



Invitational Education FORUM

Newsletter of the International Alliance for Invitational Education

Volume 31, Issue 1

February 2011

Special points of interest:

- SAVE THE DATES -
2011 World Conference
October 26-29, 2011
Richmond, KY, USA
- NEW COLUMN
HONG KONG, or BUST!

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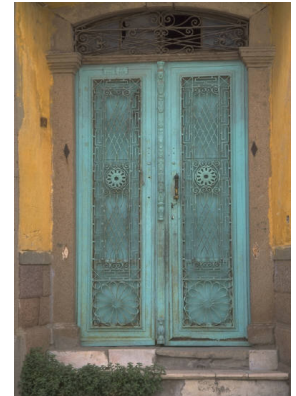
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New Year, New FORUM

A Message from the Editor, Beth Puckett

Welcome to the New IAIE FORUM!

When Dave Chapman asked me to take the lead as editor of the FORUM, I did not hesitate to say yes. The *people* of IAIE, including you, are my inspiration! We share common beliefs and these beliefs have been at my core since the day Harvey Smith introduced me to *Inviting School Success* back in the '80s. Harvey sent an *invitation* to me, and for that, I will always be grateful.



Welcome - Come In!

Harvey and I reconnected again in 2009 when Mary Connery asked me to help with the IAIE Leadership and World Conference in Rochester, NY. The positive energy, global connections, and friendships that quickly developed among this group during the Conferences are greater than I have ever experienced. And what a joy to spend time again with Harvey, my IE mentor and now colleague and friend!

So, aside from the obvious change in the "look" of the IAIE FORUM, I hope you will enjoy some of the other features.

- The FORUM will now be published quarterly, so feel free to submit articles regularly. Send photos too...a picture really is worth a thousand words! Look for editions in February, May, August and November.
- Additionally, Allyson Schoenlein has graciously agreed to write a new column, "Hong Kong, or Bust!" to inspire us to attend the World Conference in Hong Kong.
- Dave Chapman, Executive Director, will also share thoughts with us each edition.
- Member Activities will feature news of note about members of IAIE, so feel free to share news with us.
- Finally, look for a smattering of quotes, notes, books and tips in the sidebars throughout the issues.

I am excited about this new adventure and I encourage you all to read, reflect, and then share your thoughts, stories and news with us! Welcome - Come In!



Executive Director,
David A. Chapman

A Message from Dave Chapman

Happy New Year!

With the start of another new year brings a great deal of excitement as well as challenges for IAIE. The 2010 year ended with a fantastic conference in Columbus, Ohio. Barb Hansen and her staff put together a conference that anyone who attended will not forget. It was wonderful to see all our colleagues from the US and around the world gathered together once again.

There hasn't been much time to rest on our laurels, though. We are still out there with our membership campaign to bring new members into the Alliance. We want to encourage every member to "invite" a friend/colleague to join. As you know, the IAIE is only as strong as our membership. So I challenge everyone to help build our membership.

I could not go any further in this article without inviting you to the 2011 World Conference to be held in Richmond, Kentucky, on the campus of Eastern Kentucky University. The date of this year's conference is October 26-29. Dr. Jack Herlihy is the Conference Director, with assistance from Dallas Blankenship, Ken Wright, and others from the Kentucky area. Be sure to pencil in this date. IAIE will have another awesome conference agenda filled with outstanding general and breakout sessions geared for everyone.

"We want to encourage every member to "invite" a friend/colleague to join.

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So I challenge everyone to help build our membership."

This year will also be one that potentially will take the Alliance to new heights as we look to expand our efforts through various educational "affiliates" whose efforts work side by side with the theory and practice of IE. This is a new venture that will be looked at very carefully by the Board of Trustees. It is our hope that aligning other educational non-profit organizations under the IAIE umbrella will prove to be highly beneficial for the Alliance and its influence around the world.

I want to thank everyone associated with IAIE for your support and encouragement during my first year as Executive Director. I have learned a great deal and promise that 2011 will be even better than 2010. There are many improvements being worked out and you will be seeing the fruits of those labors come to fruition in the coming months. I encourage everyone to become more actively involved in the Alliance. If you would like to get more involved, but don't know who to contact, email me at dave.chapman@invitationaleducation.net. I will get you connected to the right IAIE contact person. Very soon we will have a complete listing of all committees and the chairs (with contact information) on our web site, so keep coming back to visit.

Have a great 2011 and I'll be looking forward to hearing from you!

Dave Chapman
IAIE Executive Director

Southside Elementary Invites International Experiences



“When we learn about other cultures, we are really learning about ourselves. We’re all human. We just speak different languages.”

Nestled in the picturesque community of Huntington, West Virginia, Southside Elementary School places a high value on international education. Most schools in the district are basically homogeneous. In contrast, families in the Southside community represent nine countries outside the United States including China, Egypt, India, Nepal, South Korea, Ukraine, Venezuela, Vietnam and Mexico.

As part of the international focus at Southside, students recently attended a show given by Chinese acrobats who visited their school. To make this experience even more inviting for their guests, Principal John Hanna had the Chinese national anthem played before their show. It brought tears to the eyes of the acrobats, and brought another inviting idea into the principal’s head.

Hanna decided that if the acrobats were so touched by the playing of their national anthem, he wanted to do something similar for the international students and their families at Southside. During the morning announcements, students and families from one of the nations represented at Southside were invited to participate in the playing of their national anthem. Flags from each of these countries were then hung in the hallway.

“We want all our kids to realize we’re not alone,” Hanna said. “When we learn about other cultures, we are really learning about ourselves. We’re all human. We just speak different languages.” (cont. p. 4)

Southside Elementary Invites International Experiences

(cont. from p 3)

Principal John Hanna's interest in global alliances for his school piqued his interest in Invitational Education. Southside applied for IAIE's Inviting School Award and was honored to receive this recognition at the 2010 World Conference in Columbus, Ohio. As part of their award application, Southside shared its focus on international alliances for the school. That focus led them to host a school exchange program through IAIE.

Last year, Southside invited a delegation to visit them from Tai Po Old Market School Plover Cover in Hong Kong. The HK students were immersed in West Virginia culture while staying in a host family's home for a week. Southside's students rapidly gained knowledge of another culture as they worked and played alongside their new Chinese friends.

Southside's families treasured the week spent with their guests from Tai Po Old Market School. One Southside parent wrote, "Throughout the week we got to know [the children] and learn about their customs. They were wonderful ambassadors for their country and their families. At the end of the week we had to say goodbye to dear friends of our family." Another Southside parent said, "By any measure, the exchange is a valuable and educational experience for all involved."

The blending of Invitational Education and international awareness at Southside Elementary School has had a profound effect on students and staff. Principal Hanna credits his wife Lynn, a third grade teacher at the school, as capturing those benefits in words when she said, "Acceptance of diversity will be the preservation of civilization."

The 2012 IAIE conference will be held in Hong Kong, China. Representatives from Southside Elementary hope to attend the conference and visit inviting schools in Hong Kong while they are there. It will be a golden opportunity to forge further alliances between east and west, alliances that make schools stronger on two continents.

"It's definitely time to start planning to attend the Hong Kong IAIE World Conference," said West Virginia IAIE coordinator Allyson Schoenlein. "After seeing the impact of IAIE's international alliance on Southside Elementary School, I encourage every member of IAIE to do whatever it takes to go to this conference. Hong Kong, or bust!"



Flags from countries hang in the halls at Southside Elementary

"Acceptance of Diversity will be the Preservation of Civilization"

~ Lynn Hanna



Dr. Betty Siegel and Dr. William Purkey, co-founders of IAIE, with Sally Butzin, ISI Executive Director (center)

Project CHILD Embraces IAIE

Collaboration kicks off at the October 2011

IAIE World Conference in Kentucky

IAIE Trustees have recognized ISI (Institute for School Innovation) as an official affiliate based upon our mutual aspirations to bring forth human potential based upon the core values of trust, respect, optimism, care, and intentionality.

"We welcome ISI and Project CHILD to this international group of educators committed to creating inviting schools where students and adults are working together to enhance social emotional learning, the key to lifelong success," said Dr. William Purkey.

Member Activities & News

Send Activities & News to bethapuckett@gmail.com

- An interview with William Purkey regarding his book on class clowns will appear in the March 2011 issue of **Parenting Magazine**. The interview will be based on William's book **Teaching Class Clowns (And what they can teach us)** published by Corwin Press/Sage Publications in 2006.
- On a sad note, Sue Bowen's brother passed away on January 1st. Sue was fortunate to have spent the last week of his life with him. She shared that her brother was a very social, outgoing person who thoroughly enjoyed having friends visit until his last day. He was a farmer, lived in a small town farming community his entire life and the whole town was like an extended family. He was 80 years old. Our love and deepest sympathy is extended at this time to our dear friend Sue and her family.

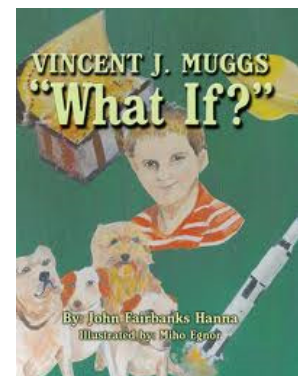
The Tales of Vincent J. Muggs

by John Hanna

John Hanna is not only the Principal of Southside Elementary School in Huntington, West Virginia, he is also an author! John's first book, entitled *Vincent J. Muggs*, "What if?" captures the curious nature of Vincent J. Muggs, 'a dreamer, a thinker, and a wonderer' whose teacher thinks he's 'Attention Deficit.' John's second book focuses on diversity and has Vincent traveling to twelve famous locations around the world.

The following is the prologue to John Hanna's new book.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the many people that I have met from so many countries and cultures. They have taught me through our interactions that the world has a multitude of experiences, beliefs, values and inter relatedness. Acceptance and respect of our unique traits are moving humans from simple tolerance to a stage of celebrating and embracing our human gifts. I hope that each of you can discuss the importance of diversity with everyone around you.



Vincent J Muggs,
"What if?"
by John Hanna

The relationship between School Board policy making and Invitational Education

(an extract from a presentation made in 2010 Ohio Conference concurrent session)

by Victor Fong, school director, Creative Primary School

I would like to share with you, from the perspective of a Board member, my insight into the relationship between School Board policy making and Invitational Education.

Almost 10 years since we started IE at our school, we are beginning to realize that we have gone through a subtle process of evolution - from the early days when we were busy implementing policies to develop Invitational Education in our school, to the recent few years when Invitational Education now drives many of the Board policies that we make.

Going back to the early developmental years of IE, our policies focused mainly on meeting the requirements and standards to become an Inviting School, while at the same time ensuring resources were allocated accordingly.

Some eight years down the journey, the entire school, from Board level to frontline teachers, has progressed and now fully embraces the positive energy generated by Inviting school community.

Even the mindset the Board has changed, from the traditional passive 'governance' role of budget controlling, quality assurance, appointment of core leadership staff etc., to becoming absorbed into the school's inviting culture. The Board has been proactively looking for new ideas and initiatives and leads the school to become even more student-centered, and to find new ways to enhance learning and growth of our students.

IE has energized the school, and we have embraced big changes in curriculum and pedagogical changes necessary for learning in the 21st century. Of these, the most significant initiatives that we have taken on lately are: 1) The deployment of **Brain-based Learning** pedagogical strategies into classroom teaching throughout the entire school and 2) Implementing the **International Baccalaureate Primary School Program** (IB PYP)

I do not have time to go into the details but I encourage you to go onto our website if you want to find out more. <http://www.creativeprisch.edu.hk/>

So how can the Board help:

- set clear vision - communicate and ensure 'buying-in' by all stake-holders of the school community
- be inviting – respectful, trusting and optimistic towards each other
- invite senior school leaders to attend Board meetings and involve them in contributing new ideas and initiatives
- persuade teachers that changes are necessary: it is for students' learning and growth; and it is for their own professionalism as teachers
- allocate resources generously and responding quickly to teacher's needs
- ensure that chairman, supervisors, directors are often visible in school – participating in events and celebrations

We have a motto for the Board: 'Don't need to be hands-on, be hearts-on'

In conclusion, I would like to leave you with a suggestion if you want to implement big changes in your school - get your School Board involved and let them share all your successes, your achievements and your celebrations of whatever you do.

Make sure they embrace the positive power of Invitational Education and you will get all the support that you need to sail through big changes.

Jenny Kwan Thanks Minerva DeLand School

Dear All,

I wanted all of you to know how thankful the 10 kids & I are for your generous hospitality. We had great days in Rochester [NY]. We could never repay you for the way you made us feel welcome. The universe isn't big enough to hold all the gratitude I feel. My heartfelt thanks to all.

So far away, so close in my thoughts. All the best!

Jenny Kwan

Tsung Tsin Christian Academy

Vice Principal



School Climate Contributes to Student Achievement & Success

by William W. Purkey

According to the December 2010 *Newsletter of the National Dropout Prevention Center*, there is rapidly growing evidence that school climate is one of the most important contributors to student achievement and success. A compelling body of research points to the unavoidable fact that school climate promotes student learning, academic achievement, and school success. It also heavily influences healthy development as well as effective risk prevention, positive youth development, and increased teacher and student retention.

As evidence of the vital importance of school climate, the U.S. Department of Education recently developed an initiative on school climate. Under this new program, the Department will provide federal financial assistance to eligible state educational agencies. These funds are designed to develop rigorous measurement systems in order to help assess an individual school's climate. The program also provides funding for interventions in schools with the biggest challenges.

According to Terry Pickeral, Co-Chair of the National School Climate Council, "School climate should move to the core of teacher preparation programs as a critical element of school norms, goals, values, interpersonal relationships, teaching learning, leadership practices, and organizational structures. Research particularly demonstrates that the school's context encourages or discourages student engagement and retention."

The above is an unmistakable clarion call for Invitational Education. The International Alliance for Invitational Education has empirical research, a theoretical foundation, a body of knowledge, and a defensible way of measuring school climate with the *Inviting School Survey*. Please contact your state educational agency and encourage them to adopt Invitational Education as its school climate model. Summon them most cordially to visit www.invitationaleducation.net

For additional information, contact Terry Pickeral at t.pickeral@comcast.net.

*Fidelity Award***International Alliance For Invitational Education****Inviting School Paula Helen Stanley Fidelity Award 2011**

Awarded at the World Conference during odd number years (2011, 2013, 2015 etc.)

This prestigious award is designed to recognize schools that have previously received the Inviting School Award and that have kept the spirit of Invitational Education alive in the schools.

Awards will be presented at the 2011 World Conference scheduled to be held in Richmond, KY. Schools may apply for the Fidelity Award by completing the ISSR Survey and providing a letter describing the achievements during the year(s) following the Inviting School Award.

For more information, please contact Elaine Devers:

elaine.devers@scott.kyschools.us or elaine.devers@gmail.com

More details & the application can be found at www.invitationaleducation.net

**International Alliance for Invitational Education
Outstanding Research Award in Invitational Education**

Awarded for the first time at the World Conference in 2011

We are pleased to announce the Outstanding Research Award in Invitational Education. The award will be given annually. Its purpose is to promote the scholarly study of the theory and practice of Invitational Education and to broaden and deepen its supportive research base. The 2011 award, which will be announced at the IAIE 2011 World Conference in Richmond, KY, October 25-28, 2011, is open to anyone who has completed research in the field of Invitational Education since June 30, 2009.

Criteria:

- Research is based on the theory and practice of Invitational Education
- Research contributes to the field of Invitational Education
- The study is of exemplary quality
- Nominees must be members of IAIE

For more information, please contact Jenny Fielding:

jedwards@fielding.edu

More details can be found at www.invitationaleducation.net

New - Awards Schedule

Inviting School Award - Next Award 2012 & even years (2012, 2014, 2016...)

- recognizes schools, colleges, universities, and districts throughout the world that exhibit the philosophy of Invitational Education

NEW Outstanding Research Award - First Award 2011

- recognizes and promotes the scholarly study of the theory and practice of Invitational Education and to broaden and deepen its supportive research base

Paula Helen Stanley Award - Next Award 2011 & odd years (2011, 2013, 2015...)

- recognizes schools that have previously received the Inviting School Award and that have kept the spirit of Invitational Education alive in the schools

William Stafford Leadership Award - Next Award 2012 & even years (2012, 2014...)

- recognizes exceptional servant leadership within the Alliance

Guest Essay

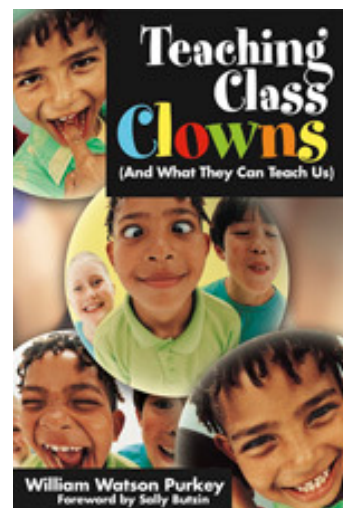
By Dr. Floyd McDowell

In a recent communication with my wonderful, long-time friend, Dr. William Purkey, I informed him that of the many fortunate career and life educational and human services organizations I'd had involvement and memberships in, the most inspirational and helpful one was the International Alliance for Invitational Education, which he co-founded and led for decades.

The conferences, publications and sharing I gained from the Invitational Alliance flow more through my mind, heart and soul than any other organizational learning and experiences in my "process of becoming."

One of my most enjoyable memories is the successful efforts of staff and parents in a Delaware public school program I administered to gain the Alliance's Inviting School award. What can be more important than working to make our public schools "the most inviting places in town"? I once took two of our school district's building principals to an annual Alliance Conference in Greensboro, NC. On the drive home, we had a continuous seminar on Invitational Education. They couldn't wait to get back to their buildings, start working on the Alliance's Inviting School Award and to enthusiastically inform their fellow principals about the importance of Invitational Education. Invitational Education is a perfect example of the wise axiom, "People don't care how much one knows until they know how much one cares."

As I approached the age of 84, I recently found a statement that helps explain old codgers like me, "The buzzards are circling, but I ain't done yet!"



Teaching Class Clowns (And What They Can Teach Us)

By William Watson Purkey
Foreword by Sally Butzin

Written by a veteran educator (and self-described class clown), this concise guide combines laugh-out-loud writing with the author's field-tested expertise.

Order forms can be found on the IAE website:
www.invitationaleducation.net

IAIE MISSION STATEMENT

The International Alliance for Invitational Education® is a chartered, non-profit organization that has the unique mission of creating and maintaining truly welcoming relationships and environments that enhance life-long learning, promote positive organizational change, cultivate personal and professional growth, and enrich people's lives. Through its theory of practice, called **Invitational Education®** the Alliance identifies and changes negative forces that defeat and destroy human potential. As a professional organization, IAIE maintains this mission as its primary goal.



HONG KONG, or BUST!

A Regular Column by Allyson Schoenlein

During the 1930s in the United States, farmers from the country's heartland suffered through the "Dust Bowl" and the Great Depression. It was a bleak time in America. Many folks headed west to California looking for a better future. Some of the travelers attached signs to their shabby trucks that read, "California or Bust!" They carried little more with them than their own optimism, but were determined to do whatever was necessary to get to California.

As inviting educators, we celebrate the optimism of those travelers. Now we also have the opportunity to model their optimism. Our slogan simply changes to the phrase, "Hong Kong or Bust!"

In 2012, the IAIE World Conference will be held in Hong Kong, China. Those of us not already living in China can decide now that we will travel to China for the 2012 conference. We will do whatever it takes to join our friends in Hong Kong. We will reject pessimistic thoughts about the economy or about travel policies where we work. Instead we will think outside the box about funding for the trip. If necessary, we can 'build a new box' to fund our travel.

The FORUM invites our readers to be optimistic about their attendance at the 2012 conference. Why not make a New Year's resolution this year AND next year to attend the World Conference in Hong Kong? That would be a great, optimistic start! We will help by printing a series of "Hong Kong or Bust" columns each quarter through 2012 to prepare everyone for the big event.

First, we need to hear from you. In the next edition, we'll brainstorm ways to pay for the trip. Please send us your creative funding ideas, anything from bake sales to bank robbery. [Okay. We scratched out bank robbery. It might be too hard to get release time from prison to attend the conference.]

Send your ideas for funding and your ideas for this column to editor, Beth Puckett, at bethapuckett@gmail.com We look forward to sharing the collective optimism of our many creative colleagues.

Contact the
FORUM Editor:
Beth Puckett
bethapuckett@gmail.com

It's February!

Remember to
Renew
Your
Membership
Today!

Join the "Invited" Listserv

You can subscribe to the
list anytime by sending
email to:

listserv@listserv.uga.edu

In the body of the email,
type the following
command:

Subscribe invited
Firstname Lastname

(example: Subscribe
invited George
Washington)

IAIE

