Dear Friends and Colleagues of the IEDP,

It is the end of the semester here at IEDP @ PennGSE, which means students and faculty alike are busy wrapping up their courses with papers, exams and projects. This past month has been an exceptionally exciting, full of insightful lectures, career building and social events.

On November 26th we welcomed Dr. Hiro Yoshikawa from Harvard University. He presented his research on two programs concerning Early Childhood Education in Santiago, Chile and Boston, Massachusetts. A small group of students attended an informal breakfast with Dr. Yoshikawa before his talk (pictured above). November 29th was a particularly busy day, beginning with a presentation by Dr. Joel Samoff from Stanford University on his views on the World Bank’s educational strategy 2020, Learning for All. Directly afterward, Dr. Monisha Bajaj presented her research on the various manifestations and impacts of Human Rights Education in India. The informal format of the presentations gave many of us the opportunity to interact directly with the speakers.

Current IEDP students Josh Cleveland and Laura Humphrey recently completed work assisting Dr. Monisha Bajaj and our own Dr. Ameena Ghaffar-Kucher with their anti-bullying project. Focusing specifically on the bullying of South-Asian and Muslim youth, the project team is developing a comprehensive resource kit with classroom lesson plans, professional development, and other resources. The goal of the project is to reducing bullying by addressing xenophobia and by building empathy among teachers and students. The preliminary curriculum unit was presented at the National Association of Multi-Cultural Educators conference in Philadelphia, November 28th - December 1st.

Last week about half of the IEDP cohort headed down to Washington D.C. to attend a career fair organized by the career centers of Penn, NYU, and George Washington University that comprised government, NGO and non-profit organizations. It was a great opportunity to begin networking with possible future employers.

We thank the Education, Culture and Society division for putting on the end-
of-semester joint ECS/IEDP party at Smokey Joe's this past Thursday. It was a great way to be able unwind fellow classmates and professors outside the GSE building. On behalf of all the IEDP Graduate Assistants, I wish you a successful end to the semester and a relaxing winter break. I look forward to joining you all again refreshed and ready to begin a new semester in January.

Sincerely,

Laura McAdams
Editor
Current IEDP Masters Student

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Yuko Goto Butler

This month we highlight the work of Dr. Yuko Butler, a core faculty member of the international educational development program. When not teaching Educational Linguistics at GSE, she is involved in research on a number of projects centered on an interest in educational motivation, second language acquisition and language assessment in East Asia. She is also currently working as a guest editor on the special volume of The Asia TEFL Journal titled "Early English Education in Asia" due out February 2013.

Dr. Butler spent the past two summers in Changzou, China, conducting cutting-edge longitudinal research on student motivation in learning English. She first became interested in the topic when interacting with English language teachers in China, who noticed that after initial excitement in their language classes, students eventually lost much of their motivation to learn. Dr. Butler is finding that rather than attributing motivation solely to individual cognition as previously held, factors that determine student motivation are also embedded in their social contexts. This project has recently grown to include the unique considerations of recent migrant populations attracted to Changzhou as it develops economically.

Her other projects include exploring which games and activities are most attractive to students and best at facilitating learning, and synthesizing existing research in the field of education and minority populations in East Asia. Dr. Butler enjoys her international work because she discovers something new every day: from learning how to negotiate relationships of power within a communist country, to navigating unexpected education reforms and adjusting her work accordingly. She will return to China this coming summer to continue her research.

To aspiring researchers and international educational development professionals, Dr. Butler draws from her expertise in motivation to encourage the pursuit of work in a field that is personally interesting. See her faculty profile page and a more comprehensive list of her work here.
Alumni Spotlight

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

Khaing Zah

During my summer 2012 internship with UNESCO Bangkok, I conducted desk reviews and did web research on effective education projects/programs on literacy and Non-formal Education (NFE) to target unreached children and youth in the Asia-Pacific Region. My research focused on various equivalency primary programmes and financial literacy programmes. I also researched on effective literacy programs across the globe, made powerpoint presentations to the literacy team, and consulted the financial literacy programs' best features to be included in a regional handbook.

In addition, I worked on the curriculum proposal in equivalency programmes in Papua New Guinea selecting appropriate, exemplary curriculum frameworks in the region for UNESCO, Hamburg's Institute of Lifelong Learning (UIL) office. I also assisted with organizing and preparing for the Asia-Pacific Annual Review Meeting on the Japanese Funds-in-Trust in the Field of Education, and Regional Expert Meeting on Inclusive Education through Quality Teacher Education in Asia-Pacific.

Upon graduating from IEDP @ PennGSE, I applied for and began working as an Education Officer with UNICEF in Yangon Myanmar. This job has allowed me to become involved in a new national programme called Comprehensive Education Sector Review (CESR) to improve the quality of education in Myanmar.

Happy Holidays from the IEDP's Graduate Assistants!

Forward this email