

SIETAR-USA

Society for Intercultural Education, Training and Research

SIETAR USA (SUSA) NEWS

APRIL/MAY/JUNE 2003

Electronic Newsletter
Volume 4 Issue 3

In This Issue:

1. Letter from the President
2. SIETAR USA Conference Announcement
3. Special Interest Group News
4. Chapter News
5. Announcements
6. Contact Information

1. LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

This space is usually filled with a letter from SUSA President and Founder, Margaret Pusch (better known as Peggy). I am taking this opportunity as the SUSA Newsletter Editor, to inform members that Peggy's Mother passed away on Mother's Day, 2003. Understandably, Peggy has been taken up with family concerns and will resume her letters in the near future.

There is a sadness at losing a parent, at whatever age we are when we lose them. Perhaps it is most poignant when it is our mother since many of us seem to be closer with our mothers than other family members. Peggy was fortunate to have her Mother with her for many years. I was just 18 when my Mother died and I often wonder what it would have been like to have had her throughout my life—as an advisor, a listener, a role model. Peggy's Mother was very involved with her five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and even a great –great grandchild. She led a long and fruitful life committed to her family, her many church and community service activities, and even to a job in her later years.

On behalf of SUSA members I extend sympathy to Peggy and her family at this time.

Sandy Fowler
Newsletter Editor

2. SIETAR USA Conference Announcement

The Conference Committee is starting to review the many proposals they have received. The proposals that make the cut will be woven together into the concurrent session program for the conference. It promises to be an outstanding program.

THEY HAVE EXTENDED THE CONFERENCE SESSION PROPOSAL DEADLINE. Some members did not receive the postcard reminder until just before the original May 31 deadline—if at all in some cases—so the deadline is extended to June 20.

The full Call for Proposals is on the website at www.sietarusa.org. Please contact conference co-chair, Jeremy Solomons, at jersol@aol.com with any questions.

Also if you would like to find out more about volunteer, scholarship, exhibition or sponsorship opportunities, please contact the other conference co-chair, Jerry Wilcox, at jdwilcox@mail.utexas.edu.

Any questions about SIETAR USA, please contact Peggy Pusch at mdpusch@pobox.com.

If you haven't submitted a proposal yet—here is your chance. It will be a fantastic conference so you don't want to miss it.

3. SUSA Special Interest Group (SIG) News

SUSA has several Special Interest Groups (SIGs). None of the SIGs submitted any news at this time but there will be plenty of news after they meet at the conference.

4. Chapter News

CHICAGO

More than 30 people got together in January in one of the restaurants of Chicago area for informal intercultural networking. Leah Thayer and Tatyana Fertelmeyster organized this first meeting. We were all very excited to meet and see fellow interculturalists but could hardly hear each other.

On April 12 about 20 of us got together again (this time Breezer Rickey opened her house to us). Our goal was to consider which way we want to go with intercultural networking. As a result of this meeting we decided that it is about time to re-start Chicago-SIETAR. We got a lot of useful information and advice from two veterans of previous edition of Chicago-SIETAR Pam Ex and Howard Raik.

At this point the plan looks like this:

- * Put together a data-base that will allow us to stay connected and informed
- * Have meetings once a month (always the same day of the month and the same place - just to keep it simple) for an on-going networking
- * Have special programs every third month

A small committee of brave volunteers (Monica Francois, Mickey Parent, Bettina Rousos and Tatyana Fertelmeyster) will be taking care of organizing the first steps. However, the expectation is that keeping this whole thing going will very much be a group effort.

Wish us luck!

For more information and with every bit of advice please contact Tatyana Fertelmeyster at tatyanaf@corecomm.net

SIETAR AUSTIN

After a far-too-rushed March workshop on Diversity, led by trainers from the National Coalition Building Institute, we were treated in April to a thought-provoking and at times controversial guided discussion of "Islam in the USA", in connection with the recent PBS documentary of the Life of Muhammad.

Our last session before the Summer will be on May 17 when Catherine Farris will lead an interactive session on Intercultural Communication.

Earlier in the month (May 9-11), SIETAR Austin is co-sponsoring a series of Intercultural Career Development workshops on the campus of the University Of Texas, led by its president, Jeremy Solomons. These workshops will cover both how to become an intercultural practitioner and be an effective one too! They will be repeated in Washington, DC on June 13-15 (in association with SIETAR DC) and in London on 2-6 July.

Although SIETAR Austin will not be holding monthly meetings again until September, most of the task force will still be very active during the Summer, preparing for the November national conference here in Austin.

Any questions about SIETAR Austin, the career workshops or the national conference, please e-mail Jeremy Solomons at jersol@aol.com.

SIETAR HOUSTON

We are now happily settled in to our new meeting space at the University of Houston, C.N. Hilton Division of Continuing Education and Extension. It is such a delight to have the support of this wonderful department!

The SIETAR Houston April program topic was "Beyond Stereotypes: Moving Toward Effective Multiculturalism" presented by Federico Salas-Isnardi. This was an interactive presentation which covered the main concepts of Multicultural Education and Cross-Cultural Communication, with the aim of establishing the basis for a "new" approach to multiculturalism.

The May program topic is "White Privilege and Internalized Racism". The Center for the Healing of Racism will explore the sensitive issue of "white privilege" - institutional advantages based on historic factors that have given an advantage to white Americans. Part Two of the presentation will look at Internalized Racism. We will explore what happens when people who have been told repeatedly by every institution of society that they are inferior, come to believe it.

Also during our May program there will be an interactive exercise asking our members to share their ideas and suggestions for future programs and workshops. This exercise encourages members to brainstorm new and interesting topics that they would like to learn more about. They are also asked to bring along names and contact information of speakers they would like to recommend. Their participation in this exercise helps us to continue to provide intercultural programming which meets the needs of the membership. It is also a lot of fun and always very popular with everyone.

Looking ahead to our next exciting event of this program year, we are planning a special 10th anniversary celebration immediately following the June program. SIETAR Houston has been in existence for over 10 years and we now have over one hundred members so we have much to celebrate! Look out for more news about this in the next edition of SUSA News.

Jan O'Brien
President
SIETAR Houston
Ph: 281-334-3640
E-mail: president@sietarhouston.org
Website: www.sietarhouston.org

SIETAR METRO NEW YORK

The SIETAR Metro New York board has dedicated its work in 2003 to exploring the benefits of developing relationships with other professional organizations in the New York area. Over the last years, our most successful presentations and events have been strong because we collaborated with other groups in the management of the events and the dissemination of information. By reaching out to other organizations we benefited from a cross-pollination of

interests; some members of our organization became regulars at other group events and some of their members became known faces at our own.

Recently, Patrick Sciarratta of the Friendship Ambassador Foundation spoke to our group in what was described by those in attendance as an incredible, engaging and inspirational talk about successful intercultural endeavors. Using examples of his own organization, Patrick was able to show how, in a time of trepidation about global travel, there is an essential need for intercultural entrepreneurialism. The need for organizations to rethink their positions and determine how they can reshape themselves is vital for successful growth.

With this determination for rethinking our organization as a guide, the April presentation for SIETAR Metro New York is going to bring together our members of the past, present and future. Using a clustering narrative technique we will uncover how our members can plan the future of our organization with the intention of making it relevant to our member's professional development. We'll let you know the outcome of this presentation in the next issue of the SUSA newsletter.

In addition to working with other organizations in the development of programs and events, we are also reaching out to other organizations in order to learn from their management methods. The New York Chapter of the International Coach Federation is similar in membership size and professional makeup (predominantly independent consultants) to our own organization. I will be meeting with the president of their organization in order to swap stories. To learn from their experiences as a growing group in New York and to share with them some of the successes and problems of our own organization. By sharing knowledge we believe that both organizations can become more effective.

Cheers,
Marcus Longmuir
President, SIETAR, Metro New York
marcus@sambith.com

SIETAR-DC

It has been a very busy year for SIETAR-DC, and everything is on track to close out the year in a similar style. The April program – a disaster relief simulation with cross-cultural components courtesy of Michelle DeFayette of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance at USAID and Stephen Moles of the Peace Corps – itself almost met with disaster when the group was denied the use of the conference room at OFDA because of a humanitarian intervention training for a group being deployed to Iraq. However, an alternative venue was located, and the simulation went very well.

In May SIETAR-DC enjoyed a talk with Dr. Michelle LeBaron. Michelle will talk about her new book *Bridging Cultural Conflicts* (Jossey Bass, 2003) which introduces mindful awareness, cultural fluency and conflict fluency as tools for decoding and moving through intercultural conflicts. Michelle LeBaron is Professor of Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason

University in Virginia, USA, and is qualified as a lawyer and clinical counselor. She has worked in Canada, the United States and internationally to design and implement systems that bridge cultural differences in commercial, organizational and family settings.

SIETAR ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Quick communicate your value! was a presentation by Theresa Seagraves. The largest turnout so far attended the April meeting to hear Ms. Seagraves offer suggestions about marketing oneself and services. Ms. Seagraves developed with colleagues a multi-step process in order to better communicate one's value to a potential client and to better address their needs. This was of great interest to SIETAR Rocky Mountain members.

In May, Sandy Fowler of Washington, DC, conducted a new simulation game called CALDER CONNECTIONS. She has a long track record of presenting to SIETAR audiences, is an art editor for the American Psychologist, and editor of the two volumes of the Intercultural Sourcebook. She chose an icebreaker and simulation game that use art postcards to demonstrate how people who know nothing about art can use it for intercultural and diversity training.

June's meeting presents Annique Petit, an MA candidate with Denver University's International and Intercultural Communication Master's Program. She will present on her intercultural training experience in Africa.

SIETAR Rocky Mountain plans to continue meeting during the summer but in a more casual atmosphere such as at local ethnic restaurants or interesting international movies.

5. Announcements

From time to time, SUSA members send us announcements that are of general interest. We include them as a service to members.

Crossing Cultures with Competence, a two-day cross-cultural seminar, provides participants with strategies and techniques needed to offer in-depth and culture-specific cross-cultural orientations. This program offers participants a unique opportunity to become trained in the cross-cultural field by the Executive Director of The Interchange Institute, Anne P. Copeland, Ph.D. View detailed information on Crossing Cultures with Competence.

Upcoming Locations and Dates:

Chicago, June 11-12

To register and reserve a spot (15 maximum):

Call us at (617) 566-2227 or email us at info@interchangeinstitute.org

6. Contact Information

Mailing Address:
SIETAR-USA
8835 SW Canyon Lane, Suite 110
Portland, OR 97225
USA

Phone Number: 503-297-4622

Fax Number: 503-297-4695

Email: info@sietarusa.org

Web address: www.sietarusa.org