

SUSANews



The **SIETAR**USA Newsletter

Society for Intercultural Education
Training and Research

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Colleagues,

What a year this has been for SIETAR – the Global Congress in October and the recently completed annual SUSA conference in Raleigh, North Carolina, held for the first time in the spring. Praise for the content of our conferences is nothing new. However, the frequency of remarks from attendees about the superb quality of the content in both venues is impressive. Which led one employee of the hotel in Raleigh to remark that they were impressed that participants actually attended the workshops instead of employing the oft attended “conference shopping” workshop.

This is an indirect way of expressing my appreciation to all of the presenters and plenary speakers. I especially want to thank Basma Ibrahim DeVries & Holly Emert, Program Chairs who shepherded the review and selection process for the workshops. Kudos also to conference chair Kelli McCloud-Schingen, Executive Director Peggy Pusch, Volunteer Coordinator Stacy Howell and all the volunteers with whom we could not have held such a well-received conference.

Now we look forward to Spokane, Washington, 2010, site of our 10th anniversary conference.

An idea occurred to me as I reflected on our conferences and the quality workshops we provide. We are an organization to which many of your friends and colleagues should belong. We offer incredible benefits beginning with the outstanding professional development one receives from the workshops. There are a host of other benefits as well:

- Outstanding networking possibilities with people around the globe
- The annual conference
- 20 percent discount when using our website to buy books from Intercultural Press
- Discounts to attend our annual conference as well as those of other SIETARS around the globe

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Letter **1**

Executive Director's Note **2**

Local Group News **2**

SUSA 2009 Conference Report **3**

Announcements **3**

In Memoriam: Norma M. McCaig **4**

Call for Articles **5**

Special Feature: Book Review **5**

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NEW!

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...and there are many more.

So, to make myself clear, I am urging you to recruit your friends, colleagues and clients to become members. I also want you to become more involved in the organization – mentoring is just one possibility. I mention mentoring because, at the moment, we have more people wanting to be mentored than we have mentors. I hope you will respond.

Andy Reynolds

SIETAR-USA President

LOCAL GROUP NEWS

SIETAR DC

SIETAR DC continues to grow its membership base and, thanks to its recent partnership with George Washington University, has welcomed many more students into the organization. We started the year in commemoration of President Obama's inauguration with a screening of an award-winning documentary film, *Prince Among Slaves*, followed by a dialogue on race and the changing face of America. We continued the discussion on race during our February session when we were educated about the need for cultural competence in disaster and crisis following the post-Katrina catastrophe. In March we welcomed Danish author, Elisabeth Plum, who gave a fascinating talk about her new book *Cultural Intelligence* during her book tour of the U.S. We also co-sponsored a reception at the International Management Institute's annual conference at American University.

SIETAR Spokane

SIETAR Spokane will be meeting soon to begin the planning for SIETAR-USA 2010 in Spokane, WA! We're excited to host next year's conference!

SIETAR Florida

SIETAR Florida... "under construction" and "growing".

After attending the SIETAR USA conference in Raleigh-Durham and meeting other local groups, the Florida members came back with great ideas. The "great" problem SIETAR Florida has is that it wants to include the entire state and everyone is spread out. Monthly meetings may not be the answer. This Florida local group is looking to put together weekend events with workshops and great speakers in venues such as Disney, Cruise ships, and Resorts to make it more attractive for participants to make the trip. Also, teleseminars will be put in place to invite statewide and country-wide members.

For more information email Patricia Coleman @ AtoZworld@aol.com

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Dear Friends:

The SIETAR USA conference in Cary, NC just adjourned and it was an outstanding event. The most important part of any conference is the learning that takes place and the connections people make with others who are committed to and working in areas of similar interest. The SIETAR USA conference is no exception and once again, there were many of those connections, lots of learning, and some pretty serious fun.

What stood out for me?

- The amazing quality of the conference; the pleasure of seeing people connect. Someone said "no one was here on a whim—they were all intentional."
- The astonishing power of volunteers to create and manage a remarkable event.
- The broad range of plenary perspectives from significant research, applied to the issues of today, the use of theater to explore the thread of genocide and a young girl's experience in two vastly different locations, and bridging technology as a learning medium to on the ground exercises to connect mind, body and spirit.
- The joyous sound of music from around the world with instruments to match.
- The vast array of knowledge and learning/training techniques that presenters provided. The very hard choices that had to be made at every session time.
- The chance to meet and have conversations with newcomers to SUSA and people I met for the first time.
- Huge cookies.
- Being outbid on my auction choices which gave me a chance to have a long talk with a volunteer working there.
- The power and joy of dance with One Drum.
- Rediscovering the importance of our work and being reminded of this by those new to the field who are searching for new ways to deal with old issues and challenging world conditions.
- Deer by the roadside as we rode to the airport at 4 a.m.

It is hard to write about something so fresh and so powerful on so many levels. It seems strange to already be thinking of next April and the conference in Spokane WA where we hope to have an equally rich experience. We are grateful to all those who contributed so much to make this happen, ably led by our conference chair, Kelli McCloud-Schingen.

Sincerely,

Peggy Pusch

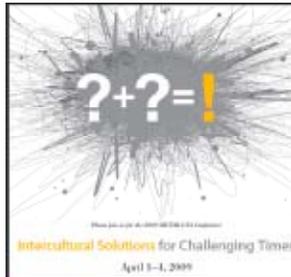
SIETAR-USA Executive Director

SUSA 2009 CONFERENCE REPORT

By Rita Wuebbeler

Chair, Special Interest Group 'SIETAR Pride Across Cultures' for Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender Members of SIETAR and their Allies'

Following is a brief report on the SIETAR USA conference in Raleigh, North Carolina on April 1-4, 2009. In German I would describe the event as "klein aber fein" (small but nice) - with an attendance of just below 200, the conference was quite a bit smaller than usual, but/and lower numbers meant MORE time to spend with folks individually which was very nice. Kelli McCloud-Schingen and the conference organizing team did an outstanding job pulling together the event in a very short amount of time – thanks, Kelli!



I thought the program this time was of very good quality – and most folks seemed to agree. My favorites included Lee Mun Wah's workshop on 'Cultural Competency for Leaders' (Lee Mun Wah is the maker of classic diversity film "The Color of Fear") and the two final keynotes: one by Drew Kahn, Chair of the Theater Department of Buffalo State College, NY on "Finding Anne Frank in Rwanda: A Diary of Universal Genocide" focusing on using theater as a tool for social change. The other keynote of note was Patti Digh's engaging and provocative presentation on "Hip-Hop, Manga, Facebook, Twitter, Second Life, and Myth: Intercultural Tools for a New Century". She had us all up on our feet moving around the room, building community and making connections while talking about and demonstrating the use of web-based social networking tools in order to re-install life into our field of intercultural communication and diversity training (my words, not hers).

We also had our traditional Pride Across Cultures Special Interest Group Luncheon: 12 people attended – and as usual, our SIG table was 'the most popular place in town'. Two straight allies joined our group as we went around the table sharing stories and events of the last 6 months that had given us hope in terms of achieving more equality for the LGBT community.



Jeffrey Cookson, Rebecca Parrilla, and Rob Pusch at Pride Across Cultures SIG Luncheon in Raleigh-Durham

There were two LGBT-related presentations at this year's conference: Jeffrey Cookson showed "Jerusalem is Proud to Present" - a documentary film and discussion on the hateful events around World Pride in Jerusalem in 2006". Karen Dickson led a discussion on "Lessons from the Volstead Act: How to Delete a Constitutional Amendment" focusing on the constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage in the US.

Rita Wuebbeler is founder and president of INTERGLOBE Cross-Cultural Business Services, Inc. She designs and conducts cross-cultural awareness programs and team building workshops, pre-departure orientations, repatriation programs and cultural business briefings for countries and regions in Europe, Latin America and Asia. She was a founding member of the US-chapter of the Society for Intercultural Training, Education and Research (SIETAR USA and currently holds the position of Advisory Board Member within the association. She is also the founding member of the Pride Across Cultures Special Interest Group.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING SIETAR EVENTS

Our SIETAR-USA Conference in Raleigh-Durham may have just ended, but look what other SIETAR events lay ahead:



3rd Annual Conference of SIETAR India in Pune, India - October 30 to November 1, 2009

Theme: "Connecting Worlds: Solutions through Intercultural Insights." The deadline for proposals is June 1, 2009. www.sietarindia.org



10th Annual Congress of Young SIETAR in Cairo Egypt - November 12 to 15, 2009

Theme: "Young SIETAR Unplugged!! Creative Approaches to Interculturalism." Visit Umm al-Dunya (Mother of the World), better known as Cairo. www.youngsietar.org



10th Annual SIETAR USA Conference in Spokane, Washington - April 14-17, 2010

It's our 10th anniversary. Mark your calendars now. www.sietarusa.org.

JOB BOARD

Check it out... www.sietarusa.org now has an active Job Board open to everyone who wishes to post a position or who is looking for one. You are invited to look or to post on the Job Board. If you know of people who are filling positions, urge them to post on the Job Board. Easy to use and a benefit of membership in SIETAR USA.

IN MEMORIAM

NORMA M. MCCAIG

by Sandra M. Fowler

An interculturalist of note, Norma McCaig, Founder of Global Nomads International (GNI), passed away on Monday night November 10th, 2008 at her home in Reston, Virginia. She died of complications from cancer. SUSA member Judee Blohm wrote: "She was a lovely and passionate individual. She will really be missed."



Norma liked to consider herself the grandmother of the Global Nomad movement. People wonder where the term came from. A friend and colleague Mikkela Thompson explains that the term "global nomad" was born in India when Norma attended a school reunion at the South Indian hill station of Kodaikanal. As Norma was taking a shower she wondered why she had come to the reunion of a school she had attended for only a few years and where she was not like to know anyone, but she was overcome by the thought that as soon as she was with other alumni, she would feel at home because they were all "global nomads" like her. Norma wrote: "Global nomads are very good mediators. Whenever TCKs move into another culture, they become very good, objective observers. They're like cultural sponges. Those skills translate into ideal requirements for combating racism and advancing social and refugee work." That certainly describes Norma herself as well as her life's work.

Mikkela Thompson wrote the following in appreciation of Norma in the February 2009 Foreign Service Journal (37): "A regular lecturer at the Foreign Service Institute, the author of the Journal's early articles on raising globally mobile children, and someone actively involved with the Foreign Service Youth Foundation, Ms. McCaig was a vibrant force in the diplomatic community.

Thompson adds: "Norma M. McCaig was born on July 25, 1945, and moved to the Philippines at the age of 2 with her father, a pharmaceutical executive (as she'd joke, "my daddy peddled drugs in Asia"), mother and brother. At the age of 13, the family moved to Sri Lanka. Norma attended boarding school at the Kodaikanal International School in India, and then finished high school back in the Philippines before returning to the U.S. Norma translated her childhood experiences into a lifetime of promoting international understanding, with a pioneering vision of a cross-cultural identity and organization.

In 1984, she created the term global nomad, both because she did not want to be called a kid and because she wanted a more elegant, and expansive, designation for herself and others like her. This gift of creative terminology is just one of her many contributions to the field of international cultural intercourse, which include "cultural chameleon," "passport culture" and other phrases now whizzing around on the WorldWideWeb."

Also according to Thompson: "Along with sociologists Ruth Hill Uusem, who coined the term "Third Culture Kids" in the 1960s, Dave Pollock and Ruth Van Reken, all authorities on growing up internationally, Norma McCaig was a pathbreaker, an energetic champion for the globally mobile community. She was the first to recognize the importance of helping global nomads on "re-entry" into their home country, and envisioned a global nomad club at every college and university. She encouraged many universities to recognize and allow students to designate themselves as global nomads on their applications. This includes the children of Foreign Service personnel as well as those from military, missionary and business families.

"Norma McCaig not only changed our world; she changed my life," writes Van Reken, co-author with Dave Pollock of *Third Culture Kids: The Experience of Growing Up Among Worlds*. "I first met her in 1987, when she dared to cross sector lines and attend a conference about missionary kids (in Quito), even though she had been raised as a business kid. She shared her dream for Global Nomads, an organization that would be for adults who had grown up in any internationally mobile background. Norma borrowed against her own retirement account to make that conference happen in December 1988 ... [It was] the first time adult TCKs gathered together to explore mutually our convergent journeys."

Norma was a SIETAR DC member, active in the first SUSA conference at George Mason University, and a NAFSA member, an ardent supporter of and advocate for international education and intercultural communication. She is the author of the Malonarian training exercise described in the second volume of the *Intercultural Sourcebook: Cross-Cultural Training Methods*.

She is and will continue to be greatly missed.



Society for Intercultural Education
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CALL FOR ARTICLES

SUSA News invites our readers and members to submit their article ideas. For example, consider:

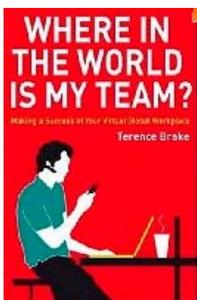
- Writing a SIETAR USA Member Profile: Members representing the diversity found across our membership of Education, Training and Research professionals. If you would like to either serve as an interviewer or interview subject in a future newsletter issue, please contact us.
- Authoring a Book Review: We invite book reviews of publications likely to be of interest to our membership. If you would like to complete a book review for a future SUSA News issue, please contact us for our book review template. (And check out the book review in this issue prepared by Sue Shinomiya.)
- Recommending any other ideas—your own or someone else's—for articles or contributions. If you think it's a good idea we probably will, as well.

To discuss article ideas or how you might contribute to the newsletter, contact us at +1 206-859-4351 or via Email: info@sietarusa.org

SPECIAL FEATURE!

BOOK REVIEW

Editor's Note: SUSA News is pleased to invite book reviews of publications likely to be of interest to our membership. If you would like to complete a book review for a future SUSA News issue, please contact us for our book review template.



Where in the World is My Team?™

by Terence Brake, John Wiley and Sons Ltd., 2008

A brief description of the book

It would have been enough for Terence Brake to give us a book that with crisp clarity encompasses the breadth of his wisdom, experience and useful models for successful global teams. Additionally, "Where in the World is my Team" stands out as an engaging and humorous page turner. The book is written from the perspective of Will

Williams, the young, unlikely hero/narrator/techie geek who has been tasked with putting together materials for the big boss to incorporate into her pending television interview on how The Fun House, a globally disbursed computer games company, manages to harness technology and work successfully as a team. The reader gets caught up in the dramas, romances and occasional insanity of one particular global team trying to get along and get

some work done. At the same time, the hero introduces us to world class global team models such as the Six Performance Zones of Global Team Collaboration, mindset shifts, behavioral rules, roles and more, along with the technology that enables the full range of team interaction and organization.

Review as to its value to SIETAR members

Having been through Terence Brake's SIIC workshop on virtual teams, I picked up "Where in the World is My Team" in hopes of getting all the best practices written up in one place. That I didn't want to put the book down because of the fun storyline was icing on the cake—or should I say "froth on the café latte," as the local espresso joint also plays a part in the story. Terence Brake's models for understanding global teams could become the next essential component of the interculturalist's toolkit, especially those of us who work with geographically disbursed teams. Readers also will be introduced to some of the benefits and pitfalls of workplace and social-networking technology in a very accessible, "old-fashioned" book format. No PC required.

Notes for purchase

The official website <http://www.wherewiththeworldismyteam.com/> provides information about the book by way of an animation/film clip of Terry, the 6-C model, his blog and other resources. The retail price is \$35.95 from Wiley.com, but you can also find it for a discount on Amazon at <http://www.amazon.com/Where-World-My-Team-Workplace/dp/0470714298>. The video/animation clip can also be found on Amazon—very cool!

Book Reviewer:

Sue Shinomiya, consultant, corporate trainer, coach, author and webinar leader, specializes in global business effectiveness for corporations and individuals. Her nearly 25 plus years in the intercultural field have included 9 years working and living in Japan. She is currently a Board Member of SIETAR USA, and has attended 8 of the last 12 Summer Institutes, including Terence Brake's course on global teams and technology. She is the co-author of *Business Passport to Japan: Revised and Updated, 2007*, an essential guide for anyone doing business in Japan.



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