

SUSA News



The **SIETAR**USA Newsletter

Society for Intercultural Education
Training and Research

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NEW!

President's Letter

It's Nominations Time!

Dear SIETAR-USA members,

As the fall conference approaches, so also approach the elections for SIETAR-USA Board of Directors. This year four positions are vacant:

1. Careers and mentoring
2. Volunteer coordinator
3. Communications
4. Public relations/marketing

I would like to ask you to consider submitting to the Nominations Committee either your name, or that of a colleague whose abilities and interest are a good match.

Life is so rushed nowadays that every voluntary organization is finding it a challenge to recruit leadership for the future. Yet those who make the time to serve discover that there are extraordinary rewards. Over my time on this board, I have been impressed and delighted by the qualities my colleagues bring to their service. If you become a director of SIETAR-USA, I can promise you an interesting and stimulating experience.

Our organization has made some important changes this year, contracting with a management firm and amending our bylaws in a number of significant respects. I know that bylaws amendments don't sound exciting, but it was quite an experience for all of us on the board to work through key changes and what they mean for our organization. We grew closer from doing so, we learned from doing so, and we laid down, I believe, a strong foundation for a stronger future. Among our next steps are a strategic planning process that will ensure stable growth and both a strengthening of the organization and an

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exploration of new ways of providing services to our membership.

What are some of the duties of a board member? Directors are expected to attend the annual conference in the fall, and also a board retreat, lasting three days, in the spring. We call it retreat because we like the word. It is indeed a 3-day Board meeting. Travel and lodging expenses are covered for the retreat, but board members cover their own costs for the conference. In addition, the board meets by teleconference 6-8 times per year, and directors are expected to participate in most of these meetings. Some discussions and decisions are held via email.

The Nominations Committee plans to offer a “single slate” to the membership, that is, to choose one individual whom they feel best meets the position requirements. This is common practice now among associations. Persons whose names are suggested but who are not chosen by the committee will be invited to join a Board committee of their interest and to gain further experience as they contribute to our organization. However, if anyone who is not on the slate would like to run, all it takes is to send a petition signed by five members who support your candidacy to the office by September 30. We will then have a contested election.

Finally, the board has approved a two-year term for the President of the Society this year. SIETAR-USA's next president, Andy Reynolds, will serve from 2008 through 2009, so there is no candidate for president-elect this year.

Please do consider this invitation and throw your hat in the ring. It's an exciting time to be on the SIETAR-USA board, and we welcome the participation of all members interested in our work. I look forward to seeing many of you in Kansas City in November!

— **Tatyana Fertelmeyster**, *SIETAR-USA President*



Executive Director's Note

SIETAR USA Joins AFS In Petitioning for Young Exchanges

Intercultural exchange programs teach teenagers all over the world that our concerns are global. An exchange experience fosters mutual understanding that can help bridge our differences and lead to peace. SIETAR USA has joined AFS to co-sponsor a petition that will be presented to Secretary-General of the UN, Ban Ki-moon in October, 2007. We are urging all our members to sign the petition and encourage their friends and colleagues to sign as well in an effort to help create a new generation of global citizens, www.exchanges4peace.org.

At the petition web site you'll find not only the text of the petition and how to sign it, but also other information about it, including related news, pictures uploaded from around the world, blog highlights, etc. The page on “Friends of the Petition” lists SIETAR USA as a co-sponsor.

The petition asks world leaders for increased support of intercultural student exchange programs. It is not just about numbers, however. Significantly expanding support for youth exchanges-by both removing barriers and providing more opportunities (and funding)-allows the human and financial resources of exchange organizations to focus even more on intercultural learning content and support, thereby increasing the likelihood of enhancing the individuals' intercultural development. Learning content and support are critical for the young people to have a truly intercultural learning experience.

AFS is hoping that by having as many organizations as possible support this petition around the world, world leaders cannot disregard this request to enable young people everywhere to live and study in cultures other than their own. We hope to gather one million signatures from around the world and have reached approximately 28,000 to date. We have a long way to go and hope you will support this effort to spread the possibilities of intercultural interaction, especially among young people.

— **Peggy Pusch**, *Executive Director*

SUSA 2007 Annual Conference Report: Kansas City, MO

by **Patricia Coleman**, 2007 Conference Chair

What's Cooking in Kansas City? Barbecue, great jazz and a sizzling conference!

In less than six months the SIETAR USA Eighth Annual Conference will take place from November 7 through 10, 2007—welcoming all of you once again. We hope for a successful reunion for many and new connections for others in the magical city of Kansas City, Missouri.

Our theme this year is... Culture and Conflict: Courageous Conversations for Caring Communities.

We have wonderful committees in place, with many volunteers juggling their personal and professional lives to make time to contribute to the planning, designing and delivery of a great conference.

A special thanks to the SIETAR-USA board of directors, the Westin Crown Center event staff, and our local Kansas City committee for thinking of every SIETAR member and the organization's mission as well as providing this upcoming conference with the best programs, events and ambiance. Here are a few highlights of this year's conference:

- The location of the conference, the Westin Crown Center, has much to offer on its own. Please check out the hotel website picture gallery to judge for yourself. <http://www.westin.com/crowncenter>
- You will be able to make reservations for the Westin online very soon on our custom website. Please visit <http://www.sietarusa.org> as soon as registration opens.
- Kansas City is a charming, hospitable city with a rich historic and cultural background. We are honoring its history and cultural heritage by selecting the Union Station as our red carpet for the opening reception: <http://www.unionstation.org>.
- Our local committee has carefully selected several restaurants for our dine-around on Thursday night.

Choosing just one restaurant among so many delicious choices is not an easy task. We expect many of you will want to come back to Kansas City again, just because you had too little of a taste and will be hungry for more!

- We also have listened to our members and included music and dance in several of the programs. We will continue our appreciation of Kansas City culture with some free time at the 18th and Vine District where the local jazz can be listened and/or danced to.
- More free time can be spent either shopping or simply sightseeing at the Country Club Plaza, where the magic of fountains and breathtaking art and architecture will make you wonder if you are in Missouri or a European venue! <http://www.countryclubplaza.com>
- We will come full circle with our reception at the American Jazz Museum and a visit to the Negro Baseball League Museum. <http://www.americanjazzmuseum.org> and <http://www.nlbm.com>
- Finally, Saturday night promises a rich wrap-up with *Brasilcultura: the Power of Celebration!*

Where will you find the energy to do it all? Our conference will feature a rich program with keynote speakers from all corners of the world, workshops, and concurrent sessions that will engage you both mentally and physically, helping you to create a bond with everyone you meet.

Looking forward with great anticipation to seeing each and every one of you at the SIETAR USA 2007 conference in Kansas City, Mo.

*You can contact Patricia Coleman via email:
AtoZworld@aol.com*

SIETAR Europa Honors Heather Robinson



Heather Robinson

On Saturday, April 28th, the Appreciation Committee of SIETAR Europa honored our own SIETAR USA past President, Heather Robinson with their Dedication Award at their Annual Conference Gala Dinner. Previously, the Executive Director of SIETAR USA received a Lifetime Achievement Award from SIETAR Europa.

The Dedication award is given to an individual who demonstrates outstanding levels of passion for and dedication to the intercultural field and the network of SIETAR associations, and who consistently carries out their work and responsibilities with deep intercultural competence. George Simons and Mieke Janssen-Matthes were asked to present the award to Heather as two of the recipients of SIETAR Europa's 2006 Lifetime Achievement Awards. Here is an excerpt of the citation used in presenting the Dedication award to Heather:

" This year's recipient has been all over the world carrying out her excellent work and expanding the SIETAR network as she goes. She was instrumental in creating the Sietar India Movement and was fundamental to the organization of the SIETAR India Conference last fall.

" Moreover, the individual we are recognizing tonight is known by many in this field as being someone who operates with the utmost dedication, passion and commitment to intercultural work.

" We are not the first to recognize the contributions of this individual. Our recipient of the Dedication award has been honored with the Making a Difference Award, the Red Cross Unsung Heroine Award, a Presidential Point of Light, and a trusteeship of the Nobel prize-winning Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

" It is with great pleasure that we can award HEATHER ROBINSON as this year's recipient of the Dedication to and Embodiment of Intercultural Principles award.

Local Group News

SIETAR Chicago

SIETAR-Chicago is holding a summer gathering Saturday, August 4th (2-4pm). Come and join us for a fun upcoming Intercultural get together! We'll be meeting in the clubhouse of the Parkshore Condominium Building (a high rise green glass building located near Millennium Park in downtown Chicago). Please bring a snack or any main meal item that represents a culture that you'd like to share with our group. Plates, cups, utensils and drinks will be provided. For questions, please contact: Nitha (773)315-9440, nitha@alumni.uchicago.edu or Regina (630)802-0781, ginakla@sbcglobal.net.

A short survey will be sent to all SIETAR-Chicago members soon, so please watch for that email as well.

SIETAR Metro New York City

SIETAR Metro New York had a busy spring season with programs and exciting social networking opportunities for members. This fall, we resume our professional development sessions with a panel discussion on immigration in September, and a one-day workshop (topic TBD) in October. Please check our website <http://www.sietarnewyork.org> for updated information.

SIETAR Portland

SIETAR-PDX (Portland) has been pretty quiet with crazy travel schedules and weather conditions, but we are working on setting up a partnership with ASTD Cascadia, which we believe is one of the largest regional chapters of ASTD with more than 300 members! Although we have not set anything up formally yet, we are having dialogue around what partnering would mean between the two organizations at the local level and how that might translate to a national scope. In March, we will have a gathering to view the Intel presentation on DVD (from the 2006 SIETAR-USA conference), with Intel's permission of course.

SIETAR Minnesota

The Minnesota SIETAR group meets monthly and enjoys welcoming new members who continue to "find us" almost every month. Our most recent meetings have focused largely on sharing specific resources and training ideas... our March meeting topic was "Diversity Tools for Trainers" and we enjoyed participating in mini train-the-trainer versions of several diversity activities. In April, we discussed international

games that could be used as training tools and we plan to host a larger “International Game Night” this coming year. In May, upon realizing how many trainer opportunities were taking place in May & June in the Twin Cities (NAFSA: International Educator’s Conference, Pedagogy & Theatre of the Oppressed Conference, Cultural Detective Facilitator Certification Training, IDI-Intercultural Development Inventory Facilitator Training, and Conflict Styles Inventory Training), we decided to host an “Interculturalist Information Night” regarding all of these great trainer opportunities. SIETAR members shared details about the training opportunities, inventories, and conferences (including SIIC - Summer Institute in Intercultural Communication---although it wasn’t “local!”), and discussed their own use of these materials in their work. We have also enjoyed socializing with one another at several parties and gatherings hosted by Basma Ibrahim DeVries, coordinator of the SIETAR Minnesota group. In particular, SIETAR-Minnesota folks enjoyed sharing ideas with Maria Gill, Coordinator of the SIETAR North Carolina Local Group, and Tatyana Fertelmeyster from SIETAR in Chicago, who were both in town in June. If anyone would like to be added to our SIETAR Minnesota Local Groups E-mail List, please send your request to: sietar.mn@gmail.com.

We hope to have a summer social gathering in August (details TBA) and will begin our regular meeting schedule again in September.

SIETAR Washington D.C.

In May 2007, Julia Gaspar-Bates spoke to SIETAR-DC about “Communicating creatively across cultures.” She focused on how globalism, multiculturalism, and diversity are buzz words in today’s business climate, yet few people truly understand the ways in which they impact how we communicate, interact, and co-create with others.

In her session participants had an opportunity to apply innovative approaches to communicating with people from different cultures using techniques such as improvisation and imagery. Julia guided participants through a series of fun and interactive exercises that allowed them to cognitively recognize cues when their personal communication style may be helping or hindering their relationships with others.

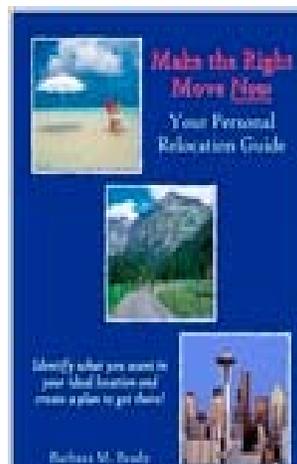
In March 2007 Judee Blohm and Sandy Fowler led a BaFa BaFa simulation. How would it feel to go to an Alpha doctor if you are a Beta patient? How would a Beta doctor treat an Alpha patient? They explored these questions and facilitation techniques for the classic cross-cultural simulation game: BaFa BaFa. This session offered ideas for modifying the

debriefing to fit a variety of contexts. For those not familiar with the game, it was a superb opportunity to experience the game with seasoned facilitators. The medical context has provided a challenge but over a period of several years, a group of consultants has revised the game and debriefing to take medical issues into consideration. The session included revisions from a panel of interculturalists who have helped conduct BaFa BaFa for 160 first-year medical students.

In March SIETAR DC also hosted a reception during the annual Intercultural Management Institute Conference (IM) held at American University.

Announcements

Book by long time SIETAR-USA presenter and member.



Make the Right Move Now: Your Personal Relocation Guide

by **Barbara Brady**

“My wife and I found your book to be highly valuable because it made us confront certain aspects of our relocation right off the bat... Each relocation has its unique characteristics, and your hands-on book allowed us to discover our own needs and solutions. In

utilizing your guide, I felt we had our own relocation consultant by our side!”—Louis Lima, Director of Training and Network Services, Prudential Global Workforce Development

Book Description: This is a practical and interactive workbook designed to give you or you and your partner the clarity and confidence you need to find and move to your ideal place now. Through a complete step-by-step process, you will be able to: take an assessment to see if a move is right for you now; get clear on what you specifically want in your ideal location; recognize and work through any fears that may be keeping you from moving; learn how to find the right city or area for you; decide among two or more “ideal” spots; create a relocation plan that fits your needs; and glean wisdom from the stories and advice of others who’ve relocated successfully. For more information about the book (and to order a copy) go to www.lulu.com.

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SIETAR INDIA Call for Proposals

Members from SIETAR India are delighted to tell you that planning for their Second Annual Conference is underway. The Conference will be held on January 19th and 20th, in Chennai. Their theme this year is: From the melting pot to the salad bowl - The journey of the Intercultural Learning and its new relevance to the world we live in

If you have any questions or would like to answer their call for proposals, contact sunita.sietarindia@gmail.com.

Please state on the e-mail subject line: SIETAR India 2008 Proposal Question.

Cultural Detective® Qualifying Seminars

Cultural Detective® is announcing the upcoming facilitator certifications: Sept. 14-15 in Portland, OR; Nov 5-6 in Kansas City in conjunction with SUSA; Dec 2007 in Lausanne Switzerland, details forthcoming. These sessions are a great way to learn to combine various intercultural approaches/tools in a design; apply intercultural theory to multiple contexts—including coaching, teambuilding and facilitation; and use/leverage these ready-to-go values- and situation-based materials.

Visit <http://culturaldetective.com/services> for more information.



Society for Intercultural Education
Training and Research

Families in Global Transition 2008 Program Call for Proposals

September 7, 2007 Deadline

10th Anniversary Conference

6-8 March 2008

Omni Houston Hotel - Houston, Texas

Supporting the Family: Accomplishing the Assignment

With over 40 informative sessions offered, the FIGT conference is thought-provoking, innovative, educational and energizing. FIGT sessions . . .

- Offer creative solutions that are safe and successful for families and organizations in times of economic and political change
- Provide practical, tangible answers and synergistic solutions
- Create a foundation of experience, practice and research

Families in Global Transition's mission is to create a forum where members of the internationally mobile community—human resource personnel, relocation experts, educators, counselors, expatriate employees and families—address the special dynamics encountered in a globally mobile lifestyle.

Submit your proposal that bolsters the FIGT mission. Share practical ways to leverage the personal, professional, and academic benefits that come from living among cultures. Submission deadline is September 7, 2007. Visit www.figt.org to download the request for proposal, or if you have questions, contact us at Program@figt.org. Return your proposal electronically to Anne Copeland, Program Director, at program@figt.org by September 7, 2007.

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NEW!