

SUSANews



The **SIETAR**USA Newsletter

Society for Intercultural Education
Training and Research

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Letter **1**

Executive Director's Note **2**

Intercultural Press **2**

Blogging with SIETAR-USA **3**

Local Chapter News **4**

Announcements **4**

How to Reach Us **4**

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NEW!

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Colleagues,

First, I want to thank you for the privilege of serving as President of SUSANews for the next two years. I am excited about the challenge and will do my best to live up to the trust you have placed in me. There are a number of issues facing our organization among them, providing more of the services you want, increasing SUSANews's national visibility and respect, and increasing the size of our membership.



Accomplishing these goals will require the energy and commitment of everyone. I intend to utilize the wonderful diversity of our membership to encourage ideas for achieving these goals. I spoke with some of you during our recent conference and was encouraged by your enthusiasm to become involved in SUSANews. We intend to tap into that enthusiasm.

Because we are an all volunteer organization, each of us is vital to the success of our endeavors. Your willingness to volunteer your energy and skills is the reason we had such a successful conference in November. It is the reason we will succeed in achieving our goals during the next two years.

Jeffery Cookson, Chair of our Volunteers Committee, will be contacting you in the near future to identify your willingness to serve and to identify the areas you are interested in. I urge you to respond positively. Working together we can become a larger, more nationally respected organization that provides services vital to its members. I look forward to working with each of you to achieve this status for SUSANews.

One additional issue: last year we sent you a questionnaire asking whether we should hold a US conference in 2008, in light of the Global Congress in Granada, Spain, in October. Eighty (80) percent of you said no. Consequently, the next SUSANews conference will be held in New Orleans, LA in April 2009—mark your calendars now! If you would like more information about the questionnaire results, go to our website: www.sietarusa.org

Warm regards,

Andy Reynolds,

SIETAR-USA President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear Friends:

Happy New Year. My husband and I celebrated New Years Eve on The Scholar Ship in the harbor of Hong Kong, an interesting place to be for welcoming the Year of the Rat. I was reminded of the promise of this endeavor that has placed intercultural communication at the core of its academic and on-board-living programs. Our goal as SIETARians could be to have intercultural relations become an integral part of everything. We are often the person(s) or organizations brought in for the "piece" that deals with intercultural issues when it is essential that intercultural principles be central to the mission of institutions, whatever purpose they serve. It is, after all, critical to whatever we try to accomplish in a diverse society and the global neighborhood. It's a big order but one we should proudly declare.



We all thought the Global Congress in Granada was very far away, in 2008, and now it is here! There are two important changes that have occurred in the last few weeks. The deadlines for both the submission of proposals for the program in Granada and the very early registration have been changed to March 15, 2008. Those of you, and many are telling me this, who just couldn't write a proposal by "the deadline that shall not be named," can now get busy and submit by MARCH 15, 2008. Esther Louie and I, who chair that committee, look forward to hearing from many of you. Do check out that early, early bird registration deadline; there are some advantages to registering sooner rather than later. (See the information in this newsletter below.) It is good to get flights booked and to consider hotels now, too.

The connection with Intercultural Press (IPI) has been established on our website so be sure to take advantage of the discount benefit for SIETAR members as described below. It is a great gift to us from IPI. We want to thank Trish O'Hare for her support while she was Publisher of IPI and wish her luck as she moves on to new career choices. She has been succeeded by Chuck Dresner who many of you may have met at our conferences over the last few years. His new title is Vice President, Associate Publisher of Nicholas Brealey/ Intercultural Press. That's a mouthful and he will definitely answer to just "Chuck."

Finally, speaking of books, we would like to start a publications review section of this newsletter or, perhaps, a separate "enews" that is solely devoted to reviewing and recommending books, videos and CDs or DVDs. Anyone can contribute a review although we may ask folks to read and review new items that we have received. If you are interested in reviewing a book/CD/DVD/video, either one you have or one we suggest, please let us know at mdpusch@pobox.com or info@sietarusa.org.

Peggy Pusch

SIETAR-USA Executive Director

INTERCULTURAL PRESS

Purchasing intercultural books from Intercultural Press benefits SIETAR-USA and our members. SIETAR-USA members receive a 20% discount on all purchases of IPI books from Intercultural Press. SIETAR-USA benefits by receiving 5% on every order submitted through our site. Members, please log in to our member portal using this link to obtain the discount code, then place your order:

<http://www.sietarusa.org/mc/prelogin.do?hidOrgID=siet>

If you are not a SIETAR-USA member and you place an order by clicking the link below, SIETAR-USA will receive the 5% benefit.

<http://www.interculturalpress.com/store/pc/home.asp?idaffiliate=23>

Take advantage of this great offer today!



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BLOGGING WITH SIETAR-USA

By Rob S Pusch

Introduction

In November, for the 2007 annual conference, Christine Martell set up a SIETAR-USA blog (<http://sietarusa.com>) and chaired the conference session, with Michelle Martin and me as co-presenters, to introduce blogging. During the conference, conference participants participated on the blog, posting their experiences at the conference and reading and responding to other posts. This provided one great example of how a blog can be used: reporting on what is going on at the conference and giving participants the opportunity to reflect on their experiences.

For a SIETAR blog to be successful, we need your participation. Now you may be thinking it takes too much time to write or you may be unsure what sort of material is appropriate for a blog. I'd like to introduce you to blogging and the SIETAR-USA blog, and encourage you to post on it. Some of you may be experienced bloggers but the questions we are receiving suggests that others need some introduction to the world of blogging.

First, what is a blog? Blog is short for web log. According to Wikipedia, a blog is a website with entries typically displayed in reverse order, i.e. newest entry shows at the top. An entry submitted to a blog is referred to as a post. Posts can be responded to by others.

Blogs have differing purposes: some provide news, some commentaries, and others are personal diaries. The goal of the SIETAR-USA blog is to provide a place for interculturalists to engage with each other. Anyone can participate in the open SIETAR-USA blog, you do not need to be a SIETAR-USA member. Posts should be related to issues broadly relevant to interculturalists. The writing does not need to be a polished piece; it can be a commentary or reaction to something you experienced during your day that impacts you as an interculturalist. Think of a blog as a conversation, only in writing.

Blog Dos and Don'ts

Participating in a blog does not need to be difficult or time consuming. Participation can include reading the blog posts from others, writing your own post, or commenting on other posts. Below I'll describe dos and don'ts of participating through posting or commenting.

Do

- post your thoughts, experience or reaction to events or issues that come up during your day.
- respond to others' posts.
- engage in discussion.
- include pictures if appropriate.
- take responsibility for your thoughts and comments.
- stay on point when commenting on posts.
- allow yourself to use writing a post to process your thoughts on a topic.

Don't

- be afraid to post your thoughts.
- simply repeat what others have said; be sure your comments add something new to the discussion.
- feel you need to write a polished piece of text.
- use profanity or language that would be considered in bad taste.
- engage in personal attacks on other individuals or groups. (Blog moderators reserve the right to remove offensive content.)

Blog Logistics

- Read the SIETAR-USA Blog: You can read the SIETAR-USA blog by going to <http://sietarusa.com>. On the landing page of the blog you will see the most recent posts. There is a menu on the right side of the page that will contain the titles of the recent posts. To read a post, click on the title.
- Post an entry: Submitting a post to the SIETAR-USA blog is as simple as sending an email. You can submit a post by email, sending it to blog@sietarusa.com. When you submit a post be sure to include the title in the subject line of your email.
- Comment on a post: You can comment on any blog post. At the bottom of each full post you will see text fields for your name, your email address, your website, your comment, and a code box. Be sure to include your name with your comment.

Remember: The purpose of the SIETAR-USA blog is to encourage discussion between interculturalists. Can you imagine sitting in a room full of people with common interests and experiences to share and nobody talking to each other? Well, a silent blog is the virtual equivalent, so READ—POST—COMMENT!

LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS

SIETAR Minnesota

On a Tuesday in late December, 17 members of the SIETAR MN chapter volunteered to package food for the organization, Feed My Starving Children. They package nutritious vegetarian meals for distribution around the world. We had a great time, and are hoping to make a service project an annual or bi-annual event in the future. Below is a certificate of appreciation from the organization, with a group photo of us all decked out to package meals.

SIETAR MN members will also be sponsoring a team to compete in the Minnesota International Center's "World Quest" competition on February 29. We are the SIETAR, Robbin Bragge Memorial Team. Wish us good luck!



The schedule for meetings for winter/spring for the SIETAR MN group are as follows:

January: *Lessons learned about teaching intercultural communications in a truly intercultural context.* Basma Ibrahim DeVries and Jon DeVries will share their insights from the maiden voyage of the Scholar Ship.

February: Guest Speaker from the world of corporate training in IC issues.

March: *A Closer Look.* An in-depth look at one specific culture for current understandings of that culture. (Culture / region TBA)

April: *Technology and IC Training.* What's new, how to incorporate it into your training, teaching, and learning.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS



IMPORTANT DEADLINES

FOR SIETAR GLOBAL CONGRESS

How Globalization Affects Cultures & Cultures Shape Globalization

Granada Spain October 22-26, 2008

Early bird Registration Deadline—for a 20% Discount—is fast approaching. Click here for details:

<http://www.sietar.org/granada2008/registration.htm>

Call for Papers, Poster Sessions & Workshops Deadline is also March 15, 2008. Click here for details:

<http://www.sietar.org/granada2008/presentations.htm>

You are cordially invited to submit proposals to present at the 2008 SIETAR Global Conference in Granada, Spain and to take advantage of early bird registration discounts.

The theme of the conference is **How globalization affects cultures & cultures shape globalization**. The Presentation Committee will be looking for a rich mixture of presentations that show solid academic research, best practices in organizational development, consulting and training interventions in both private and public sectors, as well as arts and literature with a clear focus on the interplay of culture and globalization. The purpose of the conference sessions is to inform, update and stimulate participants in their work. Therefore the emphasis is on the value added by the research or practice in terms of breaking new ground and questioning assumptions, demonstrating innovative tools and techniques, and showing creative expression. Contributions are welcome from all academic disciplines that deal with intercultural issues and all fields in which intercultural work is and can be exercised and applied.

Proposals may be made in English and/or Spanish. Presentations in concurrent sessions may be made in the language of your choice, realizing however that this choice may limit the number of participants. If language is an issue for you please let us know and we will strategize the best approach with you.

The next SIETAR-USA Conference will be held in New Orleans in April 2009. So make plans now to join together with us and the larger Global SIETAR community in Granada this October!

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