Dear Friends and Colleagues of the IEDP,

March has been a busy month here at the IEDP as spring break came and quickly went; the IEDP soccer team, The Scrambled Eggplants, played a few soccer games (pictured above); and perhaps most importantly, students completed their capstone papers, or Policy Briefs. The Policy Brief is a major component of the program, as students identify and analyze aspects of education policy in a national setting and draw on international practices to justify and promote change. We invite you to attend a poster session of the IEDP students’ Policy Brief at 12:00pm, April 24 in GSE 120.

This spring IEDP students have taken the opportunity to present their work at various conferences. Beza Wossene and Josh Cleveland presented at George Mason University’s Graduate Student Research Conference on the Education Panel on March 22nd. In April, Jonathan Roberts will present at New York University’s International Education Conference and Laura McAdams will present at Stanford University’s AMENDS summit.

On February 28th we welcomed Jordan Naidoo, Senior Education Advisor from UNICEF as part of the IEDP lecture series. Dr. Naidoo presented on his work in partnership with the World Bank on designing a tool to model simulations for equity in education in Africa. This tool examines bottlenecks and barriers in primary education to guide dialogue and advocacy for investment in marginalized groups by showing that equity-based programs
can be cost-effective.

In preparation for the upcoming summer internships and work after graduation, the past few weeks the IEDP's international internship fieldwork seminar has featured a number of guest speakers: Dr. Mary Mendenhall of the International Rescue Committee and adjunct assistant professor at Teacher's College, Columbia University led a workshop on designing and implementing needs assessments; ISHD doctoral Student Katie Murphy presented designing logistical frameworks for program management; and finally, Dr. Rebecca Maynard shared her experience with Project Monitoring & Evaluation from her service as Commissioner of the National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance for the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences. For our most recent International Fieldwork Course session, IEDP alums Jeannette Rowland (working for Fabretto in Nicaragua) and Boran Choi (interning for UNESCO in New York) described their summer internship experience and the job search process. In the coming weeks we look forward to hearing from George Papagiannis (UNESCO) on the ethics of fieldwork, and Anastasia Shown (African Studies Center at Penn) for our internship pre-departure orientation.

In early April, PennGSE will be holding its Masters Preview Day for all accepted Masters students. We would like to welcome accepted IEDP students to this event. Chat with and have your questions answered by IEDP associate director Dr. Ameena Ghaffar-Kucher and current IEDP students. IEDP Director, Prof. Dan Wagner will also be making an appearance. For prospective students, this is also a great opportunity to meet potential members of the next IEDP cohort! The preview day will be held Friday, April 5th. Please contact the admissions office at admissions@gse.upenn.edu for further details.

In this month's newsletter, read about the Comparative and International Education Society Conference that was held this month in New Orleans, learn about Dr. Ghaffar-Kucher's work outside the GSE classroom, and hear about how IEDP Alum, Kelly Shiohira, describes life after graduation from the IEDP. Finally, consider joining us at one of the exciting upcoming events listed at the end of this newsletter.

Sincerely,

Laura McAdams
Editor
Current IEDP M.S.Ed. Student
A number of Penn faculty, students and alumni participated in the weeklong Comparative & International Education Society (CIES) conference in New Orleans, Louisiana this past week. As one of the largest conferences on international educational development and comparative education, this annual event brings together practitioners, researchers, analysts and academics from across the globe to discuss all topics related to education and development.

Dr. Dan Wagner (pictured far left above with Dr. Steven Klees (UMD) and Dr. Ameena Ghaffar-Kucher) chaired the panel Educational Quality and a Future Agenda for Learning Research in Developing Countries and served as the discussant on multiple panels, including Social Trajectories and Literacy Retention among African School Dropouts: Examining Hidden Dimensions of Education for All. Doctoral students Katie Murphy and Nathan Castillo presented their work on the panel Why Mobile Matters: Opportunities for Learning with Mobile Technologies in Developing Countries. Katie Murphy and Fatima Tuz Zahra (IEDP alum and current doctoral student) also presented on the panel, Maternal Literacy: The Promise of Adult Literacy and Child Development.
Dr. Ameena Ghaffar-Kucher chaired the session *Development in Practice: Personal Narratives through the International Educational Development Graduate Internship Experience* on which six IEDP alumni, Amy Descovich, Naoko Enemoto, Kelly Shiohara, Abby Campbell, Anna Greenstone and Fatima Tuz Zahra, presented on their summer internship experiences (pictured below). As co-chair of the International Travel Awards committee, Dr. Ghaffar-Kucher participated in the CIES annual awards ceremony. She was also a recipient of an award herself and won the CIES South Asia Special Interest Group's award for best-published paper for her paper, *The Religification of Pakistani American Youth* (AERJ).

IEDP @ Penn GSE's presence at the conference was highlighted by the Penn GSE evening reception, co-sponsored by the University of Maryland and George Washington University. We are already looking forward to the next CIES meeting in Toronto, Canada!
FACULTY SPOTLIGHT
DR. AMEENA GHAFFAR-KUCHER

This month we highlight the work of Dr. Ameena Ghaffar-Kucher, the IEDP’s own associate director. As associate director, this semester (especially March), has kept Dr. Ghaffar-Kucher on her toes as she works to match each IEDP student with a summer internship placement that fits their geographical and content interests. Dr. Ghaffar-Kucher is first and foremost a dedicated instructor and is also teaching two courses this semester: the International Internship Fieldwork Seminar--required for all IEDP students in preparation for the summer internship experience, and Curriculum & Pedagogy in International Contexts, which includes project based work with organizations across the globe. Last fall, she taught a section of Basic Education in Developing Countries.

Aside from administration and teaching, Dr. Ghaffar-Kucher is involved in various research and practitioner projects. These projects range from resource kits to interrupt bullying to textbook analyses; she has provided opportunities for current IEDP students to participate in her research. Below is a snapshot of these projects.

The first project, "Rethinking the Region: New Approaches to 9-12 US Curriculum on the "Modern Middle East" is part of the Our Shared Past grant, a joint venture by the British Council and the Social Science Research Council. Dr. Ghaffar-Kucher is a Co-Principal Investigator on this project with colleagues from five other universities across the United States. The team has conducted a textbook analysis to examine how mainstream high school textbooks present the Middle East. The next phase of the project is to create curricular interventions to bring more nuances to current teaching of the Middle East in US high schools. For this phase, the team has been working with historians of the Middle East both in the US and the Middle East itself.

Dr. Ghaffar-Kucher's second project is a research study on citizenship education, titled "Constructing citizens through education: A comparative study of curricular discourse in two Muslim majority countries." She is a lead researcher on this project and is working with teams based in Pakistan and Turkey.
Finally, with her colleagues Dr. Monisha Bajaj and her doctoral student, Karishma Desai, from Columbia University, Dr. Ghaffar-Kucher has developed a six-lesson curriculum unit titled, *In the Face of Xenophobia: Lessons to Address the Bullying of South Asian Youth*. She and her co-authors have already presented this work at two conferences this year and now been invited to present this project at the National South Asian Summit in Washington, D.C. sponsored by the NGO, South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT). Here, they will join other leaders and advocates dedicated to issues affecting South Asian Americans in the United States.

April will be another busy month for Dr. Ghaffar-Kucher. Aside from finalizing internship placements and presenting at the SAALT summit, she will deliver the keynote address as the 2013 Gail Paradise Kelly Memorial Lecture Speaker at the 2013 Graduate School of Education Student Research Symposium at SUNY Buffalo. Also in April, the book she co-edited with Dr. Lesley Bartlett from Columbia University, *Refugees, Immigrants and Education in the Global South: Lives in Motion* is set for publication. Learn more about Dr. Ghaffar-Kucher and read a more comprehensive list of her work [here](#).

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**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT**

**KELLY SHIOHIRA**

Every month we will highlight one former IEDP student and their activities since graduating from Penn. This month we introduce you to Kelly Shiohira (IEDP Class of 2012).

I finished my year in IEDP with an internship in South Africa, working with the [Molteno Institute for Language and Literacy](#) in Johannesburg. The organization supports the South African education system by creating educational materials, providing teacher training, and offering consultation services. I was able to work with many different areas of the organization, but my main tasks were to develop materials, assist in planning future projects, and to examine and promote reflective practice in Molteno trainers. Towards the end of my internship, I was offered a permanent position with Molteno beginning in January 2013. The day I landed back in the USA to begin my visa preparations, my boyfriend proposed. Our arrangements were a little rushed because of the impending move, so we were married in a New York City courthouse in [New York City](#).
October. Since my last name was already ridiculously long, I decided for the sake of my future children not to hyphenate it and made the official switch from Kelly Franquemont to Kelly Shiohira. In January we landed in Johannesburg and we’re now busily looking for housing and settling into our new lives here. I could not be happier, and I really feel that my time at IEDP has given me many of the skills I will need to support Molteno in its mission to improve education for all the children of South Africa.

Upcoming Events with the IEDP

Monday, April 1
7:45pm, Penn Park
Watch the IEDP soccer team The Scrambled Eggplants play

Friday, April 5
IEDP Preview Day

Friday and Saturday, April 12 - 13
New York University International Education Conference 2013
More information online.

Thursday, April 18
12:00pm - 1:00pm, GSE classroom TBA
Brown Bag Lunch with Dr. Nancy Hornberger

Wednesday, May 8
Final talk of the IEDP lecture series with Dr. I.V. Subbarao, Director, Literacy Section, UNESCO-Paris.

IEDP Graduate Assistant Office Hours

Mondays 4:00-5:00pm with Molly

Wednesdays 2:00-3:00pm with Kavita

4th floor of GSE