Welcome to the fall edition of the quarterly newsletter of the Comparative, International and Development Education Centre. CIDEC brings together a dynamic group of students and faculty interested in comparative and international research around a series of projects and events. We hope to highlight our activities - and our accomplishments - and keep you up to date on future events.

~ Karen Mundy, Director of CIDE

Please e-mail us your news, events, honours or publications at cide@oise.utoronto.ca

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40 Years Around the World - A Tribute to Joseph Farrell

By Reed Thomas

The celebration of Dr. Joseph Farrell’s “40 Years Around the World” filled OISE’s Peace Lounge on May 8th, 2008. Colleagues, staff, students, alumni and family gathered to provide tributes, enjoy a meal and sing together. From those farther afield, congratulatory messages arrived via English and Spanish text, phone, and internet-posted video messages. Echoing themes I discussed with Professor Farrell in an earlier interview, these messages recognised the expertise, leadership and amiability that he has generously shared throughout his distinguished career at OISE.

Dr. Farrell’s insightful, prolific scholarship stimulates discussion for an international audience. A highlight of his career, his collaborative longitudinal study of education in Chile, remains perhaps the only research of its scope in Comparative Education. The diverse methods employed in this research, including statistical analyses and ethnographic observation, allow us to consider education from a variety of perspectives. During our interview, he emphasized the importance of choosing methodologies appropriate to the questions being posed. In research, he noted, you should “have as many arrows in your quiver as you can.”

In Dr. Farrell’s Introduction to Comparative Education class, I enjoyed discovering some of these “arrows.” I’m sure others share my admiration for his spontaneous, coherent, referenced presentations in response to student queries. In these sessions, he answered questions while provoking further reflection. His approach to class discussion, refined through years of instructing and co-teaching, involves compelling students to identify and confront their assumptions. “If you haven’t had at least a few of your core ideas significantly challenged by the end of a year here, (cont. pg. 5)
I came from OISE back to Peru in December 2006. From February until November 2007, I worked as an NGO consultant helping elementary teachers from three schools to build a local curriculum. These teachers work in Supe Puerto, a poor semi-urban neighborhood by the Pacific coastline four hours north of Lima. It was a very demanding and satisfactory job! It was beneficial to travel in the area for some weeks before the course started, as that time allowed me to get acquainted with the local people and resources I could use in the course.

Three schools took turns hosting the course. It was new for the teachers to have a training course hosted at their school, as usually they have to travel to the capital to attend development courses. This measure had positive effects in drop-out rates and teacher involvement and it gave a pertinent context to our learning. The course also gave teachers the opportunity to share worries, strategies, aspirations and perspectives on the government’s educational policy. Everybody had something to share, and lateral learning was promoted.

Since December 2007 I have been working for the Peruvian National Council of Education. My first task was to help create a consensus-based national education project, as Peru does not have a development plan for the country. The next challenge is how to implement that project and I am looking forward to it.

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Alumni Focus: Yina Rivera

Hello CIDE community! We are your new CIDE Student Association (CIDE SA) core team for 2008/09. We are excited to work together with you this year to strengthen and develop our unique and diverse community. Some of our hopes for the CIDE community this year and beyond include: creating opportunities for CIDE students to connect with each other; helping to make life easier for incoming, current and outgoing students; developing a more comprehensive orientation and mentoring process for incoming students; incorporating professional development resources and seminars into the CIDE infrastructure; increasing our connections within OISE, to the larger academic body and to the international community; encouraging students to become active in the local/global community; and cultivating a supportive student association that reflects all voices and identities of CIDE students. We are open to your ideas and encourage all CIDE students to be active members of our community - our student association depends on you! To get involved or for more information, email us at: oisecidesa@gmail.com. We look forward to a great year! (From top left) Kaylan Horner, Spogmai Akseer, Nhung Truong, Doug Waters, Margaret Bent, Alison Malcolm, Julian Weinrib, and Solomon Belay.
By Ruth Hayhoe

Dr. Jun Li has been appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Policy and Administration of the Hong Kong Institute of Education. Dr. Li will take up his position on December 1, 2008, exactly two years after he joined CIDE as a postdoctoral fellow, working for our SSHRC Project on China’s Move to Mass Higher Education. In addition to coordinating many aspects of our project work, Dr. Li shared with me in the teaching of “Comparative Education Theory and Methodology” in the autumn of 2007, and has been leading a doctoral thesis proposal development group from September of 2007 up to the present.

Dr. Li has written a book chapter, two encyclopedia pieces, and an article for a refereed journal over the past year and a half, as well as carrying out a survey of over 2300 undergraduate students in our case study universities in all regions of China, and coordinating all the communication involved in field work at each university. Between now and his departure in November, he plans to complete the writing of four book chapters, for our upcoming book, “China’s Universities in the Move to Mass Higher Education” and a second refereed journal article. We will miss him and wish him the best of luck at the Hong Kong Institute of Education!

By Carly Manion

During the winter of 2007, with the assistance of an IDRC Research Award and a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship, I traveled to The Gambia to complete fieldwork for my dissertation on the topic of girls’ education policy in the South. Best described as “multi-sited policy ethnography,” the study used interviews with government officials, civil society representatives and development partners in urban and rural areas to look at how girls’ education policy is created and transformed from the inside out.

Having completed MA field research in The Gambia in 2002, I was eager to return to see my friends and experience all the changes I had heard so much about. With institutional support from the University of The Gambia, I was able to interview most of the government officials I wanted to. Non-governmental actors were equally generous with their time, and the three organizations my study focused on extended an “open-door” policy to me. I spent many hours reading, writing, talking and observing in their offices. In addition, I had the privilege of attending several high-level workshops around girls’ education and women’s rights, which brought together government, civil society and development partners. Attending these events contributed significantly to my understanding of key debates, different positions and resolution processes. Now back at OISE, I am currently writing my dissertation and plan to defend in January 2008.
CIDE at CIES 2008

by Kara Janigan

Once again, CIDE students and faculty turned out in large numbers to share their work at the 52nd Annual Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) Conference from March 17 to 21, 2008 at Teachers College, Columbia University in New York City. The conference, themed “Gaining Educational Equity around the World,” had over 900 attendees, making it the largest CIES conference to date.

Colleagues from around the world came together at the joint OISE/PITT/IBE reception to celebrate Vandra Masemann who received the 2008 CIES Honorary Fellow for her distinguished career and valuable contributions to CIES and the field of comparative education. Over 45 CIDE students and faculty presented their research at the conference. Perhaps most notably, amongst the many outstanding presentations made by OISE students and faculty, CIDE student Megan Youngs chaired and presented her paper “Contradictory Knowledge Base: Where is the Equity in Deaf Education?” on the first ever CIES panel completely in American Sign Language about issues in comparative and international deaf education in the US, Europe and Africa.

Our colleagues at Teachers College created a dynamic conference full of opportunities to meet leaders within the field of comparative education as well as students from universities throughout the world, to share our ideas and to foster friendships, both new and old. We also want to thank the students at Teachers College who organized the first Young Academics Social, an event full of fun and festivity.

CIDE Alum John Whitman Takes Home Best Dissertation Award at CIESC 2008

by Vandra Masemann

The meetings of the Canadian Society for the Study of Education, of which the Comparative and International Education Society of Canada (CIESC) is a member, were held at the University of British Columbia this year. The campus was in full bloom with rhododendrons, and also with faculty and students from OISE, who seemed to be everywhere. We had the best turnout ever for the Congress, and the CIESC panels were very well attended. Highlights of the meeting were a pre-conference symposium on International Education and panels by CIDE students and faculty on many topics, including several on global education and citizenship education.

The highlight for us at the CIESC Annual General Meeting was the presentation of the Michel Laferrière Award for the best Ph.D thesis in Comparative and International Education in 2006 to John R. Whitman, a graduate of CIDE/OISE. His thesis, “Evaluating Philanthropic Foundations: A Comparative Social Values Approach,” was supervised by Professor Jack Quarter. The faculty and students of CIDE present were very pleased to see him receive the award, given to him by Dr. Ali Abdi, President of the CIESC (see photo below), and we congratulate him on his fine achievement. For more information on John Whitman’s research, please see his website at http://mysite.verizon.net/socialvalues/academic.htm.
then we haven’t done our job,” he told me. As an educator, he inspires students to extend their thinking beyond facts to an examination of core values.

Professor Farrell’s accomplishments are noteworthy not only for their substance, but also for his approach towards creating change. As he mentioned to me, others’ responses need to be treated as “as something to be dealt with seriously, honestly.” Well-wishers from around the world recognised this view through the words they chose to describe him in their messages, including humble, cordial, inclusive, affable, compassionate, positive, and down-to-earth. Whether expanding the scope of the Comparative and International Education Society by holding its meeting in Mexico in 1978, working toward the founding of the CIDE programme in 1996, or supervising students, his leadership has contributed greatly to individual and collective success in the field of Comparative Education.

Many a CIDE learning journey has begun with correspondence from Dr. Farrell. Sending messages from OISE to prospective students anywhere in the world (I read mine at an internet café in Rwanda), he comprehensively and enthusiastically communicated the enrichment that CIDE could offer. These missives represented for many an initial contact with the “welcoming and stimulating community” that Dr. Karen Mundy, current CIDE Director, intends to sustain. The lively CIDE community, with triple the enrolment of a decade ago, owes much to Dr. Farrell’s leadership.

Fortunately, Dr. Farrell’s contributions to CIDE will continue through research, teaching and some thesis supervision. Post-retirement, he also plans to spend more time writing: recent publications include six book chapters and a UNESCO document. His eyes light up when outlining the successes of alternative forms of primary education that he has been studying for the past 15 years: “It’s not some great new thing, but nobody’s figured out how to do it before, and that’s the new thing.” Students can continue to appreciate his expertise through his teaching and scholarship…and hopefully a future sing-along!

Thus, the retirement party ended with both a melancholy farewell and a joyous “See you next week!” After creating a sincere, cheerful atmosphere for the evening, event organisers Megan Haggerty, Kara Janigan, Vandra Masemann, and Karen Mundy will now capture it in a memory book. Also on a celebratory note, Dr. Mundy announced the “CIDE Founders’ Fund,” which has raised $5000 to date. To close, here’s an excerpt of a song composed by CIDE student Gary Pluim for the event: “Hey, Joe! We owe this experience to you.”

Announcing The New CIDE Founders’ Fund

The CIDE Founders’ Fund will support travel fellowships for CIDE students. The objective is to raise $50,000, after which point the funds will be matched to create a $100,000 endowment. To donate, contact:

Ina Hupponen, Associate Director, Development
ihupponen@oise.utoronto.ca 416-978-1126
CIDEC Seminar Series and Events - Fall 2008

Unless otherwise noted all events to be held in the CIDE Smartroom, Room 7-107

Monday September 15th  4:30-6:00 pm
CIDE Official Orientation and Potluck

Monday September 22nd  11:30-1:00 pm
Sheila Manji (MA Candidate - CTL)
Using American-based instructional programs to teach English in Northwestern Mexico: Local and foreign teachers’ perspectives
Jennifer Hompoth (MA candidate – TPS)
The equity challenge of democratic dialogue: The case of Ontario’s Black-focused schools

Wednesday October 1st   5:00-6:30 pm
Karen Wolfe (MA Candidate - CTL)
Global education and educational innovation in public secondary schools

Monday October 6th  11:30-1:00 pm
Reed Thomas (MA Candidate - CTL)
Teaching math, science and social studies in students’ second language: A study of teachers working in elementary English- and French- second language contexts in Ontario

Wednesday October 22nd  5:00-6:30 pm
Svenja Mareike Kühn (Visiting Scholar-OISE; Teaching Instructor, University of Duisburg-Essen)
The German education system and standardized exit exams: national and international perspectives

Monday October 27th  11:30-1:00 pm
Vandra Masemann (Faculty - CIDE)
Professional development: Applying to and preparing for conferences: CIES, CIESC etc.

Monday November 3rd  11:30-1:00 pm
Jose Weinstein (Visiting Scholar; Education Manager, Fundacion Chile; Chilean Minister of Culture 2003-2006) Teachers’ incentives in Chile (1990-2006)

Wednesday November 19th   5:00-6.30 pm
Nadya Weber (PhD Candidate - AECP)
NGO-produced global education in Canada and the UK: Ideals and dependencies

Monday December 1st  4.30-6.00 pm
CIDE Potluck

Wednesday December 10 (details to be announced)
Education and democracy in the 21st century: Reflections on the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Date to be announced
CIDE Book Launch - Comparative and International Education: Issues for Teachers
Edited by Karen Mundy, Kathy Bickmore, Ruth Hayhoe, Meggan Madden, & Katherine Madjidi

CIDEC Student Awards

James Corcoran - Ontario Graduate Scholarship, 2008-9
Abdulhamid Hathiyan - Chang School of Continuing Education, Ryerson University, $5000 grant
Rowena Xiaqoing He - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Post-doctoral Fellowship, 2008-10
Kaylan Horner - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Master’s Fellowship, 2008-9
Kathy Madjidi - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Fellowship, 2008-10
Carly Manion - Canadian International Development Agency & the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences Graduate Student Competition Awardee, 2008
Gary Pluim - Ontario Graduate Scholarship, 2008-9
John Whitman - Michel Laferrière Award for Best Ph.D. Dissertation, Comparative and International Education Society of Canada, 2006