

SUSAN News



The **SIETAR**USA Newsletter

Society for Intercultural Education
Training and Research

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NEW!

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

My Fellow SIETARians,

It is with great pleasure that I humbly take the reins as President of SIETAR USA. For years we have been led by some pretty dynamic individuals and I am honored to have the opportunity to serve this organization and share in the leadership legacy.



As 2011 begins anew, SIETAR USA is also beginning anew. Allow me to explain. Your Board has been working hard since the Fall of 2009 to ensure the continued success of our beloved organization following the resignation of our Executive Director, Peggy Pusch. She had large shoes to fill and there was not one individual or one institution that could do all the things she voluntarily did out of love for SIETAR USA. A task force set out to find a suitable replacement and after a great search, in the Fall of 2010 the task force presented two institutions forward to the board and The Chicago School for Professional Psychology was selected. This relationship will provide our organization with visibility, access to current research, a central location, and access to students on the Chicago, DC, and San Diego Campuses, to name a few. We are excited about the possibilities. Currently, we are in the final stages of negotiation with the Chicago School and look forward to finalizing our agreement with them in the next few weeks.

I invite you to take a look at the website for The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. You will find that their vision and mission is closely aligned with ours and their programs have a Multicultural and International focus (www.thechicagoschool.edu). The following is taken directly from their website: *A cornerstone of our school's mission is a commitment to serving and embracing diverse and underserved populations around the world. We actively infuse all of our programs with content and projects to build students' knowledge of and competence in working with people from diverse cultures, backgrounds, and perspectives. Our Center for Multicultural and Diversity Studies and our Center for International Studies*



The Chicago School

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provide students with additional opportunities to enhance their multicultural sophistication as they organize campus forums, conduct research, and contribute to training, practice, and public policy focused on multiculturalism, international human rights, global justice, international relations, and diplomacy. In keeping with our hands-on approach to education, students also enjoy multiple international travel opportunities through which they immerse themselves in different cultures while serving as ambassadors for the psychology profession.

When the transition is complete, I will inform you all. In the meantime, please take note that although our email is the same – info@sietarusa.org, our mailing address and phone number has changed: (312) 467-8621, SIETAR USA at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, 325 N Wells, Chicago IL 60654

This is an exciting time for our organization. The 2011 SUSA Conference to be held in Denver, led by Sandy Fowler and Sue Shinomiya already promises to be one of the best ones yet. I look forward to seeing you in April!

Sincerely yours,

Kelli McCloud-Schingen

SIETAR-USA President



Society for Intercultural Education
Training and Research

PAST PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Colleagues,



When I sat down to write my reflections on the 2010 conference – now that the 2011 conference is growing near – one word kept coming to my mind – WOW! My “wow” is the same as many of you were saying in one way or another, if you attended our 10th Anniversary SUSA Conference. I say “wow” because it was one of the best conferences we’ve had and that says a lot because we have had some great conferences – quality presenters, quality presentations, quality sponsors and exhibitors, and you, the quality participant. All this adds up to a quality crucible in which we were able to create an amazing and generally fun learning and networking environment.

Those who contributed to making the 2010 conference a success have been thanked more than once so I won’t repeat that effort here. What I do want to do is take a moment to remind us of the moving presentation of Chris Jordan and the challenge contained in it. Chris raised a question about our impact on the environment and the world, which is as true for our work as interculturalists as it is for environmentalists efforts: How do we balance the grief we most often feel when we see the state of intercultural relations while we retain the hope for improvement that keeps us in the field? I hope we all consider and discuss this idea with each other.

I couldn’t end without reminding you that honoring Peggy Pusch for her considerable contributions to SUSA with our newly established Founders Award marks a beginning, not an end. The full name of the award is “Peggy Pusch Founders Award.” It is named for her to respect what she has done for so many and to remind us of the example she set for all of us. We will present this award annually to the person who rises to the bar she set. The criteria for the award and the nominating process are posted on our web site.

See you in Denver in 2011.

Andy Reynolds

Past SIETAR-USA President

2011 CONFERENCE REPORT SIETAR USA CONFERENCE 2011, APRIL 13-16, 2011 IN DENVER COLORADO

By **Sandra M. Fowler,**
Co-Chair SIETAR USA 2011 Conference

Many of you reading this newsletter have attended SIETAR USA conferences in the past and some of you are hoping that this will be your first one. My first SIETAR conference was in 1979 and I haven't missed one yet. I'm thrilled and honored to be the Co-Chair of the 2011 annual conference. I haven't chaired a SIETAR conference since 1993 and a lot has changed in the intervening years.

Of course, one of the main changes has been the advent of electronic media. We had computers in 1993 but they didn't do much and there wasn't even the dream of the internet (maybe someone was dreaming of it but I had no idea computers would allow instant communication). So you are receiving this newsletter in a format that we didn't know 18 years ago. And best of all, you can go to the SIETAR USA conference website and read all about the conference plus seeing pictures of lovely Denver and our exciting keynote speakers.

There are two things I've come to appreciate about the SIETAR conferences over the years: the old and the new. The old provides familiarity and comfort. Even though each site and each committee gives their conference its own appeal, some things carry over from year to year. The faces are the most important to me: every year people I've known for many years gather to exchange news, ideas, projects, and good cheer. Equally important are the new faces who bring fresh ideas and projects and quickly become friends because we share so much. SIETAR is an inclusive group and that is one reason I've stuck around so long.

The sessions, while new, also have a touch of familiarity. Over the decades intercultural concerns have undergone some changes but the intercultural approach remains at the core. The 2011 conference will be no different. The proposals excelled all previous years in quality and quantity so the final program will be challenging (some tough choices to make between equally terrific sessions) and enriching for your professional life. Something we've added for 2011 are two tracks. We are focusing on putting the R back in SIETAR with a research track. Obviously the R never totally left SIETAR but it's not had the attention in recent years

that it needs. So researchers were invited to submit proposals and you will find a rich series of sessions in the research track. We are also emphasizing a growing part of SIETAR USA with a diversity and inclusion track. That has always been there too but for the 2011 conference you will be able to start with master workshops on diversity and inclusion and follow on with excellent sessions on closely related topics in the D&I area.

The keynote speakers are perhaps one of the most exciting parts of any SIETAR conference. The 2011 conference is no exception. Our opening keynoter is Todd Conklin, Ph.D., who is with the Los Alamos National Laboratory's Environment, Safety, and Health Integration Office. He is a seasoned interculturalist and his address will hit our conference theme: Risk and Resilience: Living and Working in an Intercultural World, right on the head. The keynote speaker who will open the second day of the conference is Bill Cross, Ph.D., a dynamic speaker who will address the interface between intercultural and diversity. The keynote address opening the last day of the conference will be delivered by Pari Namazie, Ph.D., whose focus on resilience comes from both research and personal experience living and working in the Middle East. If you would like to learn more about these speakers, please check out the conference website! www.sietar-usaconference.com

I hope this message conveys how exciting and interesting the 2011 conference promises to be. I for one, am eagerly looking forward to it and hope to see you there!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SIETAR-USA ELECTION

Please join the SIETAR-USA Board of Directors in welcoming the following SIETAR-USA members in good standing who took or resumed Board responsibilities in the following capacities starting July 1, 2010:

President: Kelli McCloud-Schingen
Secretary: Stacey Howell
Treasurer: Monica Mumford
Past President: Andy Reynolds
Local Groups Coordinator: Christopher Deal
Ethics Coordinator: Maria Thacker

Welcome back to returning board members Kelli, Stacey, Monica, Andy and Christopher, and a special welcome to our newest board member Maria! For information on becoming more involved in SIETAR-USA leadership, as a volunteer, or in whatever capacity suits you, please let us know. See the "How to Reach Us" box for contact information"

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: MARGARET D. PUSCH FOUNDERS AWARD

Nominations are being accepted for the Margaret D. Pusch Founders Award, which was established last year. The award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated commitment and service to the intercultural relations field. Criteria can be found here and at www.sietarusa.org.



Margaret D. Pusch, receiving the Founders Award named in her honor.

JOB BOARD

Check it out... www.sietarusa.org now has an active Job Board open to everyone who wishes to post a position or who is looking for one. You are invited to look or to post on the Job Board. If you know of people who are filling positions, urge them to post on the Job Board. Easy to use and a benefit of membership in SIETAR USA.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR 2011 PERSONAL LEADERSHIP SEMINARS

The 11th annual offering of Personal Leadership Seminars in Crestone, Colorado, USA is accepting registration. Deciding which seminar is right for you can be determined by reading "Who Should Attend" in each of the seminar descriptions available at <http://plseminars.com/4crestone2011.html>

THE INTERNATIONAL PROFILER: ONLINE LICENSING PROGRAM NOW AVAILABLE



WorldWork now has a fully online licensing program available for individuals who wish to become certified to use "The International Profiler (TIP)"—a questionnaire and feedback tool that helps managers and professionals understand where they put their behavioral emphasis when working cross-culturally. This tool is used widely in Europe and use is growing in the US and around the world. Upcoming Licensing Programs in 2011 commence in April and September. For additional information about this program contact Sue Bray, a US-based Senior Associate of WorldWork Ltd sue.bray@worldwork.biz or by phone at 518 451 9424.

INTERCULTURAL PRESS DISCOUNT

Reminder that Intercultural Press is an affiliate of SIETAR-USA, and provides books and other published materials to our members and friends. Visit the Intercultural Press website to make a purchase. SIETAR-USA members, login and visit the Members Only page to obtain the code to receive a 20% discount on your purchases.



HOW TO REACH US

NEW!

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SPECIAL FEATURE: PERSONAL REFLECTIONS FROM THE SIETAR USA CONFERENCE

By Rita Wuebbeler

Chair, Special Interest Group 'SIETAR Pride Across Cultures' for Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender Members of SIETAR and their Allies'

For those of you who are interested in what happened but couldn't be there, following are my brief reflections and summary from the SUSA conference in Spokane presented in expanded bullet format.

- Attendance: close to 300
- Location: Beautiful Spokane in Washington State – we were ON the Spokane river right by the Spokane Falls which I think gave the conference 'flow'
- Process/format: Extremely well-run, thoughtful and well-balanced – and 30 minute breaks with great break food!
- Pre-conference Workshops: in addition to some oldies but goldies, we had Nagesh Rao on Using Participatory Theater in Training, Rob's Pusch Using Webtools 2.0 in the Classroom and Janet Bennett's session on Curiosity. I attended Rob's and Nagesh's session and got to play on my laptop and act!
- Keynotes: Two very engaging and inspiring speakers who while not directly from our field
- Dr. Reza Aslan, internationally acclaimed and funny as hell writer and scholar of religions (excuse the pun) talking with Peter Fordos about "Gott und die Welt"
- Chris Jordan, environmental activist/artist/photographer explaining his artistic efforts at creating a numbers language to show the effects of mass consumption (what do 5 million airline plastic cups really look like in ONE picture?) plus his journey to Midway island and his exploration of the Pacific Garbage Patch.... www.chrisjordan.com – VERY powerful (some folks didn't like the fact that his disturbing message 'brought the conference down' at the very end – I say, bring it on, Chris!)
- Concurrent sessions: a lot of good stuff (I didn't attend a single 'bad' session) including several excellent ones on virtual work/teams and cultural competence in healthcare as well as the introduction of two new Cultural Detective packages – LGBT and Blended Culture (www.culturaldetective.com) and three sessions focused on Personal Leadership (www.plseminars.com). I also liked the very last one: Beading Across Cultures – all participants got to make a bracelet and keep it!
- Personal highlight: Finally having (almost) all the co-

authors of Cultural Detective Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Cultures in ONE place – and debuting the labor of 15 months of virtual work (plus the work of previous years). We had 21 people in our session and got some great

feedback which we are now incorporating into the 'final' version to be published in the next few months.

- We had our Pride Across Cultures Luncheon on Thursday and welcomed two new members to the group!
- Fun aspects/ evening activities: I attended the Gala on Friday evening, including a wild dance party and a very sweet and heartfelt tribute to Peggy Pusch, our former Executive Director who attended the entire conference.
- Scholarships: we had 12 recipients altogether from very diverse backgrounds.
- NEXT conference: April 12-16, 2011 in Denver, Colorado! Please make plans to JOIN US!



Authors of the new "Cultural Detective: LGBT" package. Jan O'Brien, Susan Gore, Dianne Hofner Saphiere, Randy Stieghorst, Rita Wuebbeler, Rebecca Parrilla, and Rob Pusch.



Rita Wuebbeler is founder and president of INTERGLOBE Cross-Cultural Business Services, Inc. She designs and conducts cross-cultural awareness programs and team building workshops, pre-departure orientations, repatriation programs and cultural business briefings for countries and regions in Europe, Latin America and Asia. She was a founding member of the US-chapter of the Society for Intercultural Training, Education and Research (SIETAR USA and currently. She is also the founding member of the Pride Across Cultures Special Interest Group.



2010 CONFERENCE RECAP

SIETAR USA CONFERENCE, SPOKANE, WA, APRIL 14-17, 2010

By Esther Louie

Co-Chair, SIETAR USA Conference, Spokane, WA, April 14-17, 2010

Thank you to everyone who helped support the Tenth Annual SIETAR-USA Conference-Living and Working in an Intercultural World, April 14-17, 2010 in Spokane, WA. This was a great team effort by fantastic teams of volunteers. Our generous sponsors, exhibitors and advertisers, without whom we could not have launched this conference, provided essential funding to help get the conference planning going and have sustained us throughout the year.

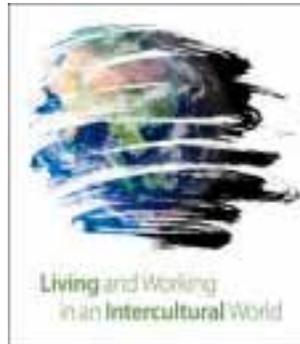
Results from the general conference evaluation are coming in and the overall response to the conference is positive, with strong interest from SIETAR members, and from people new to SIETAR (56% of registered participants). Supportive comments and suggestions for how to improve next year's conference are coming in and we welcome all your ideas and suggestions!

Thank you to Dr. Janet Bennett for providing a thought-provoking opening keynote presentation, "Upsetting the Balance: Transforming Ourselves, Transforming the World". Part of the description of her presentation is: "Interculturalists have learned over time that upsetting the balance of the way things are often leads to transformation, of both ourselves and others. More recently, we have begun to learn how to rebalance the disequilibrium created in the intercultural experience." Janet offered several ways in which to understand our "competing commitments", and to how to strike a balance. She gave us new frameworks and tools to consider and encouraged us to explore what possible opportunities we could generate. Great images helped to visually anchor her concepts and ideas. Thanks, Janet, for a great sendoff as we started the conference.

We initiated a new aspect for this conference by partnering with the Spokane literary festival – GET LIT! Together we brought in internationally acclaimed author, Dr. Reza Aslan as a featured speaker. Reza provided a lively presentation on his perspective and experience as he engaged and

updated us on comparative religions in our global world. We were fortunate to have him present in the evening for the Spokane and SIETAR communities and the following day with a special session just for our conference audience.

Dr. Mitch Hammer guided participants through an interactive "case study" about a real-life kidnapping situation, providing a direct experience of and appreciation for the cross-cultural complexity involved in providing assistance hostage negotiations.



We welcomed for the first time the United States Air Force panel members from the Air Force Culture and Language Center. As their presentation description states, "USAF has developed an intensive and far-reaching program to infuse cross-cultural competence across the spectrum of professional military education and continuing profession education, from junior enlisted to senior officers." Their session was filled with information about their Quality Enhancement Plan, and again the time

was too short for their session. Participants requested that we keep in contact with the USAF as they continue to move progressively forward, and to invite them to join us again in the future.

Our closing keynote speaker, Chris Jordan, is an agent of change whose presentation challenged us with his provocative photographic images to take responsibility for the stewardship of our planet, and consider ways that we, as interculturalists, can be part of the solution.

We want to again congratulate the 2010 SIETAR-USA Scholarship recipients. We welcome this incredibly diverse group of new interculturalists from the U.S., Austria, Canada, Brazil and Hungary, and with a strong GLBT representation. We are excited about the breadth of intercultural study, work and service they have to share, matched by their enthusiasm to learn and grow from the SIETAR community. You will find their names listed in our online conference program at www.sietarusa.org.

Again, we had many presentations throughout each day demonstrating the depth and breadth of interest and topics in Living and Working in an Intercultural World. This year we received a record number of session proposals. Thank you to our presenters for their commitment and passion for the work that they do. As always, many participants and presenters connected over coffee break, and the hallways buzzed with

discussions and ideas. Suggestions are pouring in for next year's conference, and we observed presenters and participants collaborating about possible future topics. Suggestions were made to bring back the topic tracks to help provide emphasis to interest areas. Poster sessions and round tables were welcomed as an additional format, and we can continue to improve in providing more research sessions, better schedules and larger rooms if possible. We continue to welcome your ideas to design and create a useful and meaningful conference. Please contact us at: info@sietarusa.org.

See you in Denver, Colorado in April 13-16, 2011 for our 11th Annual SIETAR-USA Conference; Call for Proposal deadline is September 1, 2010. Watch for more information, www.sietarusa.org.

LOCAL GROUP NEWS

SIETAR-Baltimore

SIETAR Baltimore has been busy this year. With a brand new website (sietarbaltimore.com) and a great advisory board (please visit the website to meet the board members), on November 2nd it hosted Craig Storti, who talked about BRIDGING THE CULTURE GAP: Understanding Indian and U. S. Cultural Differences. We look forward to more exciting events in 2011!

SIETAR DC

Get the latest by visiting us at <http://www.sietardc.org/> This year we have continued to host monthly events in partnership with George Washington University. In January, SIETAR membership coordinator, Sonia Checchia, presented an informative event on storytelling across cultures. In February, SIETAR DC executive coordinator, Julia Gaspar-Bates, conducted an interactive working on raising global awareness through the development of cross-cultural competence and the practice of yoga. SIETAR DC continued its tradition of co-sponsoring the Intercultural Management Institute's reception during its annual conference in March, which included a session presented by American University's visiting scholar and SIETAR DC member, Dr. Motoo Unno on Japanese negotiation styles. In April the chapter sponsored an event on emotional intelligence.

SIETAR Houston

We continue to have our monthly programs and all info is updated on the web site. <http://www.sietarhouston.org/>

SIETAR Minnesota

The SIETAR-Minnesota group was well-represented at the SUSA Conference in Spokane earlier this year, with 15 members participating. We are working on some kind of "local groups challenge" for next year's conference in Denver, so stay tuned for more information about this! Our meetings over the past few months have been engaging and informative, with presentations by Kao Kalia Yang -- author of *The Late Homecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir*, Bob Boyce on generational values and communication styles in the workplace, and Akiko Maeker, on intercultural coaching. We continued our tradition of a SUSA Conference Recap and Sharing meeting earlier this month, inviting all conference attendees to share insights and ideas gained from the conference. We send our warm Minnesota appreciation to all SIETAR-USA members involved in making the organization so professionally fulfilling, inspiring, and enjoyable for all of us!

SIETAR Spokane

SIETAR Spokane took the summer off but started up again in September. Our first meeting was a potluck at Kara LaSota's house. We had a great time socializing and reconnecting with members we had not seen during the summer. At our October meeting, we had a special presentation on the culture of Hungary. Our speaker at our November meeting was Faye Mezengie, who joined the Eritrea army at the age of 16 so he could survive. He told his story of how he left the army illegally, fled to Sweden, and then came to the United States in 2007. It has been a great year for us so far and we are actively looking for new members to join. Our most recent meeting was on January 13 at 5:30 p.m. at the IEL Magnuson Building. We can be contacted for more information at sietarspokane@yahoo.com

CALL FOR ARTICLES

SUSA News invites our readers and members to submit their article ideas. For example, consider:

- **Authoring a Book Review:** We invite book reviews of publications likely to be of interest to our membership. If you would like to complete a book review for a future SUSA News issue, please contact us for our book review template.
- **Writing a SIETAR USA Member Profile:** Members representing the diversity found across our membership of Education, Training and Research professionals. If you would like to either serve as an interviewer or interview subject in a future newsletter issue, please contact us.
- **Recommending any other ideas:** Your own or someone else's, for articles or contributions. If you think it's a good idea we probably will, as well.

To discuss article ideas or how you might contribute to the newsletter, contact us at +1 206-859-4351 or via Email: info@sietarusa.org