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New ILEP Guest Column

Upcoming Events:

Transcultural Dialogue: Bangladesh
03/06/13 @ 12pm in WH 200

Education Careers Outside the Class
03/07/13 @ 12pm in WH 200

Athletics Meets Entrepreneurship
03/13/13 @ 12pm in WH 200

Transcultural Dialogue: Brazil
03/14/13 @ 12pm in WH 200

Starting A Business in Hospitality
03/19/13 @ 12pm in WH 20

Call for Submissions:

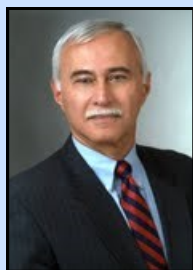
The Read Review welcomes news items, feature articles, and photographs of cultural or international importance.

Please submit materials to Robert Dowden in the Gerald H. Read Center for International & Intercultural Education, located in White Hall 215 -or- rdowden@kent.edu

A Focus on Intercultural Leadership

An Introduction to José Feliciano

Being appointed as Kent State's 2012-2013 President's Ambassador, a role which asks him to serve as Kent State's diversity advocate within the Cleveland Community, José C. Feliciano continues what was already a prestigious career. Feliciano made history in 1980 when he was named Cleveland's first Hispanic public Official in being named Chief Prosecuting Attorney. Upon his acceptance earlier in the academic school year, Feliciano had this to say: "I'm privileged and humbled to have had this invitation extended to me. I think that the notion of an ambassador for Kent State University to the broader community, especially to the minority community, is an important outreach effort by the university."



Citizen Lawyer: An Immigration Article by José Feliciano, Attorney and 2012/2013 Kent State President's Ambassador

Citizen lawyers are lawyers who devote their time, skill, and talents to promoting the common good within their communities. Examples of great "citizen lawyers" in United States history include Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Thurgood Marshall. Through the Midwest Coalition on Immigration Reform (Task Force), which is sponsored by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, I have had the rare privilege of working with such accomplished citizen lawyers.

The Task Force is a bipartisan group comprised of nine Co-Chairs, including Chet Culver, Former Governor of Iowa, and Richard M. Daley, Former Mayor of Chicago, as well as 45 other leaders in business, civics, religious, advocacy, and educational sectors from across the Midwest (the 12-state region that comprises the nation's traditional industrial core to the Great Plains region).

The Task Force seeks to deepen public understanding of immigration and its importance to the region's economic future by mobilizing Midwestern leadership around the issue. Through dialogue and outreach, its members are working to forge consensus around sensible immigration policy at the state and national levels. The Task Force's final report will be published on February 28, 2013.

Having been born in Puerto Rico, this is an area of special interest to me. I am technically a migrant, not an immigrant. I, however, have the thinking and perspective of an immigrant. I just love immigrants, especially their core values: liberty and opportunity.

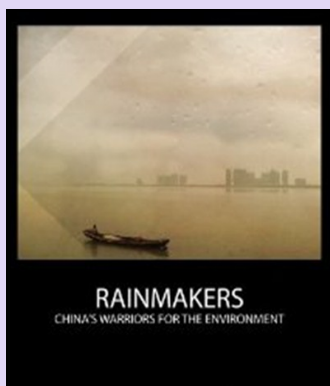
Every day immigrants help renew these two cherished values by helping to renew and recharge America, and ultimately contribute to her growing economy. I do not think the energy, fresh ideas, and innovations of working immigrants to honor and grow America can be overstated or overemphasized. Their positive impact is both wide-spread and profound, reaching the top of the economic ladder, the middle, and yes, the bottom of the ladder where they fill the gaps in the labor force. America was founded on immigrant ideals and hard work.

All of our lives are enriched by the different views of life and the customs of immigrants in this country. We are enhanced by their open-heartedness and renewed by their intrepid spirit. America in many respects is the personification of an immigrant. I encourage all citizens to find your own special interest.

A Celebration of International Women's Day: A Lunch with Chinese Women

On Tuesday, March 5th the Gerald H. Read Center for International and Intercultural Education will host a special luncheon in celebration of International Women's Day (recognized globally as March 8th). Building off of last year's luncheon that honored Arab women, this year's event will focus on Chinese women and the phenomenon of "left-over women."

The hope is that this luncheon will raise awareness through a discussion on the article by Pulitzer Center's Deborah Jian Lee, *China's Successful Ladies See Shrinking Pool of Mr. Right*. After a lunch of traditional Chinese food, which runs from 12:00pm-1:00pm in White Hall 200 (Reservations can be made with Rose Onders), Deborah Jian Lee and Sushma Subramanian will Skype in for a discussion of this phenomenon and the reasons behind it.



Later in the evening, the celebration continues in White Hall 200 with a showing of the documentary, *Rainmakers: China's Warriors for the Environment*. This is an investigative documentary about the decline of China's environment. The story is told from the perspective of four civil

activists who refuse to accept the ongoing ecological destruction of their homeland. The showing, which begins at 4:30pm and should finish by 5:30pm, is free and open to the public.



America: The Classroom (pt. 1)

By ILEP Scholar Jorge Wilson

We are 75 teachers from 13 countries from each corner of the world who came to America to improve our knowledge of English language, teaching methodology and strategies, and use of technology for educational purposes. Each one of us faced a hard selection process in order to be among the ones who would have such an opportunity. Some were one among 600; others had to compete with more than 2,000 colleagues in their respective countries. There are no words to describe seeing our names on the final list of accepted applicants. It really was amazing. But accepting this honor was not without sacrifice... we had to leave our families behind for almost 5 months.

A friend of mine had to leave her house 3 days in advance to be on time for her flight to USA. She lives in a secluded city within the Amazon Region, far from any airport. One scholar from Kenya could not take his family to the airport due to the distance from home. With his kids crying and his wife pretending to be strong, he shut the door behind him and took his first step in this journey that we share. A different friend from Indonesia had to leave behind his fiancé whom he will marry when he returns home at the end of this program. Others were more fortunate. They departed for the United States after bidding farewell to all of their family at the airport.

I was lucky. My family was there at the airport to see me off. I can picture in my mind my 3 year old son Anthoni, with his little hand up, shouting he could go too. While we were still at home, I explained that he could not follow me. But when I had already crossed the security checkpoint, Anthoni saw some kids with their parents getting into the line behind me and he figured out that he could also get through. "Kids can go too, daddy!" You can imagine how heavy my heart was to hear that; it really did break. Though it is still early in the semester and we are still strangers slowly becoming acquainted, these are the stories that bind us together. These are the sacrifices we share.

The justification for all of this comes at the meeting point of these narratives: The *International Leaders in Education Program*. From the moment we arrived in Washington, our role as *international leaders* has been continually reinforced. We teachers who are willing to become real leaders by the means of hard work in our respective fields. Through this program, we become aware of the leaders we have been and the leaders we want to become. We know we can make the difference in our communities.

America: The Classroom (pt. 2), will be in our March edition of the Read Review!