

**March 1, 2010**

## International Women's Day

March 8 is *International Women's Day*, a holiday commemorated in many countries around the globe. This day celebrates all women regardless of their race, nationality, ethnic origin, language and culture; it recognizes their struggle for peace, justice, and equality and their successes in social, political and economic spheres of life.

Various labor movements in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in Europe and the North American continent served as a catalyst in the creation of the holiday. The United Nations started celebrating March 8 as the International Women's Day in 1975.

Source: [www.un.org](http://www.un.org)

## Celebrate International Women's Day in Your Classroom!

- Have your students present on a women's issue of their choice
- Offer an extra credit to students for attending an on-campus event during March 8 week
- Show a documentary, video clip or an international film featuring girls and women
- Have a visiting scholar address your class about the challenges women in their country are facing

## Gerald H. Read Distinguished Lecture Series

**March 10 at 12:00 p.m. Room 200, White Hall**

**Dina Sijamhodzic-Nadarevic**

(Bosnia and Herzegovina)  
Reform of Higher Education  
in Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Nina Lazarevic**

(Serbia)  
Teaching and Learning  
Intercultural Communication  
at the University Level

**Vuk Kljajic**

(Montenegro)  
Attractiveness of Montenegro's  
Tourism Product Development  
and Perspectives

**March 16 at 1:30 p.m.  
Room 200, White Hall**

**Bonifacio Gabales Jr.**

(The Philippines)  
A Meta Analysis on the Effects of Kindergarten  
Readiness on Later Performances

**Kasim Yildirim**

(Turkey)  
Effects of Cooperative Learning: Fifth-grade Turkish  
Students' Learning Fluency

**Hongli Zhang**

(China)  
English as a Second Language: A Chinese Perspective

**Sabina Uzakova**

(Kyrgyzstan)  
Human Trafficking:  
Slavery of the 21st Century  
**April 21 at 10:00 a.m.  
Room 200, White Hall**

**The Gerald H. Read Center  
wishes all women of the  
university community  
a happy International  
Women's Day!**



## Notes from Faculty

*March 1, 2010*

### **Faculty Share Perspectives on Mentoring Visiting Scholars**

Timothy Rasinski, Curriculum and Instruction, is an academic adviser to Kasim Yildirim. Yildirim is a visiting scholar from Turkey currently working on his doctoral dissertation in reading literacy. Yildirim contacted Dr. Rasinski after reading some of his published research. "We share an interest in reading fluency development," said Dr. Rasinski. Yildirim is Dr. Rasinski's first visiting advisee and this experience gave the faculty an opportunity to learn about another culture and appreciate it.

This unique collaboration has enabled the professor and the visiting scholar to work on studies on fluency in Turkish literacy in order to assist Turkish teachers in working with students who are experiencing difficulty in learning to read. Dr. Rasinski stated that being an academic adviser has been a pleasant experience and that he highly recommends it to other faculty.

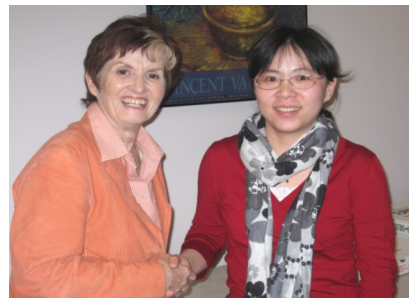


*Timothy Rasinski*

Vilma Seeberg, Cultural Foundations of Education, has prior experience in hosting international scholars. This academic year, she is an adviser to Hongli Zhang from China. While at Kent State, Zhang is studying and doing research in cross-cultural education. She is also a Ph. D. student at Shanghai Foreign Studies University. Zhang was recommended to Dr. Seeberg by Dr. Ray Heisey, emeritus professor and member of a professional association of which Zhang is an international member. Dr. Seeberg decided to become an adviser to Zhang because it was "a natural connection" that was related to her professional studies. Her scholarship is in the field of international-intercultural-multicultural education and contemporary China studies, and that is why she was interested in working with Chinese visiting scholars. Dr. Seeberg says that working with international scholars like Hongli Zhang "deepens her understanding of the contemporary Chinese education and her scholarship."

"I would like to know how to better prepare a visiting scholar to use her/his brief time at Kent State and with her effectively," said Dr. Seeberg when asked what she was interested in learning more about during her time as an adviser. Dr. Seeberg's encourages faculty to consider hosting visiting scholars. "It is important to host visiting scholars regardless of how well matched they are to your field of research in order to internationalize classes and students. However, if the research areas are well matched, the research experience can be very enriching for the hosting scholar as well," she added.

Lastly, Dr. Seeberg mentioned that the Gerald H. Read Center helps faculty by assisting their respective visiting scholars with housing, office space, emotional support and other concerns. "The Center takes care of the basic needs of visiting scholars even before they arrive, which alleviates anxieties."



*Vilma Seeberg with her advisee Hongli Zhang*

## Notes from Faculty

*March 1, 2010*

### **Faculty Share Perspectives on Mentoring Visiting Scholars (cont.)**

This semester, the Gerald H. Read Center is hosting three *Junior Faculty Development Program* (JFDP) scholars from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro. The scholars are studying higher education, intercultural communication, tourism, sports, and hospitality. Several of our faculty were instrumental in choosing potential JFDP scholars. They expressed interest in becoming academic advisers and in supporting the scholars' professional growth while at Kent State.

*Mark Kretoivics*, Higher Education Administration, was interested in hosting JFDP scholar *Dina Sijamhodzic-Nadarevic* from Bosnia and Herzegovina because "it was a great opportunity to learn more about the educational system of another country while also sharing the ins and outs of higher education in the US." *Martha Merrill*, Sijamhodzic-Nadarevic's co-adviser, added that her advisee and she have similar professional interests. Dr. Merrill was interested in working with a JFDP scholar also because she has been involved with the administration of this U.S. government sponsored program for more than a dozen years when she was living abroad.

*Andrew Lepp*, Recreation, Park & Tourism Management, shared that a joint collaboration with an international scholar like *Vuk Klajic* from Montenegro, whom he is hosting this semester, helps "broaden horizons, develop a professional relationship with a colleague from another country." Dr. Lepp added that "it's always enlightening to interact on a regular basis with people from different countries and cultural backgrounds.

There is always something unexpected yet brilliant that will come of it – maybe a research idea, maybe a study abroad, anything."

*Andrew Lepp, Martha Merrill and Graduate Assistant Sabina Uzakova share ideas on supporting visiting scholars at Kent State University*



*Mark Kretoivics and Kenneth Cushner discuss future plans for their advisees*

For *Kenneth Cushner*, Teaching, Learning and Curriculum, collaborating with visiting scholars is not something new. He has hosted Fulbright program scholars prior to hosting a JFDP scholar *Nina Lazarevic* from Serbia. The scholars he has advised in the past still keep in contact and continue to work with Dr. Cushner. "They are always engaging, fruitful, and often lead to continuing relationships," said Dr. Cushner.

All four faculty encouraged other faculty to get involved with visiting scholars.



# International Leaders in Education Program Faculty Mentors

*March 1, 2010*



The faculty mentors of the International Leaders in Education Program (ILEP) have been a valuable resource to the 16 secondary school teachers from 11 different countries visiting Kent State University. The eight faculty mentors include: Associate Dean Nancy Barbour, Professors Lisa Donnelly, Marty Jencius, Wendy Kasten, Patricia Koontz, Ken Cushner, Alexa Sandmann, and Mary Tipton.

*Professor Alexa Sandmann with her ILEP mentees Mrinali Chowdhary and Katia Melchiades.*

I feel privileged to be a faculty mentor because I learn so much about the ILEP scholars: their cultural contexts, their perspectives on education, and their personal interests. It is one of spring semester's gifts.

*Nancy Barbour*

Mamatha and Sammy have added quite a bit to our mathematics methods class discussions. It is interesting to hear how their countries deal with issues in the teaching and learning of mathematics.

*Patricia Koontz*

Being a faculty mentor in the ILEP program helps me in my own transcultural development. The interaction with the international scholars reminds me to step out of my particular American-centric worldview. I learn so much about myself in the process.

*Marty Jencius*

I have been working with international students in some fashion since I arrived here 15 years ago. I have learned so much about the world through them. In fact, I feel like I am always getting a social studies lesson. The friendships I have made are personally meaningful to me. Many former students keep in touch, especially around the holidays. This program is exciting for me and for our entire college.

*Wendy Kasten*

I've always believed that education is of world-wide concern and having the chance to get to know international educators changes that belief into a reality. The passionate discussions about content and pedagogy with the ILEP scholars are invigorating and endearing as I have the chance to converse with kindred spirits. My world—professionally and personally—is changed immeasurably by this opportunity.

*Alexa Sandmann*

I have been involved with the ILEP program since it began four years ago. Each year I look forward to getting to know these wonderful, knowledgeable, enthusiastic professionals. It is a wonderful program to share our way of life and to learn about theirs. My life and others have been richly blessed by their presence and their willingness to share

*Mary Tipton*

Five instructors have been facilitating weekly seminars on educational best practices: Joanne Dowdy, Janice Hutchinson, Wendy Kasten, Kelly Stevens, and Mary Tipton. Seminar topics have ranged from classroom discussion facilitation to instructional technology.

*Janice Hutchinson and Kelly Stevens host a seminar on adult learning theories.*



*The Read Review is an in-house publication distributed ten times a year. The March 2010 issue was developed by Sabina Uzakova and Lauren Rowley  
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