



## CIE - A BEACON OF LIGHT TO THE WORLD

Fall 2019 Newsletter



We are at the time of year when many cultures give thanks for the harvest. Our plans to celebrate CIE's 52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary in June 2020 (40th Anniversary shown above) will provide an opportunity to not only reflect on the harvest of over five decades, but to use it as a foundation for future development of CIE. The recent 50th anniversary edition of CIE dissertation abstracts bears witness to CIE's focus on past development issues and its capacity for novel solutions, which will be needed to address the challenges of an ever more conflicted world.

A major focus this year is to rebuild an active CIE community. Our two endowment scholars are facilitating this by organizing a range of stimulating 'open dialogues' and working to identify a student space similar to the old L-shaped room in Hills House. We have also been actively recruiting student participation as co-authors on journal publications.

Montague House is becoming a home to a wider variety of activities by welcoming the college's Director of Diversity as well as a new project working with Tibetan refugees in Dharamsala, India. In addition, our new University-wide advisory group is helping us to reach out across UMass.

Do check out our active social media presence on Facebook and our regularly updated [website](#) and have a great Holiday Season!

## CIE - 14 YEARS WORK IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN AFGHANISTAN



For the past 14 years CIE has played a leading role in a series of three large, USAID-funded Higher Education Projects in Afghanistan – with a total value of \$50 million. During this period the higher education system in Afghanistan has exploded, increasing student enrollment seven-fold to nearly 400,000 students with a five-fold increase in the number of higher education institutions.

CIE has been instrumental in starting five Associate Degree programs in fields like Business Administration and Information Technology, and two Master's degree programs in education. In all three projects CIE worked to strengthen the capacity of individual faculty members and universities as well as the capacity of the Ministry of Higher Education to manage and insure the quality of the higher education system. CIE is hoping to participate in the new higher education project being planned by USAID. [Read more](#)

## BUILDING ON A DECADE OF TRAUMA RECOVERY

Under the leadership of **Ian Barron**, CIE is transforming the lives of families, schools, and communities in Brazil, Palestine, and Scotland. Capacity building training of school counselors has led to significant reductions in posttraumatic stress and increased learning for students. CIE is at the cutting edge of the development of empirically based, trauma-specific training for paraprofessionals in crisis and conflict settings. Locally, CIE is offering 5 trauma recovery workshops in fall 2019 open to the public, faculty and students.



## CIE - 5 YEARS OF WORK WITH ECCN



For the past five years, the CIE team under the leadership of **Ash Hartwell** has been an active member of the Education in Crisis and Conflict Network (ECCN). In October 2019, a closing event was held in Washington D.C. to celebrate the accomplishments of the program. **Nina Papadopoulos**, the USAID ECCN Team Lead opened the event.

Highlighted at the conference were a number of ECCN tools developed with major contributions from ECCN/CIE including Accelerated Education; The Assessment Toolkit for Safe Learning Environments; Evidence Gap Maps (**Gwen Heaner**); The [EiCC Interactive Evidence Pathways](#) (**Ash Hartwell**, **Gwen Heaner**, and **Sahara Pradhan**); and USAID Education Policy and Reform: [Changes in EiCC Activity Solicitations](#) (**Jenn Flemming**, **Kayla Boisvert**, **Ash Hartwell**).

### Member Updates

#### Mohammad F. Good

*Ed.D. 1987*



was appointed Chair of the new [National Higher Education Commission](#) in September 2019 by the Somali Minister of Education. In recent years, Mohammad has been working in Somalia, serving in various ways as an advisor to the Ministry of Education and the leadership of the education system.

#### Mishy Lesser

*Ed.D. 1996*



is the Learning Director for the [Upstander Project](#), a Boston-based NGO that helps “bystanders” become “upstanders” through social issue documentary films. Mishy, as author of the *Dawnland* Teacher’s Guide shared with the producers of the film *Dawnland*, the Emmy® award for Outstanding Research at the 40<sup>th</sup> annual News and Documentary Awards in fall 2019.

#### Anita Anastacio

*M.Ed. 2006*



is currently a Senior Program Specialist with the humanitarian portfolio at the [LEGO Foundation](#) in Denmark where she oversees a \$100 million Play to Learn program focused on Rohingya and Syrian refugee children. Previously she spent 6 years with ChildFund International, first in the Washington Office, and then as Deputy Director of their East and Southern Africa regional office in Zambia.

#### Philliph Masila Mutisya

*M.Ed. 1984;  
Ed.D. 1989*



is currently Professor of Education at North Carolina Central University where he has taught since 2001. Philliph is a Lead Co-founder of the [Diaspora University Town](#), a project by Diaspora Kenyans to advance education and the progressive development of Kenya. He is also the Secretary General of the newly founded [Kenya National Council of Elders](#)

## CIE 2019 ENDOWMENT FELLOWS

**Onasheho Toweh** (left) is a Ph.D. student from Nigeria. Her research interest focuses on cultural humility and teacher-student relationships in schools.

The multicultural experiences have re-inforced her interest in international development. She is interested in finding creative and innovative ways to bridge educational gaps in Africa through “culturally humble” approaches. At the CIE, she works with public relations and program evaluation.



**Chenyang Xu** (right) is a first-year Ph.D. student from China. His research interests focus on utilizing social media and data science to support higher ed.

At Kent State University (KSU), Chenyang received M.Ed. degree in 2015 and Master of Digital Sciences degree in 2019. During his study, Chenyang co-founded the Chinese Alumni Association and established KSU’s first official Chinese alumni social media account.

### *SUPPORT the CIE Endowment Fund!*

**Donate here with a credit card**  
Links directly to CIE Endowment Fund

Or Mail Check—made out to *UMass Amherst*—to: CIE, College of Education, UMass, Amherst, MA 01003



“Like” our [Facebook page](#)



Connect on [LinkedIn](#)



Visit CIE [Web site](#)