SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP – INTERNATIONAL

CIRCLE – Collaboration for International Research, Communication and Learning in Education

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES 2010-2012

CIRCLE Coordinators:
Dr. Gillian Eriksson – Chairperson
Dr. Karen Biraimah- Ex-Officio
Dr. Anna Wolford – Facilitator: Educational Opportunities (Goal 1)
Dr. Judit Szente - Facilitator: Internationalization (Goal 2)
Dr. Tom Owens – Facilitator: Collaborations and Partnerships (Goal 3)

Description:

International Education supports UCF GOALS to provide an International focus to curriculum development and research and to become a more diverse and inclusive program. The UCF College of Education will be recognized for scholarly leadership in the educational profession, well-educated students, rigorous curricula, research and scholarship, the promotion of social justice, and service to other stakeholders in education.

GOALS:

**Goal 1: Enhance Global Competitiveness of UCF and College of Education Graduates**

**Objective 1.1:** Increase student participation in international experiences.

**Objective 1.2:** Offer students the opportunity to earn a minor and/or a certificate in internationalization related to their discipline.

**Goal 2: Create an International Campus Climate**

**Objective 2.1:** Offer opportunities for student organizations and staff members to participate in programs and activities that have a global perspective.

**Objective 2.2:** Integrate international and visiting scholars in academic or extracurricular activities.

**Objective 2.3:** Create a physical international presence in common spaces such as residence halls, Student Union or dining facilities that would encourage cultural exchange among students and staff members.
**Goal 3: Enhance UCF’s and the College of Education’s Global Reputation Through International Collaborations**

**Objective 3.1:** Promote faculty/staff exchange programs.

**Objective 3.2:** Provide faculty/staff development opportunities for internationalization.

**Objective 3.3:** Develop a single College of Education website focusing on internationalization activities.

**Goal 1: Enhance Global Competitiveness of UCF and College of Education Graduates**

**Objective 1.1:** Increase student participation in international experiences.

**ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS**

**GOAL 1: Student Experiences:**

CIRCLE offers a number of programs for students to experience other countries through Study Abroad and Immersion programs.

**2010-2011:**

Spain - Throughout 2010 and 2011 several groups of students went to Spain for a semester immersion experience. This program was organized by Dr. Karen Biraimah and Dr. Tom Owens. This program places students in Spanish schools where they teach elementary students English. The Castilla and Leon regional authority sponsored this trip and placed students with local housing and home stays.

Plymouth, England- In the summer of 2010, a group of 8 College of Education students traveled to Marjon University College. There they examined critical issues in British schools and completed service in local British primary schools. Dr. Gilliam Eriksson coordinated this Study Abroad which allowed the students to complete courses within their program requirements.

Jamaica- The College of Education took 18 students and one faculty member to Jamaica for a Spring Break trip. They built a house, visited schools and orphanages while completing service to the community. Zachary Walker organized this trip through “Students for the Poor.”

Italy- Marco Nutta spent his spring semester at the Manthone’ High School in Pescara, Italy. While there he assisted teachers and served as a chaperone for field trips. He also assisted exceptional education teachers with students with special needs.

**2011-2012**
Spain – Students in the Fall and Spring semesters had the opportunity of doing field experience in Spain. This program places students in Spanish schools where they teach elementary students English. The Castilla and Leon regional authority sponsored this trip and placed students with local housing and home stays. This program is organized by Dr. Karen Biraimah and Dr. Tom Owens.

Italy – Dr. Judy Levin and Dr. Judit Szente took a group of students to Reggio Emilia during summer A, 2012. The students were immersed in a study of Historical Cultural and Theoretical Foundations of the Reggio Approach to Early Childhood Education.

Botswana – Dr. Karen Biraimah and Dr. Rozalind Howard (Anthropology) coordinated a Fulbright-Hayes International Project in Botswana, linking teachers from Title I schools in Orange County with UCF College of Education Students. The program was arranged in collaboration with Dr. Agreement Jotia and the University of Botswana.

England – In Summer B 2011, Dr. Gillian Eriksson collaborated with The College of St. Mark and St. John (Marjons) in Plymouth. Six Students were able to spend two weeks doing field experiences in local British Schools.

South Africa – Dr. S. Kent Bulter took a group of College of Education students to South Africa during Summer A, 2012. The focus of this trip was on Violence against women and the students were also able to complete field experience in a community children’s village.

Czech Republic – Dr. Scott Waring took UCF students to the Czech Republic during Spring Break 2012. Based in Prague, students could explore the social, cultural and historical sites.

2012-2013
Upcoming programs:
One new program is the Botswana Study Abroad during Summer A. The program is partially funded by a grant through the US Department of State. Student participants will spend three weeks in Botswana learning and enhancing their knowledge of Botswana and their educational system, and the challenges they face to provide equitable education. Another program for students to participate in is the Bilingual Teaching Experience in Spain. The program is ten to twelve weeks and will take place during the Spring Semester. Students will be working with Spanish teachers supporting English instruction in schools. Other possible programs for students are Italy, Iceland, England and the Dominican Republic.

GOAL 2: Internationalization:
International Education Week
CIRCLE established a full program of presentations for International Education week for during November for 2011 and 2012 coordinated by Dr. Judit Szente and Dr. Gillian Eriksson. Presentations included visiting international Faculty, teachers in local schools involved in international projects, students who had been on study abroad programs. Faculty are invited to included their classes for these presentations, ensuring that they benefit from this extensive program. CIRCLE has formed the core of presentations for the campus IEW program.
2010-2011

CIRCLE was involved with 33 countries in 2010-2012 around the world.
AMERICAS – Jamaica, Costa Rica, Puerto Rica, Columbia, Brazil, and Panama

EUROPE – England, Spain, Scotland, The Netherlands, Iceland, Italy, Serbia, Greece, Poland, Czech Republic, France, Russia, Turkey, and Switzerland
MIDDLE EAST – Saudi Arabia and Israel
ASIA – China, Taiwan, Singapore, Vietnam, and India
AUSTRALASIA – Australia and New Zealand
AFRICA – South Africa, Botswana, Kenya, Tanzania and Sierra Leone

CIRCLE was also involved in Campus Globalization Efforts, which include:
Haitian Clothing and Book Drive
Haitian Teacher Project
Haitian Refugee Support
ACEI Meeting and Special Events
International Education Week
SNEA – Studying Abroad
International Conferences
Publications with an International Focus
Fulbright Faculty Visits

2011-2012

CIRCLE PROJECTS AROUND THE WORLD (CPAW) :
CIRCLE hosted a live link to Sydney and Queanbeyan, Australia for the International Writer’s Celebration. The event was held in the Morgridge International Reading Center, and had 44 individuals participate. A panel from UCF included Dr. Gillian Eriksson (coordinator), Dr. Thomas Murray, Dr. Susan Wegmann, Dr. Ann Wolford, Zachary Anderson, and authors Diane Escrew and Susan Caffery. Schools in Australia who participated included Queanbeyan High School near Canberra, and High School in Sydney, coordinated by the CPAW Past President, Dr. Malcolm Beazley.

Literacy Project in Haiti – Dr. Edwidge Crevecoeur and Donita Grissom developed the Haiti Literacy Project. The project is focused on English as a Foreign Language in Secondary Students and adults. The five literacy centers in Petit-Goave include Regal, Lamadien, Viale, Piton, and Baylod. The adult literacy includes agriculture as a content area in Piton and Baylod. Stemming from this project, CIRCLE has developed a LITERACY sub-committee headed by Dr. Edwidge Crevecoeur.

Vietnam Cultural Exchange Project – Coordinated by Dr. Thomas Murray, this program links 4 schools in Tampa with schools in Da Nang, Vietnam for A Creative and Critical Thinking and Cultural Literacy Project.
INTERNATIONAL GUESTS:
CIRCLE has hosted many International Guests including:

Linda Smolenaers from the Hoge Akademie Nijmegen (HAN Univeristy) in the Netherlands
Dr. Marco Mezzadri from the University of Parma in Italy

Aruban Students – Students from the Instituto Pedagogica Arubano visited UCF as a part of their Study Abroad Program. The students were able to participate in International Week Activities and presented to several classes on Education and Culture in Aruba.

Taiwan – Dr. Haiyan Bai invited a group of scholars from National Chi Nan University in Taiwan to join the International Summer Institute at UCF in July 2012. The visitors are public school administrators, classroom teachers and faculty members from NCNU.

CIRCLE had an international visiting academic from the University of Johannesburg in November/December. Professor Juliet Perumal, Department of Education Leadership and Management Studies visited UCF for three weeks. She presented to classes, participated in International Education Week, and had meetings with Faculty in the College, in Departments of Philosophy and Anthropology, and the Burnett Honors College.

GOAL 3: Collaborations and Partnerships:
CIRCLE has established international collaborative projects with many countries around the world.

2010-2011

During this time CIRCLE established relationships with the following:
Botswana- Dr. Karen Biraimah established a link with the University of Botswana in Gabarone.
Iceland – Dr. Thomas Brewer established a link with the University of Iceland.
Serbia – Dr. Suzanne Martin established a link with the Ministry of Education in Serbia.
Panama and Costa Rica – Dr. Tom Owens established a links with Universities and local agencies.
Saudi Arabia – Dr. Wilfred Wienke joined a group from Colorado.
Netherlands – Dr. Gilliam Eriksson worked to re-establish exchange programs with the University of Nijmegen.
New Zealand – Dr. Eriksson established contact with the University of Auckland.

2011-2012

CIRCLE has continued its partnerships with Botswana, Iceland, Serbia, Panama and Costa Rica, and the Netherlands. CIRCLE has also established partnerships with the Dominican Republic and Aruba.
CIRCLE Publications:

CIRCULAR – Monthly Newsletter with Action Items posted online.
CIRCLE HIGHLIGHTS – An Annual Newsletter that includes photographs of its activities and events posted online. http://education.ucf.edu/international/hnews.cfm

MONTHLY MEETINGS
CIRCLE meets the last Wednesday of each month during the semester from 12-2p.m. in ED208.

Website: http://education.ucf.edu/international

College of Education Members:
Allen, Kay - Associate Professor  
Bai, Haiyan - Associate Professor  
Brewer, Thomas - Professor  
Cintron, Rosa - Associate Professor & Coordinator  
Crevecoeur-Bryant, Edwidge - Assistant Professor  
Diaz, Silvia - Instructor  
Gunter, Glenda - Associate Professor  
Haciomeroglu, Erhan Selcuk - Assistant Professor  
Hirumi, Atsusi (2c) - Associate Professor  
Holt, Larry - Associate Professor  
Kaplan, Jeffrey - Associate Professor  
Leinsing, Donna - Executive Director, UCF Teaching Academy/Toni Jennings Exceptional Education Institute  
Martin, Suzanne - Professor  
Murray, Thomas - Instructor  
Nutta, Joyce - Associate Professor  
Owens, Tom - Director  
Reyes, Maria - Associate Professor  
Roberts, Sherron - Professor  
Russell, William - Associate Professor & Social Science Education Ph.D. Coordinator  
Storey, Valerie - Associate Professor  
Szente, Judit - Associate Professor  
Thompson, Brenda - Faculty Administrator  
Vasquez, Eleazar - Associate Professor  
Waring, Scott - Associate Professor and Program Coordinator  
Zygouris-Coe, Vicky - Associate Professor  
Jessica Lampron – Peace Corp Recruiter