

SIETAR | USA

Society for Intercultural Education
Training and Research

SUSANews: The SIETAR-USA Newsletter

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1. Letter from the President

Dear SUSA Members,

Since my last letter from Crestone, Colorado, I have spent much of my time on the road, an occupational hazard of the itinerant intercultural trainer. My first stop was Munich, where I co-facilitated a corporate intercultural team workshop with a fellow SIETARian. Next it was Berlin, where SIETARians gathered at the SIETAR Europa congress, a great opportunity to enhance one's skills and professionalism and connect with colleagues. Then it was off to Bangalore, where I am living much of this year thanks to my husband's work. This booming city already feels like home because I have been traveling here for years thanks to several clients I connected with through SIETARians. While in India I also had occasion to co-facilitate a multinational leadership workshop in Mumbai organized by two SIETARians. Then it was New York to

conduct part of a weeklong intercultural training program organized by a SIETARian and trained in tag-team fashion with two other – you guessed it – SIETARians. My days in New York also featured a dinner out with yet another SIETARian and an evening spent with New York Metro Chapter SIETARians I was meeting for the first time. Even over the weekend when I was enjoying bubble tea with a family member in a suburb of Baltimore I bumped into and had an inspiring conversation with a Baltimore SIETARian about the exciting new group in that city.

Are you picking up a theme here? Yes, it is “all SIETAR, all the time”!

I am truly amazed at how much inspiration, learning, support and community we provide each other through our circle of SIETAR!

The first annual SIETAR USA board retreat took place near Seattle in early June. Eleven of our 18 board members and advisors spent two full days and two evenings together, and your board worked admirably. As SUSA matures out of our organizational infancy, the board is refining vision and structure to serve you more aptly and ably.

Later in June I traveled to Bloomington, Indiana, to visit the site of our 2004 conference, November 18th – 21st. I was impressed! Nestled in the middle of the country, Bloomington is a delightful college town with all the pleasures such towns afford –interesting people, interesting eating, interesting bookstores. Nestled in the middle of Bloomington is the campus of Indiana University – on gently rolling wooded hills, criss-crossed with streams and walking paths dotted with footbridges. And nestled in the middle of the Indiana University campus is the Memorial Union Conference Center, an impressive neo-Gothic structure of archways and grand dining rooms embellished with heraldic splendor, excellent meeting spaces, conference hotel rooms, several restaurants, a bookstore, a beauty salon and even a bowling alley!

This architectural excellence is matched by the excellence of our two conference architects, co-chairs Tatyana Fertelmeyster and Sivaialam Thiagarajan. They, along with their astounding band of merry helpers, are designing a conference program which features more sessions than ever before, and more varied topics in more varied formats than ever before, as well as provocative theater, enlivening music and a museum reception.

So, the inspiring and informative circle of SIETAR-USA will be assembling in Bloomington in November. And each one of us is part of many life circles – in our corporations, campuses, consulting, clinics, and classrooms. Wouldn't it be even more informative and inspiring to expand our SIETAR circle into new circles?

Please join in the circle in Bloomington and invite your links in other circles to make us even stronger!

Heather Robinson
President SIETAR USA

2. Annual Conference November 18-21, 2004

The SIETAR USA Annual Conference is being held in Bloomington, Indiana. The plenary speakers include Angeles Arrien “The Braided Way,” and Thomas Kochman and Jean Mavrelis “Framing Cross-Cultural Conflicts in the Workplace.” There are also three mini-plenary speakers planned around education, research, and training. They will be led by Mitchell Hammer, “Developing Intercultural Competence through Study Abroad: The Intercultural Development Inventory,” Ilya Adler, Adrian Chan, Kenneth Addison, Jean Rivard and Hope Aune, “Conflicts and Mutual Perceptions Among Minority Groups in the United States and Mexico,” and Sivasailam Thiagarajan, “Secrets of Cross-Cultural Facilitation Revealed.”

Additional information about the conference and a full list of pre-conference workshops will be sent in a

message devoted to conference highlights.

This conference promises an outstanding set of sessions and delightful special events including Taiko Drummers and local tours. Bloomington is a delightful, inexpensive college town that I know you will all enjoy,

Tatyana Fertelmeyster
Sivasailam Thiagarajan
Conference Co-Chairs

Conference Scholarship Notice

Please share with students and non-profit personnel to whom this might apply.

It is our pleasure to announce that a limited number of partial scholarships are available for attending the 2004 SIETAR USA Conference Bloomington, IN. To apply for these scholarships, it is necessary to meet the following criteria and provide the information requested below.

Criteria:

(1) Demonstrated interest in intercultural education, training and research through course work, academic or community activities, and/or active participation in organizations that serve diverse populations.

(2) Student in good standing with supporting letter from an academic advisor or professor.

(3) Employee/volunteer with community-based non-profit organization (ex: refugee resettlement, student exchange) with supporting letter from Director of the program or organization.

Every effort is made to award scholarships to people from under-represented groups. Toward that end, the SIETAR USA Board of Directors voted in 2002 to reserve one scholarship for a qualifying member who is gay, lesbian, or transgendered.

Please send: (1) a letter of application, (2) letter of support, and (3) one-page resume that includes two references to Esther Louie at <elouie@whitworth.edu>

Or by regular mail post to:

Esther Louie
Assistant Dean for Programming and Diversity
Whitworth College
300 W. Hawthorne Rd., MS4311
Spokane, WA 99251

Deadline for application: October 4, 2004 Recipients of scholarships will be notified by the registration Early Bird deadline.

The Board of Directors
SIETAR USA

3. Local Group News

SIETAR Metro New York (SIMNY)

Our June 2004 event was a panel entitled "Beyond Beijing and Shanghai: Opportunities and Challenges in China". The panel explored how cultural, economic, and educational changes in China are affecting the intercultural work we do with the Chinese and how we can deepen our understanding of this intricate country.

Three panelists and a moderator with deep expertise on various aspects of China led the discussion. Barry Spaulding, our moderator, provides global consulting and advisory services, including playing an advisory role for one of China's largest provinces. Our panelists included: Professor Renqiu Yu, a Chinese national who is a professor of History and Director of the Asian Studies Program at SUNY Purchase; Virginia Cutchin, a trainer, speaker, professor and author on cross-cultural assimilation and management issues, and William Q. Brothers, an architect and founding principal of William Q. Brothers, working in China on a variety of real estate projects.

Each panelist offered a unique perspective on China and the feedback from the 30 attendees was very positive. We met at the China Institute In America, so the ambiance was in synch with the topic! The SIETAR Metro NYC board was very pleased with the evening, especially since the topic attracted some new participants, a number of whom decided to join our chapter.

Submitted by Dianne Nersesian,
Director of Programming

SIETAR Austin

SIETAR Austin: Mission Statement

The mission of SIETAR Austin is to promote intercultural learning, awareness, and understanding by sharing skills, knowledge and project information through dialogue, discussions, education, training and research.

Election

Thanks to SIETAR Austin members for taking the time from your busy schedules to vote. The following officers have been unanimously elected to the Executive Committee for SIETAR Austin 2004-2005:

President, Cody Brady
Vice President, Susan Dyer
Secretary, Liz Murphy
Treasurer, Lia Haisley

New Committees

Over the last three years, SIETAR Austin has offered 25 programs, ranging from "Diversity and the Bottom Line" to "The Yin and Yang of American Culture". We have accomplished a great deal. Now we are expanding our Executive Committee and inviting members to bring ideas and energy to the group.

New By-Laws

SIETAR Austin's Executive Committee has revised the bylaws. Susan Dyer did an excellent job of leading the effort to redraft the bylaws to reflect how we have been organized over the last three years. To review the new bylaws, go to the SIETAR Austin website at www.sietaraustin.org.

Courses

SIETAR Austin is venturing into new territory this year by offering three evening courses on cross-cultural communication theory and practice. Each evening session will be 2-3 hours in length and focus on one or two theories. Participants will receive handouts, a reading list and have the experience of trying activities based on the theories. We are looking for volunteers who would like to be a part of a team to design, support, teach and

market the evening sessions. We will charge a nominal fee and provide certificates to those who attend all three courses. No homework will be required, just a lot of fun and learning!

Submitted by Liz Murphy and Cody Brady

SIETAR Houston

Our group here in Houston is in sleep mode for the summer. The Steering committee agreed to put our group onto a system called "Run My Club", and that is the only activity that is going on. We are entering all the data necessary for this system to begin running in September. "Run My Club" provides an automated system that emails meeting notices, renewal notices, PR releases, etc. It maintains a variety of lists including a member directory, allows for payments on line via credit card, and it creates a number of reports for monitoring growth as well as all treasury functions. It is a tool that should allow our Steering Committee to get out from under a number of repetitive tasks.

Submitted by Beverly Zimmerman

4. Board of Directors Retreat

SUSA First Annual Retreat Meeting.

The SUSA Board of Directors and Officers came together for a retreat meeting from June 3rd to 5th in Seattle, home of SUSA President Heather Robinson. The SUSA Board has been accustomed to fitting meetings into the conference schedule, which meant no time for anything but business issues. The retreat in Seattle afforded a time to

handle business and go beyond the typical agenda to plan for SUSA's future. As President Robinson said, it's a "time when we get to spin SUSA dreams to be woven into future realities!"

The first day of the retreat included time to design and discuss individual visions of SUSA, to integrate the visions, to hear various reports, and to devote the afternoon to outreach and diversity exploration. Board members created a list of suggestions for this purpose which were referred to the Membership Committee. The second day we considered practical leadership through releasing the positive energy in SUSA for creative growth with Ann Macfarlane. More business that day addressed standing rules (also called association rules) that are being drafted by Peggy Pusch, Executive Director, and Sandy Fowler, Newsletter Editor. We returned to the vision to end the very successful retreat with high hopes of making this an annual event.

A high-energy issue discussed by the Board centered on committees. They can be the heart and soul of an association like SUSA and are important to establish and maintain. Candidates in elections will run for specific chair positions, with the second candidate becoming the Associate Chair and first member of a committee to be formed from the membership. Members will be invited to join committees and become more engaged in the work of SUSA. This allows us to build a system to train incoming leaders for the Society. Prior to the next election and while the committees are in the formation, the Board decided that Board members would accept a "portfolio" of writing a description of the committee or chairing a committee. Several of those committee

chairs will continue to serve in that capacity but others will be open for election this fall. The list of committees follows:

Local Groups Liaison: Beverly Zimmerman, Ursula Leitzman (Co-Chairs)

Membership: Kellie McLoud Schingen (Chair)

Conference Committee Liaison: Tatyana Fertelmeyster (Chair)

Conference Committees are established for each conference and generally include people interested in working on a particular conference due to their proximity to the conference site. Tatyana is the current conference chair and will continue as the liaison for the next conference. This allows the learning from one conference to flow to the next.

*Public Relations and Marketing: Ann Marie Lei

*Ethics: Sandy Fowler

*SIG Liaison: Rita Wuebbeler

*Careers and Mentoring: Jeremy Solomons

Publications and Newsletter Editor: Sandy Fowler

Finance: Hap Sermol (as Treasurer)

Nominations: Peggy Pusch (as Past President)

This committee is chaired by the Past President per the SIETAR USA By-Laws.

*Volunteers: Heather Robinson

*Professional Development: Peggy Pusch

*Open for elections

Submitted by Monica Mumford,
Secretary

5. Announcements and Requests

RESIGNATION

Dear Mme. President, Board Members, and Advisors:

After a great deal of introspection and consultation in recent weeks, I have decided to resign from my elected position as president-elect, effective immediately.

I have been actively involved in SIETAR for over 14 years and the time has come for me to focus more on my expanding professional opportunities and family involvement.

Unfortunately, this means that I no longer have the time, energy, focus or commitment to lead SUSA into the next stage of its growth and development.

I firmly believe that SUSA has a crucial role to play in being the primary professional association for anyone who is working consciously across cultures both within the USA and outside.

And I now see that I can play a much more effective role as a regular member than as a leader.

Cheers, Jeremy (Solomons)
President, Jeremy Solomons &
Associates

Note: The resignation from Jeremy Solomons was accepted by the Executive Committee of SUSA on July 15. Heather Robinson has agreed to extend her term for one year to cover the year between her term and the term of the next president who will be elected this fall.

Important
[SIETAR Europa Survey](#)

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The Communications Committee of SIETAR Europa is asking SIETAR members worldwide and others who do intercultural work either full or part time to respond to a survey about their activities in this realm.

The survey is designed to explore:

- Who we are: A profile of the background, education and activities of SIETAR members and other intercultural workers.
- How we work: Better awareness of the theories and tools that practitioners currently use and prefer in their work.
- Where we are going: An indication of how the intercultural field will develop in coming years.

Please take the time to visit the website and complete this important survey, which is anonymous and takes about 20 minutes. You can receive the findings analyzed the responses. At the end of the survey you will find instructions on how to get your copy of the results.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=62617537879>.

intercult_survey@sietar-europa.org

George Simons & Kate Berardo,
for the SIETAR Europe
Communications Committee

[Been there, done that?](#)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is trying to locate (non-Japanese) U.S. residents who either studied or taught in Japan at the university level for a semester or longer.

If you know of anyone who meets this description, or if you have any Questions about this matter, please contact me at (504) 529-2101 or jetprogram_no@hotmail.com.

Flora Williams, Program Coordinator
Consulate General of Japan in New Orleans
639 Loyola Avenue, Suite 2050
New Orleans, LA 70113

This issue of the SUSA Newsletter was compiled by Kathryn Buck, Buck Language & Intercultural Services, New York, blsspks@aol.com

What the Editor needs:

The Newsletter Editor would like to enlarge the editorial and writing staff of SUSANews.

The Newsletter Editor is searching for some S-USA members who would enjoy being in charge of a portion of the newsletter for each issue. Do you have a yen to write for a larger audience than your friends and family? This may be your chance. Is there a column you would like to contribute on a topic especially important to you? Contact Sandy Fowler at <sfowler@apa.org>

The Newsletter Editor is also asking for suggestions. What would you like added to the Newsletter? Tell Sandy Fowler at <sfowler@apa.org>

6. How to Reach Us

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USA

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