

GCVII Seminar Papers Published

In May, 2004, Global Connections Foundation will release its second publication entitled, *Crossing Frontiers: Culture, Language and Bilingualism*, edited by Peter Pelham and Eric Widmer and printed by Deerfield Academy Press, Massachusetts. It is a compilation of papers presented at the GCVII Seminar in Maisons- Laffitte, France in July, 2003.

Visitorship Sets Sail!

Our first applicant for the GC Visitorship comes from Tamaki College in New Zealand. Dorothy Apelu is the Head of Social Studies and Year 9 Dean at the school in Auckland. She began teaching English in 1999 and has been Head of Social Studies for more than one year. In addition, as Year 9 dean she oversees the pastoral needs of 180 thirteen year olds and the tutors that monitor them. This will be her first opportunity to travel outside the south pacific region and her first opportunity to visit schools in another country.



Dorothy Apelu

In Dorothy's application she expressed the hope that the exchange will help her find new ways of reaching and teaching her students. She hopes to return with resources that augment her teaching plans and looks to using technology so students can swap ideas and share their cultures. She is interested in how school pride and a sense of belonging is developed and nurtured within the student body of the schools she will visit. And she is a little nervous how she will be viewed by U.S. students as a teacher whose backgrounds differ so widely from her Samoan roots.

Dorothy will visit schools in Maryland, New York, and Massachusetts and will be hosted by families in those locales.

President's Corner

SMALL INITIATIVES CAN HAVE GLOBAL CONSEQUENCES



Peter D. Pelham, President

Even with world tensions as they are, there has been a wonderful escalation in global partnerships and programs during the past year. We see this reflected in Global Connections. For the 8th International School Leaders' Seminar there will be nearly 100 delegates, including host country participants, from 27 different nations.

These school leaders and administrators will come from cultures and educational systems as widely diverse as Oman and Mongolia, Afghanistan, Canada, Albania, China, and Australia. Why does such a group meet? Primarily, to learn from each other. As school leaders, there are enormous differences in these schools' cultures, educational systems, in endowments, and in educational objectives. But, in spite of all of these differences, there is the most common thread of all: students

and the obligation we share in the process of teaching and learning.

How wonderful it is that this small initiative can have such global consequences. To bring together for even a few days those who are given the opportunity to serve and lead is a positive process. The potential outcomes are even more joyful: they hold in promise the possibilities not only for shared information but also for the exchange of resources through the use of technology or in human form. They provide us -- and we all share in this -- the responsibility of looking beyond our own borders and whatever limitations they may impose to a more regional and, hopefully, global awareness of education's importance and power in developing a world-view of knowledge and understanding.

Global Connections is about partnerships; it is about connecting educational communities around the world. We look forward to July and to our 8th Seminar and to being in two capital cities: Sofia, Bulgaria and Bucharest, Romania.

Peter D. Pelham
President

Exchange Updates: Partnerships in Progress

GAP Student:

From the Principal of Maru a Pula School, Botswana

"The good news is that we have a colleague from the Hill School (PA) joining us for a three-week period. We also have had a Deerfield student at Maru a Pula as a GAP student for the last six months."

Partnership:

From the Principal of MacRobertson High School, Australia

"Yesterday our student from Letsibogo Girl's High School in Soweto arrived. She is most impressive and Ellen (Kondowe, Principal) has chosen well for our particular school. The three girls who have been with us so far have had a marvelous time, been reluctant to leave, but taken their learnings to share with their peers and themselves gone on to further study. Our first girl is now part time in university and working to support herself. She's the first from the school to go to university, I believe. A wonderful outcome."

See more Exchange Updates inside.

How Frankston High School Forged a Partnership



Ken Rowe, former Principal, Frankston High School

During the past seven years of association with Global Connections, Frankston High School has benefited enormously from the exchange of ideas, programs and personnel. One of the most significant gains we have made has been our close association with Letsibogo Girls' High School in Soweto, South Africa.

Frankston High School had an established and successful association with our two Language sister schools in Japan and France. Students and staff made annual visits and it brought great relevance to the teaching of these languages in our school.

At my first Global Connections conference at Geelong Grammar in 1998 I was challenged by Malcolm McKenzie and Peter Pelham to establish links with a school from the third world. There were five such schools represented at the conference and I sought out Ellen Kondowe from Letsibogo Girls' High School in Soweto, South Africa.

I sat with Ellen during our four-hour bus trip to Geelong Grammar's alpine campus at 'Timbertop'. I put to her the possibility of bringing a girl over to our school in 1999 to provide her with a challenging educational experience. Ellen was enthusiastic though somewhat cautious. We put the idea to Anne Van Zyl, who was then at St Stithians. She agreed to assist us with our plan.

With the total support of my School Council and of our neighboring school, Mt Eliza Secondary College, plus the help of South Africa Airlines, we welcomed two girls from Letsibogo in January of 1999.

The students were home hosted in carefully selected families, provided with many rich educational experiences and the success of the program has been amazing for everyone associated with it.

The first two girls, Sihle Ngubane and Sophie Nchupetsang, spent 1999 in Australia. They were both 14 when they arrived and completed Year 9 at their respective schools. They had a range of exciting experiences from swimming with the dolphins to visiting Central Australia. They are currently in second year University in Johannesburg. Sihle is studying medical science and Sophie is studying Law.

Phindile Mbpnambi and Thabile Sibeko arrived in 2000. They were both 15 and were in Year 10. They returned to successfully complete Year 12 at Letsibogo Girls' High School and continue their studies in the hospitality fields. Both currently have jobs in this industry. This is quite an achievement in an area where unemployment is rife.

The students who have returned to South Africa recognize that this program must benefit more students than just themselves.

When Phindile returned to South Africa she was able to teach her classmates computer skills. They had the computers but no teacher with the skills to use them. Thabile was able to gain a traineeship in a very exclusive restaurant. They said she was selected from many other candidates because her English was so good.

In 2001 the program expanded to include MacRobertson Girls High School..

Elshia Nkuna, Onica Soke and Hilda Moraedi were selected for the program. All three threw themselves into the lives of their schools, getting involved in debating and the Student Leadership program. Many of these girls endure extreme hardships at home which are quite detrimental in terms of their studies. Once again, however, the girls all successfully completed Year 12. Elshia and Onica were then selected by the First National Bank of Johannesburg to participate in a special program

incorporating work in a bank with a university degree in Financial Management. Onica's family circumstance would not have allowed her to continue her studies without a program like this where she was being paid. The bank was quite impressed with their English skills and with their confidence in dealing with foreign businessmen. They were both able to write essays about their year in Australia that made them stand out from other candidates. The journey is certainly not over yet. Elshia intends to be the first black, female CEO of the First National Bank.

Vuyo Khuma, Kagison Srippe and Ellen Legoale participated in the program in 2002. They completed Year 12 last year. Ellen and Kagison achieved Distinctions in the Year 12 exams, an unheard of feat at Letsibogo. All three have started university this year. Kagison is studying Medicine, Ellen, accounting and Voyu, engineering.

The girls of 2003, Zoe Mahopo, Thabile Moshwane and Dineo Molefe, have returned to Letsibogo this year and have settled into the new routine of school most successfully. Like all of the girls before them they were outstanding ambassadors for their school and country. Three new students have arrived in Australia to begin their studies at Melbourne schools.

The students who have returned to South Africa recognize that this program must benefit more students than just themselves. They are all looking for ways of contributing to their school. A number of the girls are volunteering their time to work in the library, help with computers and tutor students.

As a group they are visiting Year 9 classes mentoring these students and helping them to set goals and plan strategies to achieve them. They also support the girls as they return from Australia and settle back into Letsibogo, and assist the new girls prior to their visit to Australia. They are working together strongly as a group, because they know that together they can achieve great things.

Trinity and Tiger Kloof Schools Launch Web Site on Partnership

Two years ago Trinity school in New York City and Tiger Kloof school in Vryburg, South Africa embarked on a challenging and exciting partnership. The emphasis of this partnership is on providing an opportunity for teachers to move beyond borders and undertake literal and figurative journeys of significance into new worlds.

To help other administrators, teachers, and school officials learn about the process of forming a school-to-school partnership, Trinity and Tiger Kloof created a web site that details their efforts and provides a running commentary from participants engaged in all facets of the exchange.



L to R - Marsha Nelson (Trinity), Lydia Webber, Gail du Toit (Tiger Kloof), Sonya Posmentier (Trinity)

For more information, visit the site at: www.tigerklooftrinity.org.za

Independent School Magazine Gets the Connection!

The Global Schoolhouse, the Spring 2004 issue of *Independent School* magazine published by the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), featured two articles noting the contribution of the Global Connections Foundation in furthering internationalization. Look for "Making Global Connections," by Eric Widmer and "Sense of Community and the Emerging Global Citizen," by Malcolm McKenzie. The articles are published online at:

www.nais.org/pubs/ismag.cfm

Competition Makes a Perfect First Exchange

The Foundation received this letter regarding the first ever all-Kenyan hockey tournament, hosted by Arthur Mbalule and the Budo School. Here's the report via email:

"I would like to thank you for the effort you put in to ensure that one of the schools in Global Connections travels to Uganda for a sports event. We had six schools in total with sponsorship from a local telecommunications company.

Maseno School traveled, played and won the tournament! In the preliminaries, Maseno had played and lost to

Budo but in the later stages Budo, who were the defending champions, were beaten by another local school in extra time.

I cannot attach a value to this kind of visit but the experience for the youngsters was immense! Maseno stayed at Budo for three nights. We hope to do a return visit later in the year.

Once again thank you and I hope to meet you one day.

Cheers -

Arthur Mbalule"

Exchange Updates: Partnerships in Progress Continued

Exchanges:

From Larysa Olefirenko, Director of Secondary School #8, Ukraine:

"A group of Ukrainian High School students and their teachers traveled to Istanbul. There waiting for them were students from a different world, not so far away geographically but very different in almost every other respect. The Turkish students were from Robert College, a private school in the mega city of Istanbul who hosted this group, which hailed from 3 public schools in the small town of Izmail. It was the first time most of students had left the Ukraine. The students stayed with their Turkish host families and went to classes with their newly found friends. Now the Turkish students and their teachers are looking forward to traveling to the Ukraine to see the world of their Ukrainian friends.

The students were met by friendly colleagues and spent seven unforgettable days attending classes at the school and visiting museums, the Blue Mosque, Covered Bazaar. They were hosted by local families in their homes and found Istanbul to be a real paradise. We are waiting for our friends to come to Izmail and are thankful to our colleagues from Robert College." An article about the exchange appeared in a local publication with a photograph of the group.

In addition, Larysa wrote an article when she returned from attending GCVII in France for *Papirus*, her local newspaper, in which she described the seminar proceedings and visits and included several photographs of the Chateau Maisons Laffitte and the delegates.

From Lower Canada College:

Lower Canada College's first Deerfield Exhibition Hockey series took place in January and involved Senior Boys' and Senior Girls' Hockey teams. They were greeted warmly by Deerfield Headmaster Eric Widmer and entered the packed arena in Deerfield, MA festooned with U.S. and Canadian flags.

The Senior Boys' Hockey team put up a game fight against the Deerfield JV team before falling by a score of 5 to 1. The LCC Girls avenged the loss by defeating the Deerfield JV Girls in rather impressive fashion by a 9 to 1 score. While not exactly a 'miracle on ice,' the inaugural matches will be the start of an annual tradition between the two schools."

Letters from Global Connections Participants

Letter from Australia

"I believe the statement being made in supporting Bulgaria and Romania is an important affirmation that strong networks of school leaders that function with an abiding purpose, can transcend political and historical barriers and boundaries."

Global Connections is making an important contribution to international networking - a culture that will grow in voice and impact as education becomes at once more globally complex but more widely understood as we increasingly gain a common language. In short it is we, the profession, that will drive the future of education - not our governments and not our bureaucracies."

Andrew Blair, President, Victorian Association of State Secondary Principals, Inc., Australia

Letter from ASSIST

"[I] wanted you to know how much I enjoyed your article on Global Connections in Independent School. Your tribute to Peter's excellent work and leadership, and the

implicit manifesto to undertake meaningful programs that actually get something done, was good reading."

Robert A. Stanley, Jr., President, ASSIST

Letter from Independent School magazine

"I think the work you do is of immense value not only to independent schools, but to all of us who wish for greater international understanding. May we all live to see the day!"

Michael Brosnan, Editor, Independent School Magazine, USA

Letter from United States

"I cannot tell you what a valuable experience the conference was this summer. I am very glad that we are now members of this terrific organization. I very much look forward to next summer in Bulgaria and Romania and the prospect of exchanges for our teachers one day with teachers from around the world."

Dulany O. Bennett, Head of School, Oregon Episcopal School, USA

Letter from Australia

"I have arrived home to Melbourne after a great ten weeks sabbatical and one of the

highlights was, undoubtedly, my attendance at the Global Connections VII Seminar. Your organization and drive behind this great initiative is very powerful and, of course, your level of hospitality makes every person feel welcome and included. I made some great contacts, met fabulous people and look forward to being able to extend our commitment to Global Connections."

Rosa Storelli, Principal, Methodist Ladies' College, Australia

Letter from Afghanistan on receiving a copy of *Owned by the Land*. . .

"I opened Owned by the Land at random and read 'Why Geese fly farther than Eagles.' I was entranced. This is a masterful effort on the part of Janet Rogers, Eric Widmer, Deerfield and yourselves. Very well done. I'm looking forward to finishing it within a few days and have a number of people to whom I'd love to get copies. Environmental education for kids can/will have a hugely positive impact."

Ted Achilles, USA, working in Afghanistan

From Maths to Music: Lessons from Africa

AN EXCHANGE TEACHER BRINGS A NEW PERSPECTIVE TO HER HOST SCHOOL

The Foundation received this wonderful overview of the experience one of the Tiger Kloff teachers had during her time at Trinity School in New York. It is refreshing to see that the interchange had such an impact on both the participant and her hosts. It also underscores the fact that those willing to step out of their comfort zones -- professionally as well as socially -- are often rewarded for their courage. The principal from Tiger Kloff writes:

One of our teachers, Leonara, has returned from her visit to Trinity. The experience was exhilarating for her and she is now full of confidence and excitement. Leonara is our Maths teacher and at Trinity she taught singing and dance to the chorus. She is an untrained but talented singer/dancer and her presentation of Setswana songs and dances challenged the choral group of boys and girls ages 11-17. Following are

some of the comments made by those who participated in an African experience.

"I admit that dancing and singing simultaneously is one thing we've never done in the past. I can't recall one moment in my life in which I actually danced so there was some difficulty for me to get used to singing, clapping and dancing. I don't think I came close to grasping the free, comfortable feeling but the chance to experience and sing the unique aspects of African music was very enjoyable."

"I loved working with Leonara. I love doing different things. I think it broadened people's minds because without her most people wouldn't have even tried. Different is sometimes scary. We learned through experience that it is best, always. She's so warm and welcoming and true to her culture -- characteristics many people lack in the US."

"Normally when we sing we're very serious, we don't dance and focus only on the notes and text. However, now we really enjoy the sound and feeling of the music. Rather than sitting still and thinking, we were able to dance and experience. That was magic."

"We tend to establish patterns here and are often less than amenable to new experiences. Leonara's teaching offered the chorus a unique opportunity to depart from our tradition and I found myself very receptive to the new materials and learning methods. I thrived on not having to fret over the technicalities that can easily take away from the sensual experience that music and dance are. Leonara was a wonderful teacher and I don't think such an atmosphere could have existed without her warm smile, infectious giggle, booming voice and admirable patience."

"It was unlike any musical experience I've ever had. Everyone lost some of the inhibitions and danced and laughed while we sang."



We are extremely grateful for the various support that the Global Connections Foundation has received to date from a number of individuals, corporations, foundations, and organizations. These contributions are augmented by the hospitality and initiatives that our host schools and their staff have demonstrated over the nearly eight years that Global Connections has existed.

In particular, we wish to express our thanks to the following for:

Global Connections I

- David Wylde, Rector of St. Stithians School in Johannesburg and now Head of St. Andrews School in Grahamstown, South Africa
- Malcolm McKenzie, Principal of the Maru a Pula School in Gaborone, Botswana and now Head of the United World College of the Atlantic, Wales
- David Matthews, Rector of the Tiger Kloof Educational Institution in Vryburg, South Africa and now retired

Global Connections II

- Lister Hannah, Principal of the Geelong Grammar School in Melbourne, Australia and now President of the Traidhos Foundation (Prem Center) in Thailand
- Peter Cornish, Executive Headmaster of SCECGS/Redlands in Sydney, Australia and now Chancellor of the Redlands Group, Australia

Global Connections III

- C. J. ("Jonty") Driver, The Master of Wellington College in England and now retired

Global Connections IV

- Eric Widmer, Headmaster of the Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts
- Richard Mueller, Head of Northfield Mount Hermon School in Massachusetts
- Anne Stephens, Director of Milton Academy's Mountain School in Vermont
- Glenn Sherratt, Director of Horace Mann School's Dorr Nature Lab in Connecticut

Global Connections V

- Dr. Geoffrey Griffin, Director, Starehe Boys' Centre and School in Nairobi, Kenya

Global Connections VI

- Principal Li Shuisheng of No. 1 Middle School Attached to the Central China Normal University in Wuhan, China and now Principal of Rayson School, China

Global Connections VII

- Christopher Hunter, Directeur, L'Ermitage in Maisons-Laffitte, France

And especially in preparation for this year's seminar we wish to thank Anna Portarska, Chair of the Educational Cooperation Foundation in Sofia, Bulgaria and Veronica Focseneanu, Head Teacher of the Ion Luca Caragiale National College in Bucharest, Romania.

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