



## New Year, New Horizons!



For over 20 years, Kent State has hosted the National Teacher of the Year. This year, we are proud to welcome the 2012 recipient of this award, Rebecca L. Mieliwocki. Ms. Mieliwocki presented in the KIVA on Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>,

speaking about “Supercharging the Teaching Profession by Igniting the Power of One.”

Holding a Bachelor of Arts from California Polytechnic State University, Ms. Mieliwocki now teaches English at Luther Middle School in Burbank, CA. She has been teaching for 14 years, including 9 years in her current position. She had begun gaining recognition prior to being recognized as the National Teacher of the Year through various awards and service in key positions:

- 2005 California League of Middle Schools Educator of the Year for Southern California
- 2009 PTA Honorary Service Award Winner
- BTSA (Beginning Teacher Support & Assessment)
- Teacher expert for CSUN College of Education Panel, “The ABC’s of IEPs.”

Tuesday’s presentation was followed by a reception honoring education around the world. Several teachers from local city schools in Aurora, Streetsboro, Hudson, and Shaker Heights were in attendance to represent their time teaching around the world in countries such as Turkey, Morocco, Brazil, Indonesia, and Egypt.

This year’s group of ILEP (International Leaders in Education) were also in attendance to represent their countries: Bangladesh, Brazil, Indonesia, Kenya, Philippines, and Uganda. Ms. Mieliwocki herself had been part of a program that enabled her to visit China and Singapore. When the very the best of our nation are going global, isn’t it time to get involved? It might be the best time you never thought you’d have!

### *Difficulty Helping your International Student Succeed?*

The Read Center is here to help! Whether you are concerned with your students meeting the expectations of the course, or you have experienced communication/behavioral issues due to differences in culture, one of our staff members would be happy to work towards helping create a positive classroom experience. Simply stop by White Hall 215 during regular university office hours!

### *A Continuation of Helping in International Understanding: Peaches & Coconuts*

My Luxembourgish French professor once told the class, “When it comes to making friends, there are peaches and coconuts...” She went on to explain that people of different cultures develop friendships in different ways:

In a peach style friendship (commonly associated with Americans), the exterior is soft and sweet with a hard core. This type of person will be very open and friendly with others, even if he or she does not know the other person well or consider that person to be a close friend. Casual friendships are common and easy to form. A hard core, however, means that deeper relationships are very meaningful, but difficult to form.

This contrasts with a coconut style friendship pattern (referring to Europeans, in this example), which is characterized by a hard exterior that protects the soft, sweet interior. This type of person may seem very reserved, even uninterested in sharing themselves with people he/she does not know well. Their open, friendly nature is reserved for those who have broken through the hard exterior, usually through friendship developed over time.

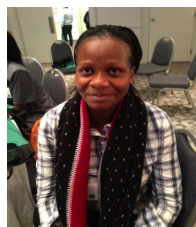
These differences in friendship patterns can cause problems for someone interacting with people of another friendship style in two ways: ‘Peaches’ may interpret a ‘coconut’s’ hard exterior as disinterested, standoffish, or even rude, leading them to avoid building relationships with this type of person. On the other hand, ‘coconuts’ may interpret a ‘peach’s’ friendly nature as a deeper friendship than was intended and feel hurt when that person does not meet their expectations for friendship. In both cases it is important to recognize that people may form friendships in different ways, and given time and the right attention, any shell/core can be cracked to form a deep, meaningful friendship.



# WELCOME 2013 INTERNATIONAL LEADERS IN EDUCATION!



Name: Mustain, Indonesia  
Home School: Man Model Gorontalo  
Discipline: English  
Teaching Experience: 15 years  
Faculty Advisor: William Bintz  
Host School: Kent High School  
Fun Fact: Loves reading Agatha Christy novels



Name: Robinah Zawedde, Uganda  
Home School: Mengo Senior School  
Discipline: English  
Teaching Experience: 6 years  
Faculty Advisor: Sue Averil  
Host School: Aurora High School



Name: Daniel Kitivo, Kenya  
Home School: Loreto High School  
Discipline: Physics/Chemistry  
Teaching Experience: 10 years  
Host School: Streetsboro High School  
Fun Fact: Wanted to be a deep sea diver



Name: Ratna Saha, Bangladesh  
Home School: Barisal Govt. Girls' High School  
Discipline: English  
Faculty Advisor: William Bintz  
Host School: Stow Middle School  
Fun Fact: Many people are surprised when they find out she has been teaching for 15 years



Name: Daniel Mwatari, Kenya  
Home School: Vo1 Secondary  
Discipline: Biology/Math  
Teaching Experience: 11 years  
Faculty Advisor: Michael Mikusa  
Host School: Stow High School  
Fun Fact: Can't eat ice cream until it melts



Name: Jorge Wilson da Conceicao, Brazil  
Home School: Maria Leoni High School  
Discipline: English/Portuguese  
Faculty Advisor: Chia-Ling Kuo  
Host School: Stow High School  
Fun Fact: Friends tease him for sharing a name with a famous politician in his city.



Name: Jamleck Njagi, Kenya  
Home School: Kagumo High School  
Discipline: Physics & Math  
Teaching Experience: 11 years  
Faculty Advisor: Michael Mikusa  
Host School: Stow High School  
Fun Fact: Always forgets his own birthday



Name: Luiza Hirai Miyatake, Brazil  
Home School: Colegio Estadual Nilo Cairo -  
Discipline: English  
Teaching Experience: 8 years  
Faculty Advisor: Averil McClelland  
Host School: Streetsboro High School  
Fun Fact: People keep asking if she's from China



Name: Geminiana Cudiamat, Philippines  
Home School: Balayan National High School  
Discipline: Earth & Environmental Science  
Faculty Advisor: Bridget Mulvey  
Host School: Kent High School  
Fun Fact: Once dreamt of being America's Next Top Model



Name: Ricardo Farias Sales, Brazil  
Home School: Escola Estadual Tiradentes  
Discipline: English  
Teaching Experience: 7 years  
Faculty Advisor: Davison Mupinga  
Host School: Aurora High School  
Fun Fact: Enjoys making people laugh



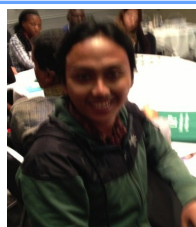
Name: Mila Rosa Librea, Philippines  
Home School: Ateneo De Manila High School  
Discipline: Biology  
Teaching Experience: 15 years  
Host School: Aurora High School  
Fun Fact: Enjoys eating raw, bitter melon



Name: Muhammad Hasyim, Indonesia  
Home School: SMAN 1 Mandastana  
Discipline: English  
Teaching Experience: 12 years  
Faculty Advisor: Kenneth Cushner  
Host School: Aurora High School  
Fun Fact: Not as serious as people perceive him



Name: Patrick Asiku, Uganda  
Home School: Arua Public Secondary School  
Discipline: English/Literature  
Teaching Experience: 8 years  
Host School: Stow High School  
Fun Fact: Enjoys joking a lot and making people laugh



Name: Franseda, Indonesia  
Home School: SMA Negeri 1 Gresik  
Discipline: English  
Teaching Experience: 8 years  
Faculty Advisor: Chia-Ling Kuo  
Host School: Hudson Middle School  
Fun Fact: Wanted to be a soccer player



Name: Atifur Rahman, Bangladesh  
Home School: St. Gregory's High School  
Discipline: English  
Teaching Experience: 7 years  
Faculty Advisor: Davison Mupinga  
Host School: Stow Middle School  
Fun Fact: Wanted to be play professional cricket