CIE Begins its 50th year!

The Beginning in Colorado - The goals and values that have defined CIE over the past 50 years were formulated in the fall of 1968 when a group of new graduate students and faculty gathered to design a Center for International Education at the School of Education retreat in Colorado under the leadership of Dwight Allen. In the ensuing year, the foundation for CIE was established. CIE has been remarkably faithful to the vision of the founders ever since.

The record of 50 years - The real legacy of CIE is the network of students who have gone on to make a difference in the world. CIE students have earned just under 300 doctoral degrees and about 300 Master’s degrees. Most have gone on to leadership roles in Ministries of Education, development organizations, UN agencies, universities and school systems. More than 15 have founded NGOs. Others have been USAID country directors, Ministers of Education, Ambassadors, and country directors for UN agencies.

Leadership Transition - The unexpected departure in August 2017 of Joe Berger, the CIE Director since 2016, created a new challenge. The UMass Provost has appointed an acting CIE Director for this year and a search for a new Director is underway. The committee is seeking a senior, experienced candidate who brings both strong academic credentials and extensive experience managing funded development projects around the world. The intention is to have a new Director starting in September of 2018.

CIE Member Updates

Mark Meassick (M.Ed. 1989) is currently the USAID Mission Director in Uganda. Prior to becoming Director, he worked with AID based in Afghanistan, South Sudan and Kenya. In Afghanistan, he created programs for rural finance and enterprise development – the two largest such AID programs in the world at that time. Prior to joining USAID, Mark worked for the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

Hye Seung Cho (Ph.D. 2016) is an Associate Research Fellow at the Korean Women’s Development Institute in South Korea. She is in charge of research and projects addressing issues of gender equality. She is also teaching Sociology of Education to undergraduates at Chungnam National University.

Manjula Salomon (Ed.D. 1981) is currently Associate Head of School for Academic Affairs and the first Global Scholar in Residence at Palmer Trinity School in Miami, Florida. There, Manjula developed the curriculum for study tours and immersion programs. Earlier, Manjula spent 23 years at the Jakarta International School in Jakarta, Indonesia, during which time she served as Chief Examiner of the International Baccalaureate for 10 years. She has published several text books and is currently the Theory of Knowledge editor of the Oxford University Press IB series.

Tashi Zangmo (Ed.D. 2009) undertook the challenge of creating an NGO called the Bhutan Nuns Foundation under the patronage of the Queen Mother of Bhutan. The Foundation is dedicated to improving the education and living conditions for Buddhist Nuns in Bhutan. In 2016, her organization was awarded the national Award of Merit Gold by the King of Bhutan.
Shamo Thar, the 12th CIE Endowment Fellow, is a third-year Ph.D. student from eastern Tibet. Her main research interests are college access and equity issues for ethnic Tibetans under the era of Chinese higher education massification. Prior to coming to UMass, she founded a non-profit organization in western China which raised funds nationally and internationally to initiate education-related programs such as building schools, libraries, and scholarships in rural herding in Tibetan regions.

Shamo earned her Master’s degree at Brandeis University in international development focusing on economics of development. She worked in both non-profit organizations and university settings as manager, program developer, fund-raiser, and teacher in Boston, Washington, D.C., Beijing, and Xining. In her spare time, she likes to write picture books for young children in Tibetan language.

Her recent paper titled Tibetan Pastoralists and Schooling: Local Challenges in a Context of Educational Reform has been published as a chapter in Tibetan Pastoralists and Development by Leipzig University press.

The CIE Endowment must grow in order to cover the increased charges as the university shifts more of the costs to the sponsoring unit.

CIE Activities in 2017

VAS-Y Fille! Evaluation

A CIE team led by Bjorn Nordveit (qualitative analysis) and assisted by Maguyette Diame, a CIE doctoral student, and a team from the Center for Educational Assessment at UMass led by Jennifer Randall (quantitative analysis) has just completed its evaluation of the project Valorisation de la Scolarisation de la Fille. (VAS-Y Fille!).

This DFID-funded project was implemented in five provinces in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The four-year project worked to keep girls in school and to improve their learning outcomes. The quantitative evaluation utilized a randomized control trial design in a longitudinal study that measured achievements in early grade reading and math.

The project’s theory of change addressed four major barriers to change: financial, quality of education, socio-cultural, and school safety. The project interventions worked well in addressing the financial and quality of education factors, fairly well with the social-cultural factors, but was less successful in the area of school safety.

CIE Student Wins Award

Nyaradzai Changamire, a Ph.D. student from Zimbabwe, received a Margaret McNamara Education Grant for the 2016-2017 academic year. She is the third CIE student to receive this prestigious national award. Her research explores the impact of education programs on women and girls living in post-conflict settings. Her work will include a critical discourse analysis of media representation of African refugee women.

Gretchen Rossman Retires

Gretchen retired in May 2017 after 30 years of service, but she continues to serve the University by teaching one course each year and advising PhD students. She also meets regularly with other students who seek her advice on research design, writing, and professional development.

First appointed to UMass in January 1987, Gretchen affiliated with CIE in the mid-1990s, taking on responsibility as Co-PI for a girls’ education project in India. Since then she has served as PI or Co-PI on projects in Malawi, Senegal and The Gambia, Tanzania, Azerbaijan, and Palestine.

Gretchen also became the liaison with various organizations sponsoring students to study at CIE at the Master’s and PhD levels. Students from Tanzania, Georgia, Palestine, and more than 20 from the former Soviet Republics, came to CIE as a result of her efforts.

Gretchen continues her active writing, having published new editions of Designing Qualitative Research and Learning in the Field: An Introduction to Qualitative Research in recent years. She is now working on a book with Dale M. Jones (Ed.D. 2004), tentatively titled Bitten, about the effects of Lyme disease on women.

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