

# International Center for Intercultural Communication

<http://liberalarts.iupui.edu/icic>

## Newsletter - August 2014

### MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This past quarter has been very busy, which we like.

ICIC hosted the Researching and Teaching Intercultural Competence and 8th Intercultural Rhetoric and Discourse Conference in June, directly following its hosting of the ESP Institute. Visitors from across the globe joined us to talk about the issues facing intercultural communication and share their visions of what is to come.

ICIC also presented at several conferences in the past quarter, including COMET, going out into the world in addition to having the world come to us.

But May also brought the sad news that Karl Zimmer had passed away. He had been my friend for 30 years, as well as a benefactor of both ICIC and IUPUI. He will be deeply missed.

Best wishes,

Ulla M. Connor

Director, International Center for  
Intercultural Communication



### ZIMMER SCHOLARSHIP HONORS LEGACY

Karl R. Zimmer Jr. passed away on May 18. A former chairman of ICIC's advisory board, Mr. Zimmer was an integral part of the Center for many years. He and his late wife, Barbara, were generous, long-standing advocates of Liberal Arts education, and particularly of the importance of language education and learning.

ICIC Director Ulla Connor and her husband John have established The Barbara E. and Karl R. Zimmer Graduate Scholarship in English in their honor. It will support scholarships for graduate students enrolled in the Department of English graduate program with an applied linguistics or TESOL concentration in the IUPUI School of Liberal Arts. Recipients will have a record of academic excellence and preference will be given to graduate students in English applied linguistics affiliated with ICIC. Ulla and John wish to encourage others to donate to this scholarship.

### EXPERTS MEET AT IR CONFERENCE

The 8th Intercultural Rhetoric and Discourse Conference once again attracted a host of linguistics experts who engaged in discussions on intercultural competence in language education and intercultural rhetoric and discourse research as it applies to ESL, EFL, ESP, ELF, and foreign language teaching settings. Experts participating included Dwight Atkinson, Purdue University, Indiana; Diane Belcher, Georgia State University; Viviana Cortes, Georgia State University; James Lantolf, The Pennsylvania State University; and Srikant Sarangi, Aalborg University, Denmark.

IUPUI's **William Blomquist**, dean of the School of Liberal Arts, and **Gil Latz**, associate vice chancellor for International Affairs, both emphasized the importance of intercultural competence as the university expands its internationalization efforts.

The conference organizing committee consisted of ICIC Director **Ulla Connor**, **Marta Antón**, **Marda Rose** and **Claudia Grossman** of IUPUI's World Languages and Cultures Department, **Estela Ene** of the English Department's EAP program, and ICIC staff members **Cynthia Murdock** and **James Marshall**. We congratulate them for their hard work.

### ESP DRAWS OVERSEAS PARTICIPANTS

Students from the United States, Mexico, and Argentina gathered in June to participate in the English for Specific Purposes (ESP) Institute. As part of the Institute, students were asked to design an ESP project. Specific projects ranged from medical ESP to ESP for Indianapolis-area Spanish-speaking painters, to urban agriculture for refugees.

"I'm always delighted to see how students apply ESP principles in their projects," said ICIC Director **Ulla Connor**. "This year our international student participants allowed us to explore Language for Specific Purposes (LSP)—the language learning needs are the same."

Based on students' responses, Prof. Connor already is looking forward to next year's ESP Institute.

## ICIC WELCOMES TSUDA STUDENTS

At ICIC, we know it's August because the students from Tsuda College have arrived! For three weeks, beginning August 2, Japanese students will participate in the annual Women in Leadership Intensive Summer English Program.

This year is particularly special because IUPUI will celebrate a 20-year tradition of hosting Tsuda College students. Organizers have planned a full schedule for the students, including a trip to Chicago, attendance at an Indiana Fever basketball game, and a visit to the Indiana State Fair.

## PRESENTATIONS AND QUICK TAKES

ICIC Director **Ulla Connor** and ICIC Research Fellow **Rebecca Bartlett Ellis** presented "Partnering with healthcare providers to listen to patients: Patient-centric diabetes management" at The Conference on Communication, Medicine and Ethics (COMET) in Lugano, Switzerland on June 26-28, 2014.

Several ICIC personnel presented at the Researching and Teaching Intercultural Competence and 8th Intercultural Rhetoric and Discourse Conference on June 6-7, 2014 here at IUPUI. ICIC Director **Ulla Connor** in conjunction with **Dwight Atkinson** of Purdue University (a former ICIC Visiting Scholar) chaired the opening panel, "The Present and Future of Intercultural Rhetoric." On the final day, ICIC Visiting Scholar **Manyun (Cloud) Zou** and ICIC Research Assistant **James Marshall** presented "Cross-Cultural Perceptions of Medical Information Based on Its Source."

ICIC Scholar in Residence **Andy Buchenot**'s article "An Alternative to Print-Centric Design for Online Health Literacy: The Redevelopment of a Cancer Information Portal" has been accepted for publication by the *Journal of Consumer Health on the Internet* and is expected to be published in the December 2014 issue. The article is co-authored by ICIC Education Coordinator **Ana Traversa** and Simon Cancer Center Portal team members **Dr. David Haggstrom** and **Robert Skipworth Comer**.

The **International Center for Intercultural Communication (ICIC)** is a university-based research and service organization created in 1998 to enhance links between the city of Indianapolis, the state of Indiana, and cultures/nations throughout the world. ICIC strives for excellence in language and intercultural training in academic, professional, and other occupational contexts. The center is part of the Indiana University School of Liberal Arts at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). ICIC website: <http://liberalarts.iupui.edu/icic/>

## STAFF UPDATES

**Manyun ("Cloud") Zou**, M.A., lecturer of English in Applied Linguistics, will return to her position in the Department of Peking University Institute for Medical Humanities, Beijing, China, in August. Cloud has served as an ICIC visiting scholar since September 2013.

**James Marshall**, Research Assistant for the 2013-2014 academic year, completed his work at the Center in July. He plans to complete his M.A. degree after serving an internship teaching English in China early next year.

We wish them both luck in their future endeavors.

## ICIC IS FOUNDING MEMBER OF TWO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Last year, ICIC was invited to be a founding member of not one but two international health research collaborative organizations.

The International Research Centre for Communication in Healthcare (IRCCCH) was established in 2013 in response to the now-irrefutable evidence that communication is central to effective and safe healthcare delivery. IRCCCH is a world-class, collaborative health communication research and training hub where internationally recognized and multidisciplinary healthcare professionals and communication experts from 15 countries work together, translating research to education and practice. IRCCCH is housed at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University in Kowloon, Hong Kong, where the Director, Professor Diana Slade, is Professor of Applied Linguistics.

The Danish Institute of Humanities and Medicine (DIHM) at Aalborg University, Denmark officially launches this month and will channel humanities-based research findings into the Medical/Health curricula as well as inform practicing healthcare professionals about the increasingly complex communicative environment. The institute is under the direction of Srikant Sarangi, Professor in Humanities and Medicine at Aalborg University. Dr. Sarangi was ICIC's Visionary Scholar in 2005.

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