Dear Friends and Colleagues of the IEDP,

Classes have only been in session for a little over a month, but the program has kept us all very busy. Dr. Frances Vavrus from University of Minnesota gave a fascinating lecture on her work on Learner Centered Pedagogy in Tanzania with an international, multi-generational research team. Just this past week Dr. Elizabeth King, Director of Education in the Human Development Network of the World Bank, presented her work with the World Bank's new education strategy: Learning for All. A small group of IEDP students were invited to have lunch with Dr. King after her lecture. Videos of both lectures will be available online soon.

The new IEDP cohort has been able to get to know one another through various events like a picnic in Rittenhouse Square; a welcome lunch hosted by Dr. Wagner in his home (pictured above); and a trip to South Philly to try the city's iconic cheesesteaks.

In November we look forward to welcoming Dr. Hiro Yoshikawa from the Harvard Graduate School of Education as well as Dr. Monisha Bajaj from Teachers College, Columbia University. Dr. Yoshikawa's talk, co-sponsored by The Institute of Education Science, will focus on information and communication technologies for development. Dr. Bajaj will discuss her new book, Schooling for Social Change: The Rise and Impact of Human Rights Education in India. This event is co-sponsored by Penn's South Asia Center. For up-to-date announcements about our events and more, visit us online or follow us on twitter.

In this month's newsletter, read about Penn's role in the UN
Education First initiative, learn about one IEDP's alums, and discover upcoming events around campus. We hope you find this newsletter interesting and useful! Please contact us with any suggestions, questions, comments or musings.

Sincerely,

Laura McAdams
Current IEDP Masters Student
Editor

The UN’s Education First Initiative

On September 26, 2012 at the United Nations in New York, IEDP directory Dr. Dan Wagner participated in the launch of the Education First initiative. This is a new effort to keep the momentum for education going after the 2015 completion of Education For All and the Millenium Development Goals. Senior leadership from various countries, UN specialized agencies including UNESCO, UNICEF and the WORLD BANK, and special guest Aung San Suu Kyi from Burma/Myanmar were present.

During the following two days, Professor Wagner participated in side meetings of task forces organized by the Brookings Institution to consider and plan for the post-2015 education agenda. Dr. Wagner is Chair of the Brookings Global Research Task Force on Learning. A major Task Force white paper will soon be available.

Alumni Spotlight

Every month we will highlight one former IEDP student and their activities since graduating from Penn. This month we introduce you to

Anna Greenstone
In May-June of 2012, I was fortunate enough to intern with Molteno Institute for Language and Literacy (MILL), a Johannesburg based non-profit. MILL engages with South African schools in several ways. They are best known for the Breakthrough to Literacy and Bridge to English programs and textbooks, which teachers use as tools to enhance language instruction in the classroom. They also conduct educational research, and teacher professional development programs through workshops and mentorship.

The focus of my work was on teacher education. I worked closely with some of the Molteno staff to design, develop and facilitate a teacher professional development workshop for foundation phase teachers (grade 1-3) in Tembisa township schools. The workshop theme was comprehension and critical thinking. In addition I completed school visits, and observed several teacher workshops (some run by MILL trainers and others run by government officials), among other tasks.

My internship was an exciting opportunity for me to gain experience in teacher Ed, an area I would like to specialize in as I build my career.

During my work I reflected a great deal on classroom interaction and how teachers can create spaces for dialogue and inquiry with students. I also considered how schools, NGOs and governments can take a resource-based approach toward supporting teachers in their professional development. Considering these issues in the context of South Africa adds many layers; its education system has various challenges from under-resourced schools and communities to festering social divisions left by the apartheid system. Engaging with the issues under the guidance of Molteno staff and working directly in the schools with teachers were incredibly valuable learning experiences.

Upcoming Events

**Monday, October 22**
12:00pm - 1:00pm

Institute of Education Sciences Lecture Series presents Dr. Ofer Malamud, Assistant Professor of Public Policy at the University of Chicago. Dr. Malamud will present "OLPC at Home: Short-Run Impacts of a Randomized Intervention Peru." Dr. Malamud primarily conducts research in the fields of labor economics and the economics of education. His work focuses on the labor market outcomes associated with general and specific education. In particular, he has examined the relative returns to academic and vocational education in Romania and the trade-off between early specialization and the gains from delaying the choice of a major field of study in Britain. He has also studied the effect of education on regional mobility using the unintended effect of attending college to avoid the Vietnam draft, and most recently, the effect of home computer use on child and adolescent outcomes.
Friday, October 26
11:30am - 1:00pm, GSE Room 120
**Brown eyes and blue eyes: Race & Ethnicity in the U.S.** A discussion facilitated with the help of Penn's Greenfield Intercultural Center and Office of the Chaplain.

Saturday, November 3
8:00pm, Anneberg Center, Zellerbach Theatre
**Rama Vaidyanathan.** A gem in her native India, Rama Vaidyanathan is one of the world's leading interpreters of Bharata Natyam, the great classical dance form of southern India that's characterized by complex footwork, abstract movements and elaborate mime. With a distinct style that melds tradition and her 20 years of expertise, she is renowned as the "thinking dancer." With every stamp, turn and pose, Vaidyanathan, beautifully accompanied by several accomplished musicians, will enthrall with "fire power and ebullience, athleticism and rhythmic prowess" (The Hindu, Delhi).

Wednesday, November 7
12:00pm - 1:30pm
**Dean's Lunch with Master's Students.** Sign up to have lunch with Dean Andy Porter! RSVP to City Rossley at rossleyc@gse.upenn.edu

Friday, November 9 11:30am-1:00pm
GSE Room 120
**Re-defining your identity as an International Student.** Chat led by staff members from Weingarten Learning Resources Center

Saturday, November 10
8:00pm, Anneberg Center, Zellerbach Theatre
**Acoustic Africa: Afropean Women.** Celebrate the roots of traditional African music and contemporary pop and R&B with three of Africa's most compelling singers- Dobet Gnahore, the Ivory Coast's Grammy® award-winning singer and percussionist; Manu Gallo, the acclaimed former bassist for Belgian group Zap Mama, whose own music draws on rhythms of West Africa; and Kareyce Fotso, the young Cameroonian singer who contributes an intriguing combination of Afro-pop and blues. With musical direction by guitarist Leni Stern, this first-time mega-meeting of Afropean talent showcases a spellbinding fusion of Western and African music styles in a "beautiful and fascinating exchange going on between great artists...if you are within range of any of these shows, don't miss it!" (Afropop Worldwide)