

In This Issue:

A COST Reflection

An Evening with John Jarvey

ILEP Guest Column

Words if Wisdom:

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together” ~African Proverb

“When what you want does not happen, learn to want what does”

~Arabic Proverb

“The gem cannot be polished without friction, nor the man perfected without trial”

~Chinese Proverb

“It is better to have 100 people than 100 dollars” ~Turkmen Proverb

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

Kent State: Out in the World



Zachary Zlocki on his Experience with COST (Consortium for Overseas Student Teaching) in Queretaro, Mexico

This has been single-handedly the most frustrating, work-intensive, cultural, and overall best learning experience of my life! I cannot put into words the experiences and vast opportunities a program such as COST opens up for you. COST gives you something you will never get staying at home; a real opportunity to learn another culture as well as practice your teaching in a completely new learning environment.

I would have never have met teachers and students from places such as Australia, France, Germany, China, Britain, Brazil, without taking the leap. I would have never made teacher friends who have worked internationally in places such as Japan, Spain, Canada, and Saudi Arabia, and many more who will continue receiving opportunities to go places such as Taiwan and South Africa. A placement through COST means opportunity. Not simply an opportunity for you, but also for your own future students. Whether I choose to pursue work in places such as Taiwan (Job openings have already been forwarded my way) or not, I will inevitably return home with better worldly knowledge for my classroom. I want to ensure my own students are not simply knowledgeable of their own country, but of much of the world as well. Find your inner explorer and get out there!

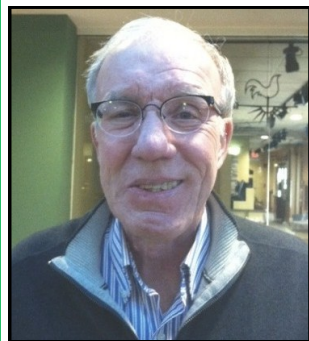
For those of you who do not need me to convince you that this is one of the best opportunities for you as a student and teacher, I recommend you to do three simple things before you leave and while you are away. First, do as much research as possible about your area, and take care of every little thing back home (banking, taxes, doctors' appointments, insurance, etc.). Do this so you do not spend most of your time away freaking out about possible problems at home. When you are a thousand miles away, frantically Skyping your sibling to then get your parents to get the bank to unfreeze your account, it can be a nightmare (Too specific to have just come up with? Yes it is.). Secondly, try to speak the host-country's language as much as possible. Not only is this seen as an attempt by you to get into the culture and an offer of good faith, but it is also a great way to learn a language. No better way than from the people who speak it! Thirdly, and lastly, learn to take every chance or opening to get involved while away. It can be very lonely sitting at your home at the computer doing homework or messaging friends and family constantly. Nobody learns culture in isolation. Remember this: you are always too busy to do something, but if you never make the time, you will always be too busy to do anything.

I sincerely hope those reading this will choose to student teach through COST. It is not easy, and I will not attempt to portray it as otherwise. But teaching is not easy. The life of those who develop curriculum, and research, and teach, and coach, and counsel, and care for the well-being of each and every child we meet is not easy. But it is one of the most rewarding jobs anyone could have. Experiences through COST are changing my life for the better, and will no doubt do the same for you.



An Evening with John Jarvey

Best Multi-Cultural and Diversity Young Adult Titles for the 21st Century's First Decade



Scholars in the field of Literature, especially young adult literature, should mark April 10th on their calendars! John Jarvey will be presenting in the Read Room (White Hall 200) at 7:00pm. This event is free and open to the public. Jarvey's presentation will

focus on 25 recently published books which exemplify the best in adolescent fiction. These titles were carefully selected because they are exceptional, showcasing a wide variety of cultures and diverse groups.

Jarvey worked for 35 years in Cleveland Public Schools as a middle school English/reading teacher. He served as a peer adviser, ELA supervisor, and as the Director of the Cleveland Teachers Academy. Jarvey also taught reading at Cleveland State University. He received a Masters in Education degree from John Carroll University.

Jarvey attended the Andover Breadloaf Writing Workshop and the National Writing Workshop at K.S.U. He has presented at the Virginia Hamilton Conference, National Urban Writer's Workshop, O.C.T.E.L.A., as well as other local and state venues. John has a passion for young adult literature which he enthusiastically shares with others.



In the Local Classrooms Visiting ILEP Scholar Jorge Wilson reflects on his experiences with Kent State and Stow High School

Every nation faces unique challenges and learning how to deal with those challenges is the responsibility of all people. There is no single formula

for these solutions. The countries that participate in the International Leaders in Education Program (ILEP) bring teachers together from diverse educational contexts. The hope is that those teachers will return home to contribute towards the improvement of their education system, their schools, and at the most basic level, their classrooms. That one reason justifies all of the time and energy spent on bringing us together.

When I was in school, I was taught to memorize dates, events, sizes, names, and so on. The quicker I could retain an increasing amount of information, the greater my chances were of being the best student. Good grades equal happy teachers and happy parents (Wait! Happy parents? Those exist?). It is always good to know about specific knowledge, especially information concerning one's own country. We, scholars from distant lands, feel good when a student from the local high schools knows something about our countries. Sometimes we are surprised by the questions that American high school students ask, such as "Do you have cell phones in Brazil?" This misperception does not bother us; student ask about what is important for them



It does not matter whether the students think Brazilians speak Spanish, because almost all our neighboring countries seem to think the same way! It is so easy to

correct such a simple misunderstanding. What really matters is that I see good students in the public schools. I see young people who are curious about the new and unknown. Sometimes we are surprised by the questions that American high school students ask, but in a good way. In a recent presentation on Brazil that I made to a class, one student asked, "What do you think is the biggest difference concerning culture compared to USA?" I thought that was a very intelligent question for a high school student. There are students who pay close attention to our presentations and are open to new cultures, languages, and ways of thinking. There have been many other excellent questions in recent weeks. Though I did not realize this purpose before I came here, I am beginning to understand the significance of our presence in the local schools.

Look for **America: The Classroom (pt. 3)** in our April release!