



## SIETAR USA (SUSA) NEWS

Electronic Newsletter  
Volume 4 Issue 4

NOVEMBER 2003

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### 1. LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we come very close to the SIETAR-USA Annual Conference, there is a flurry of activity to complete all the preparations for a wonderful event in Austin, Texas. The committee in Austin, ably led by Jerry Wilcox and Jeremy Solomons, has been doing a superb job of creating special events, scheduling the program sessions and workshops, and just generally getting the thousands of details done. If you have not registered and are still thinking about joining us in Austin in just one week, you can register on site.

SIETAR-USA had its first on-line election for officers and board members this fall. Gilles and Chern Asselin organized the process for this election which was not a small feat. Rita Wuebbeler chaired the Nominations Committee and created a new process for obtaining nominations and setting up the slate. The results are just in and include:

<b>President</b>	Heather Robinson
<b>President-elect</b>	Jeremy Solomons
<b>Treasurer</b>	Herbert Sermol
<b>Secretary</b>	Monica Mumford

Along with the Past President (me), this group comprises the Executive Committee.

#### Board Members, at large:

Basma Ibrahim De Vries  
Tatyana Fertelsmeyster  
David Sanford  
Kelli McLoud-Schingen

#### Board members from Local Groups:

Catherine Tansey  
Ursula Leitzman  
Beverly Zimmerman

It was my great pleasure to be the keynote speaker at the SIETAR Japan conference at the end of June. The relationship between the Japan and USA chapters of SIETAR is very strong and it was a joy to be with conference participants in Tokyo and to meet with their leadership group. The opening keynote address will be in the next issue of the SIETAR Japan journal. The central message of that presentation was the importance of our work as interculturalists and how research demonstrates that programs devoted to increasing understanding between culture groups have a positive impact.

Drawing on Lee Knefelkamp and John E. Mack's work, I explored the prevalence of dualism in the world and the difference between naïve (Knefelkamp)/primitive (Mack) dualism and pernicious dualism. Interculturalists can draw on their own experience with naïve/primitive dualism, which tends to occur when knowledge is limited, to comprehend a reliance on the either/or approach to any complex issue. All of us have had the experience of naïve dualism and this provides some insight into how the mind deals with difference, of its tendency to create enemies especially when there is a sense of threat. Pernicious dualism is a greatly exaggerated and destructive form of dualism, one we do not often experience in the class and training room but we encounter it in other places. Insight into our own dualistic background informs our ability to help others accept an intercultural approach to looking at the world and to dealing with differences. It also helps us identify pernicious dualism and to know when we must work against this insidious undermining of respect for and acceptance of those who are unlike ourselves.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our gathering in Austin, Texas.

Peggy Pusch  
President

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## **2. SIETAR USA Conference Announcement**

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News from the Co-Chairs of the Upcoming SUSA Conference It is only a few days until the fourth annual SIETAR USA conference begins in Austin on November 19-22 and the preparations are continuing apace both in Austin and around the country.

Registrations are growing nicely and we are looking forward to an engaging, fun and occasionally surprising conference for everyone who is making their way here from across North America and the world.

Some of the highlights of the conference are:

- Three keynotes with: Leslie Mays (head of Global Diversity at Shell Oil); Angeles Arrien (anthropologist, cross-cultural educator and award-winning author) and Jose Limon (Mexican-American scholar)
- Three fireside chats with: Ilya Adler (Mexican professor); Robert Kohls (Intercultural godfather); and Dotti Jones (Education and management expert)

- 72 concurrent sessions, nine pre-conference workshops and one post-conference workshop, including a special pre-conference session organized by Young SIETAR
- New features, such as a tech track, dance lessons, e-mail stations and a closing appreciation ceremony, and old favorites, such as a film festival, games and simulations evening, dinner/dance, morning wellness sessions, exhibition hall and silent auction.

More details are available on the [www.sietarusa.org](http://www.sietarusa.org) website.

We look forward to seeing y'all soon!

Cheers,  
Jeremy Solomons and Jerry Wilcox  
SUSA 2003 Conference Co-Chairs

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### 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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#### **Free Online Event**

Sivasailam "Thiagi" Thiagarajan will be in a live webcast discussion on design strategies for creating engaging online experiences through games, puzzles, questions, and other techniques.

This event will take place November 10th at 6:00 pm GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) which is 1:00 pm EST (New York Time).

Thiagi is internationally recognized as an expert in collaboration, active and game-based learning. Come play with him as he explores a variety of interactive strategies online.

Although this event is free, advance registration is required to reserve a virtual seat.

The webcast will be taking place at LearningTimes.org. You can access it at:  
<http://home.learningtimes.net/learningtimes>

Simply click "Join" to create your account (it's free). Once inside the community area, you will see the link to the live webcast for November 10th under "Webcasts & Events". (The Macromedia Flash Player is required to join the webcast.)

#### **New Email Discussion Group**

SIETAR UK is pleased to announce the launch of a new Email Discussion Group open to SIETAR members from around the world!

The new SIETAR Europa Email Group is an interactive email discussion group exclusively for SIETAR members - where everybody is invited to discuss new ideas, exchange news and information - and of course stay in touch with the various SIETARs in Europe and around the world.

The principle is simple: Any email send to the SIETAR Europa Email Group will be sent directly to all subscribers. This makes it easy and fast to communicate event details, ideas or news from your SIETAR across 'SIETAR borders', wherever you are in the world! To subscribe, simply go to <http://www.sietar.org.uk/europa/> and fill in your name and email address and select the SIETAR you are a member of. The subscription is free, and open to all SIETAR members.

### **PhD Research ... Help Needed**

Debbie Orłowski is starting her PhD research and is looking for "subjects " to interview. Email Debbie for a full description of her research project:

[ILIncUSA@aol.com](mailto:ILIncUSA@aol.com)

Intercultural Link, Inc. USA

P.O. Box 2860

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106

### **Local Groups**

The Local Groups around the United States have drawn up a draft agreement on the relationship between those groups and SIETAR-USA. This draft is now making the rounds of local groups and will be finalized at the annual conference.

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## **4. CONTACT INFORMATION**

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