TLC Hosts First IB University Research Conference

The 2016 IBEC (IB Educators Certificate) Conference gathered over 90 participants from 18 different countries, here at Kent State University, May 22-24, 2016. All together there were 37 presentations and posters. Entitled, *Sharing Research to Inform Best Practice*, this was the first research conference for all of the universities in the world who offer the IB educators’ certificates.

The conference planners were Martha Lash (Kent State University) and Kate Kuhn from (IBO). The choice of Kent State was most fortuitous. The university had already built a strong relationship with IB throughout its different connections. Lash said, “This was an opportunity to share research, network with other university faculty and IB staff, and to participate in rich conversations regarding the field of international education.”

The Keynote theme was set by Andrew Macdonald, IB Chief Schools Officer, with his presentation entitled, *Creating a Better World: The Role of Teacher Education, Leadership and Research*. John Young, IB Head of Research, deepened the agenda for research with his *IB Research: Global Strategy and Recent Findings* presentation. Assisting with the conference in planning from the Kent State side were Alexa Sandmann, Kathleen Heydorn, Monica Miller, Ilfa Zhulamanova, Mila Rosa Librea, Lolagul Raimbekova, Pam Hutchins, Julie Stoll, Casey Myers, Adonia Porto, Rochelle Hostler, Kathleen Heydorn-O’Dell, Ken Cushner, Katie Knapp, Robin Dever, Rosemary Gornik, Linda Robertson, and Sarah Malcolm.

Hosting the first 2016 IBEC University conference gave Kent State University increased visibility with IB and the university itself as Provost Todd Diacon and Associate Provost Marcello Fantoni were there. The most important benefit of the conference is that the proceeds will go for the funding of the Childhood Development Center to become an IB World School.
TLC: Visiting Scholars Play an Important Role

Raskinski: A Magnet for Literacy Scholars

It all started with a Turkish visiting scholar, Kasim Yildirim, who knew of Tim Rasinski’s fluency work in literacy and came to write his dissertation as a visiting scholar. Yildirim, in turn, invited Rasinski to Turkey to speak at several universities and to meet with Minister of Education representatives. This, coupled with several publications printed both in Turkish and English, written by Yildrim and Rasinski, as well as Wendy Kasten, formerly of TLC, made Rasinski’s work well known throughout Turkey. The Turkish language is not conducive to fluency in reading; thus national attention was given to these approaches of early reading. Currently studying with Rasinski is Metin Elkatmis from Kirkirklaye University.

Chinese professors of English, who often have a linguistic background find that studying with Rasinski helps them develop deeper understandings of literacy and the importance of making meaning from reading, writing, speaking and listening. Chinese scholars recently studying with Rasinski have all been from South China Agricultural University- Fei Deng and Yanmei Huai, and in residency now is Li Li.

Visiting Scholars: Magnet for Graduate Programs

Each spring for the past 10 years, EHHS has hosted the International Leaders in Education Program (ILEP). This visiting scholar program and the Muskie scholar program has brought four of our international graduate students in C&I to Kent State. Mila Rosa Librea, studying in the PhD program in science education, was an ILEPer in 2013. Her advisor Bridget Mulvey recruited her to come back for a PhD. Two master’s level students from Senegal, Abdoulaye Fall and Adji Gueye have returned to study with Dr. Bill Kist, and were part of the ILEP program in 2014. Previously, Bayu Widayatmoko, a 2009 ILEPer, graduated with his master’s in C&I. Bayu is home in Papua, Indonesia, where he serves as an American school principal serving local students. Former Muskie Scholar Lola Raimbekova from Tajikistan is now a PhD student in Early Childhood Education.

Other TLC Faculty Hosts Recently:

Janice Kroeger—Baiying Wang, Xinzhou Teachers University, China
Stephen Mitchell—Chen Xie, Shanghai Normal University, China
James Henderson—Zhang Jun, Guandong Pharmaceutical University, China
Davison Mupinga—Oktay Akbas, Kirrikale University, Turkey
Monica Miller Marsh—Necdet Aykac, Ankara University, Turkey

Startling Statistic... Did you know that 70% of the international students enrolled in EHHS doctoral programs are from TLC?