

CIE Fund Campaign Kick-Off Event

Reported by Phoebe McKinney



At CIE, the words *participation* and *praxis* don't just refer to a pedagogical approach to teaching and learning. They refer to a unique and extended community of people who are willing to show their enduring support through the *praxis* of contributions to and enthusiasm for CIE's new fund-raising campaign. This was the resounding message from CIE alumnae at the March 15th reception held in their honor in Washington, DC in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Comparative International Education Society.

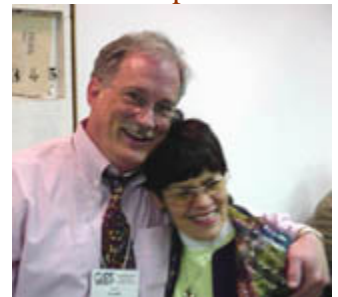
The reception, held at AED in March of 2001, courtesy of **Bill Smith**, marked the formal kick-off of a new CIE fund campaign, whose goal is to raise \$250,000 over the next two years. CIE alumnae responded with enthusiasm and excitement when David Evans launched the campaign by pledging \$10,000 as a challenge grant to CIE alumnae to match the amount with their contributions that evening as a way to "guarantee the future!"



But long before **DRE** announced CIE's new fund-raising campaign, the atmosphere of enthusiasm and excitement was evident among the 40 CIE members gathered together that evening. The atmosphere was that of a big family reunion that offered CIE members an opportunity to catch up, hear news, renew friendships and recall fond memories, as well as to meet current CIE faculty and students. Many alumnae observed that they have yet to encounter an institution that is as unique, vital or "tuned-in" to the challenges of international development education as CIE. Repeatedly that evening, people remarked that it is the combination of special

people and CIE's core values that make CIE such a significant and important educational institution.

Don Graybill observed, *There is no place where the friendship is more enduring and the growth more consequential, than at CIE. CIE folks aren't CEO's. There are CIE people everywhere in very responsible management positions making a real difference in the world.* Don was so enthusiastic about the reception that he asked if it could be made into a regular DC event -- not only for fundraising, but for friendships. It should happen every year!



John Hatch remarked *Other international education programs have died or failed. CIE is unique and retains its vitality. It's a great resource!* **Dave McCurry** commented, *We keep coming back to CIE. When we get into the field and interact with people who are top-down and don't understand the Third World, we come back to CIE. That's what was so great about CIE "there were people there who 'understood!'"*





These expressions of appreciation and support for the important mission and goals of CIE as an institution carried over to the portion of the evening that was devoted to the more formal discussion of CIE's new fund campaign. David Evans explained that CIE is currently in a five-year process of transition and renewal. Appointing new faculty and continuing to attract high caliber students from around the world is part of this renewal and helps maintain that extraordinary vitality and resources that CIE offers.



Mike Seppala, the development officer for the School of Education, traveled to DC especially for the CIE reception. He explained some of the many new and exciting fund-raising opportunities that are opening up to the School of Education. Michael commented that he had observed something special at the CIE reception—a passion and dedication to CIE along with a clear sense of the importance and meaning of CIE in alumnae's lives. Michael asked *What does CIE mean to you?* as a way of challenging people to channel their dedication into support for keeping CIE alive and vital.

The next part of the evening ran like a Tuesday morning meeting: *Kick this off and get it started!* exclaimed one alum. *This is a great idea and it needs to happen,* declared another. *Every international job I've had since 1986 I've had because of CIE,* proclaimed **Ann Dodge**. *I'll give 25% of my earnings from my next consultancy to the Center, because I wouldn't be doing this work without it! Hire me!* she only half-jokingly challenged the group. *What about the future of CIE's leadership?* inquired one concerned alum. At this point **Sangeeta Kamat** strongly assured participants that CIE faculty members are equally committed to CIE and the CIE community. She noted that she made a personal sacrifice to take her job at CIE *because I've found a home where I could be myself.*



Reflecting on the evening and on the nature of the discussion about the new fund raising campaign, **Bonnie Mullinix** commented that it echoed her experiences as a CIE student: *That humility of faculty, who said, hey, I'm not an expert—you know more than I do. Few other academic institutions are like that. When I was a student, I was involved in program development, curriculum development, I sat on decision-making committees and we each mentored each other. Tonight again shows how CIE models 'living the practice' and cooperative learning.*



Soon after, CIE alumnae again *lived the practice* as they eagerly took pledge cards and wrote contribution checks and together, as a community, helped to launch CIE's new fund-raising campaign! Over \$7,000 was raised that evening, with more pledges in the following day, easily meeting the challenge grant that began the gathering.

