Welcome

Alumni Spotlight

Highlights of 2014 and A Look Ahead
I hope this issue of the Center for International Development Newsletter finds you enjoying the beginning of a happy, prosperous and healthy 2015! The past two and a half years have been very successful ones for the center and 2015 promises to be just as exciting.

As the number of projects and countries assisted has grown, the staff of CID has increased proportionally. It is my pleasure to welcome our three newest additions, Ms. Christine Burns, TESOL Project Manager, Ms. Hanna DelaGardelle, Project Coordinator, and Ms. Savanah Strever, Grant Writer.
Ball State University continues to assist in the strengthening of higher education in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan. The major projects in these countries are building the capacity of the English Language Center on the campus of the Higher Committee of the Education Development of Iraq (HCEDI) in Baghdad, consultancy services to the National Institute of Management and Administration (NIMA) in Kabul, and university partnerships with Quaid-i-Azam University in Islamabad and Isra University in Hyderabad, Pakistan. Our sponsors are the U.S. Department of State and the World Bank. With its sustainability budget, CID is able to continue to support partnerships with Tikrit University in Iraq and Kandahar and Shaikh Zayed Universities in Afghanistan, even though the initial seed money grants from the State Department have ended. More than 100 Ball State faculty have received compensation for their effort on these assistance efforts, and we continue to engage faculty from numerous academic departments on new projects.

Congratulations are in order for Nick Sabato’s promotion to CID’s Director of Operations.

2014 witnessed renewed opportunities for CID in the Middle East and Southeast Asia. We are in conversation with the Al Asmakh Charity Foundation in Doha, Qatar, to provide life skills training to youth in six Arabic-speaking countries. I have had the honor of mentoring two universities and a school in Myanmar – the University of Mandalay, the Yangon University of Dental Medicine and the Yangon School of Political Science (YSPS).

In October CID organized a very successful initial, exploratory meeting in Indianapolis of the Midwest Consortium for International Development (MCID), in which several universities in Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Ohio and Kentucky participated, including Purdue, the University of Kentucky and the University of Cincinnati. Subsequently, Indiana University and Miami University of Ohio expressed interest in joining the consortium. The next step is to draw up a Memorandum of Understanding for the member institutions to sign and to formalize the consortium.

The Center for International Development looks forward to another year in which it furthers Ball State University’s strategic plan of advancing Indiana by engaging with several of the world’s emerging and frontier markets and helping alleviate global poverty.

Kenneth Holland
Executive Director
The true pleasure of working in the international development arena is in meeting incredible individuals from across the globe and following their good deeds long after their interaction with Ball State University. The “Alumni Spotlight” serves as a way to highlight the exceptional work that our program participants are doing in their home communities. This month, we are highlighting Leone Michael, from Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, an alumnus of our Pan-Africa Youth Leadership Program in Spring, 2014.

Leone Michael comes from Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, and was one of the participants in the Pan-Africa Youth Leadership Program (PAYLP) for high school students sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and implemented by Meridian International Center, a Washington, DC based non-profit institution. Leone stayed at Ball State University from April 3 - April 17, 2014 and attended social entrepreneurship and community development classes. Upon returning to her home country, Leone Michael started an NGO called Beautiful Things.
Beautiful Things aims to educate underprivileged youth about environmental sustainability while partnering with the nearby Tachila Nature Reserve, a habitat preservation in Francistown, Botswana. Leone frequently visits Tachila Nature Reserve with various groups of youth to promote natural resource protection by planting trees, cleaning up litter, and putting up dustbins to name a few.

In a recent chat with Leone Michael, she explained to us the role that PAYLP had in regards to her project.

“At first I never thought in a million lifetimes that I would ever be the change, but when I was introduced to PAYLP, I saw the changes that I knew I could make. Especially because I got a big energy boost from a lot of amazing people in USA. From there I started up Beautiful Things with only an idea and guidelines to help me out. After establishing a really good team of young and youthful students, things began to fall into place.

At first, things didn’t go as I planned it in the head, but after a lot of support and looking back at the notes I made in the PAYLP session, I finally made it! Now, 8 months later, I can see the change I wanted to make in peoples lives starting to grow, and I know that it will keep on growing because of faith that was planted in me by everyone who was part of the PAYLP.”

We are proud of the work that Leone and her colleagues have done for their community. This is a great start for a wonderful cause. To stay updated on Beautiful Things, please follow them on Facebook.
2014 marked a year of milestone accomplishments for CID and we are very grateful for the participation and generosity of the Ball State faculty, staff, students as well as the Muncie community. Below are some of the major highlights from our year:

- In October, CID held its first CID Advisory Board meeting, bringing industry experts and high level officials to Muncie to strategize the future of CID.

- In October, CID also held its introductory Midwest International Development Consortium meeting at the Ball State Indianapolis Center, bringing together representatives from 11 regional universities to explore how we can jointly impact the area of higher education in international development.

- CID was given approval of its Strategic Plan, running from 2014-2019.

Upcoming Events

**Jan. 4-29**
Dr. Mary Theresa Seig travels to Iraq for continued assistance with Baghdad English Language Center project

**Jan. 11-31**
Dr. Kenneth Holland and Dr. Julie Barker Holland administer exams for National Institute of Management and Administration (NIMA) in Afghanistan

**Feb. 2-6**
Nick Sabato travels to Washington, DC, for meetings with World Learning

**Feb. 1-16**
Dr. Holland meets with potential partners in Turkey, Kazakhstan, and surrounding area

**Feb. 10**
Russian scholars visit Ball State University as part of the 2015 Russian International Education Administrators Program
• Fall 2014 served as the inaugural class of the CID Faculty Fellow Program, with Dr. Ruby Cain and Dr. Mary Lou Vercellotti were honored as initial Fellows.

• CID celebrated the input of faculty and community involvement with its first Faculty and Staff International Development Award.

• CID hosted a number of scholars from across the globe, including the following prestigious visitors:

  Two founding Board Members from Yangon School of Political Science, Burma.

  Deputy Head of Administration from Ilia State University, Georgia.

  Dean of School of Business and Economics from Tikrit University, Iraq.

  Rescue Scholar in Linguistics from University of Mosul, Iraq.

• CID and partners continued implementation of projects in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, Iraq, Tajikistan, totaling over $8 million in current grants.

Opportunities for Involvement in 2015

• Host families for 2 week period: Spring and Summer for Pan-Africa Youth Leadership Exchange Program groups. (2 Anglophone | 1 Francophone)

• Host families for any duration up to 1 year: World Learning high school students from former Soviet countries and Muslim-majority countries.

• CID has an open door policy with regard to grant project ideas and we are your resource for research and proposal development.

• Continuation of projects in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, Iraq, Tajikistan and others to come!