

University of Iowa

International Education Week

International Education Week, a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences in the United States, was celebrated on the UI campus November 9-16, 2006. UI International Programs planned a series of activities to promote International Education Week. Among the highlights were:

- International Mondays lecture: “International Education: It’s Not Just the Children that will be Left Behind” presented by Kathy Gockel, Stanley Foundation Program Officer
- Show Us The World Through Your Eyes” Photo Contest and “Coming to America” Essay Contest Opening Reception
- “Share Your Experience: Educational Systems in Different Countries”: A forum led by Professor Scott McNabb, UI College of Education. International students discussed similarities and differences between the educational systems of their countries of origin and the United States.
- “Night of a Thousand Dinners: Eat Away at Landmines”: International food sampler. The program included a guest speaker, musical entertainment, and a silent auction. All proceeds from ticket sales went to the Adopt-A-Minefield Program of the United Nations Association.

IP Summer Institute for Teachers

“Religion and Conflict in Contemporary Europe”

From June 12th – 15th, 2006, Dr. Ralph Keen provided middle and high school educators with an overview of the tension between religious and political identities in present-day Europe. The workshop included discussions on the academic understanding of religious life, practice and identity; readings of current scholarship on religion and political conflict; and visits to select pertinent religious communities in the Iowa City-Cedar Rapids corridor. These places included the Islamic Center for Cedar Rapids, the Iowa City Mosque, and the Hillel House in Iowa City. Participants were able to engage in discussion with scholars and members of these religious communities. Dr. Keen also included a screening of the film Hiding and Seeking as part of the workshop. Finally, participants learned about the availability of K- 12 educational resources (lesson plans, instructional videos, electronic discussions forums, etc.) to enhance existing curriculum or to develop new curriculum units on religion and conflict in Europe.

Facilitator: Ralph Keen

Dr. Ralph Keen is a theologically-trained historian whose research has included studies of early-modern religious controversy and the emergence of secular states (and the shifting status of the churches within them) during the age of democratic revolutions. He is an associate professor in the University of Iowa's Department of Religious Studies, as well as the supervisor for over 10 Honors projects and 2 Ph.D. theses (one completed and one awaiting publication).

International Day

The 10th Annual International Day, sponsored by International Programs, was held on November 1, 2006, at the Coralville Marriott Conference Center. Eastern Iowan students in grades six through twelve were invited to attend. The theme of the conference, "The Human Right to Health Care," was chosen to emphasize the importance of health care and to look at health care from an international perspective. Students had an opportunity to choose from a variety of workshops.

Highlights included:

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Lanny Smith

Lanny Smith, MD, MPH, DTM&H, Liberation Medicine Counsel & President's Council of Honor Member, is the founding president of DGH and Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Residency Programs of Primary Care and Social Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine. At Montefiore he is Assistant Director of the Human Rights Clinic for Victims of Torture and a practicing community health physician in the South Bronx. For six and a half years (1992-8), Lanny served as the volunteer Coordinator of the Salvadoran Mission of "Médecins du Monde-France" (Physicians of the World-France) in Morazán, El Salvador (a program using "health as reconciliation" and responsible for "building health where the peace is new" through community health promoters, day care centers, women's rights programs, clinic-schools, a bridge and other means). From that experience he pioneered the concept of Liberation Medicine (the conscious, conscientious use of health to promote social justice and human dignity). He has also helped create the Social Medicine Portal, a web site devoted linking together the diverse international community of people working in social medicine and health activism.

Health Care Issues in Specific Countries

Many speakers spoke about different countries in discussing the Human Right to Health Care. These topics included: *Race and Rights in Japan: Discrimination against the Burakumin*; *Legal and Health Issues along the U.S.-Mexico Border*; *Is Healthcare a Human Right?—A day in the life of a Tanzanian family's struggle*; *Tribal Health: Access to Care in Northeast India*; *Health, Water, and Sanitation in Haiti*; *Markets and Culture in Thailand*; and *The 2004 Asian Tsunami: Perspective on Sri Lanka One and a Half Years Later*.

Thematic Health Care Issues

The other speakers chose to present on topics that addressed health care on a global or comparative level. These topics were: *Comparing Rights Documents*; *AIDS as a*

Global Health Concern; Who Owns Traditional Medicine?: A Role Play, Transnational Corporations and Global Health and Human Rights; Volunteer Travel: See the World -- See Change; Making Policy to Reduce the Affects of Global Warming; Organ Donation and the Human Right to Life; Is Health Care A Human Right?; Problems in Implementing the Right To Health; and The United Nations and Global Health Issues.

More than 250 students attended International Day 2006 from the following schools:

Marshalltown High School
Spencer High School
McKinley Middle School
Glenview Middle School-East Moline
Columbus Schools
Kennedy High School
Mount Vernon High School
Oelwein High School
Hoover/Longfellow Elementary Schools
West/Central Middle School
Newton High School
Jesup Middle School
Muscatine High School
Western Dubuque HS
New Hampton HS
Durant Comm. School District
Urbandale High School
Vinton-Shellsburg High School

International Mondays

International Mondays is open to the general public and offers a forum for UI faculty, staff, students, and Iowa City community members to discuss international issues. Sessions are offered every Monday during the fall and the spring semesters, with varied topics addressed by speakers drawn from the UI and local communities. In support of the Year of Public Engagement (2005-06) the series moved to its current home, the Iowa City Public Library Meeting Room A. See the attached appendix for fall 2006 and spring 2007 schedules.

Celebrating Cultural Diversity Festival

The 19th Annual Celebrating Cultural Diversity Festival was cancelled due to inclement weather.

International Classroom Journey

The International Classroom Journey is a resource for internationalizing Iowa's K-12 classrooms by providing teachers with a variety of new opportunities to take students on

a voyage of discovery. The services offered include: classroom visits to Iowa City and the surrounding area by international "tour guide" teams, supplementary curriculum materials, field trip opportunities, Iowa Communications Network presentations, and professional development opportunities. Since the beginning of the fall semester 2006, 29 classroom visits have taken place. A number of visits are already scheduled through May 2007. Highlights included:

- Presentation about Hinduism in India for 25 eighth graders at Solon Middle School.
- Presentations about life and culture in Turkey to 80 elementary students at Regina Elementary School, Iowa City.
- Presentation about studying abroad in Costa Rica to a group of students preparing to leave on a science trip to Costa Rica from Xavier High School, Cedar Rapids.

The International Crossroads Community

The International Crossroads Community (ICC) moved to Mayflower Residence Hall this year in an effort to incorporate more undergraduate international students onto the floor. The ICC continues to offer a unique living/learning community for over sixty UI undergraduates interested in foreign cultures, languages, and international issues. Two programmers live on the floor and work with the Residence Assistant (RA) to develop programs that best serve interests of residents. Programs this year have included:

- **Open House** – an event to highlight the many cultures on the floor and to share traditional cuisine
- **Hotel Rwanda** -- film screening followed by a discussion with Dr. Ed Minor, director of the UI African Studies Program, and Kate Karacay, Iowa United Nations Association
- **Japanese Culture Night** – with a discussion with Professor Stephen Vlastos, UI department of History
- **International Chocolate Tasting** -- study break
- **Masquerade Ball** -- social event to highlight carnival traditions around the world