reference Bureau. In the two video link-up sessions, some participants were using the technology for the first time. The link-up was with the International Forum on Globalization in Sausalito, California, with Debi Barker and Vandana Shiva speaking about “The Case against Globalization.” The second featured Seamus Dunn of the Center for the Study of Conflict at the University of Ulster at Coleraine in Northern Ireland.

The students’ institute also offered opportunities to “think globally but act locally” through volunteer work at a few community services and organizations. Teachers were able to earn from one to three graduate credits by enrolling in the School of Education’s W505 course, Professional Development Workshop: Incorporating Global Issues in the Classroom. Finally, many cultural activities and recreational events offered by IU’s area studies centers complemented the challenging academic programs. All participants resided at Foster International, IUB’s international dormitory.

Enthusiasm for the institutes was uniformly high: “I learned more than I could ever have imagined,” said one student, “and met a lot of amazing, intriguing, and great people.” A student from Turkey summed up the value of diversity: “Different people from different cultures and lots of ideas. Even disagreements improve us.” One of the teachers observed, “It was a wonderful opportunity to meet some great people and to share lots teaching ideas and resources.”

For information on the 2001 International Studies Summer Institutes, contact Kenneth Steuer. Phone: (812) 855-5545; fax: (812) 855-6271; e-mail: ksteuer@indiana.edu; or consult the Global Center’s Web site: www.indiana.edu/~global/2000program.htm

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Prapatsorn Charoensuk, a teacher from Thailand, points on the map to her country.