

## The True North

In what has been a lengthy but rewarding endeavor, the Gerald H. Read Center for International and Intercultural Education, together with the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, is making progress towards establishing strong, long-lasting ties with education systems in Canada. Educators on both sides of the border feel there is a lot that can be learned from one another. The hope is that, with further collaboration, Kent State students will have more opportunities to study and gain experience in Canada. The center also aims to promote Kent State as an ideal destination for Canadian students hoping to study abroad in the United States.

Initial meetings were held earlier this year when a delegation of Ohio educators that included Dr. Dean Mahony, Dr. Linda Robertson, Dr. Alexa Sandman, Dr. Joanne Arhar, Dr. Bill Hiller from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, and others were invited to Ontario. On their first day, the delegation visited Ontario's Ministry of Education to discuss curriculum and assessment, as well as large-scale strategies to improve student achievement (Internationally, Canada ranks third in reading, and fifth in math and science). The group also spent time at York University, Middlefield Collegiate Institute, and Parkland Public Schools.

That visit was recently followed up with a two-day trip to Windsor. Warren Kennedy, Director of Ontario's Regional Board, led an exploration of success in literacy, numeracy, and graduation rates through visits to four different schools. To complement these endeavors, the Read Center's latest cultural dialogue featured Health Care in Canada as seen through the lens of Socialism.

This first year of hard work all culminates in one day-long event: The Ontario Ohio Symposium, scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Kent State will proudly showcase a plethora of faculty in breakout sessions that include William Bintz, Tim Rasinski, James Henderson, Cathy Hackney, Joanne Arhar, Deb Clark, Jennifer Fisette, Janice Kroeger, Alexa Sandman, Pat O'Conner, Davison Mupinga, and Averil McClelland. With well over 70 participants scheduled to attend from both sides of the border, there is great potential for far-reaching rewards. In the realm of education, there still exist vast, unexplored frontiers. This collaboration by Ontario and Ohio may well symbolize a critical step in pioneering what lie ahead.

*Submitted by Robert Dowden*



*Photo by Don Komarechka*



### World Class Education: Educating Creative & Entrepreneurial Students

***Distinguished Lecture Series  
Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm  
Kent Student Center, KIVA***

The world needs creative and entrepreneurial talents who are globally competent to take advantage of the opportunities brought about by technology and globalization and tackle the tough challenges facing human beings. In this presentation, Dr. Yong Zhao proposes a new paradigm of education aimed to cultivate diverse, creative, and entrepreneurial talents.

#### **Biography:**

- ◆ Author of *World Class Learners: Educating Creative and Entrepreneurial Students* (Corwin, 2012)
- ◆ Author of *Catching Up or Leading the Way: American Education in the Age of Globalization* (ASCD, 2009)
- ◆ Early Career Award from the American Educational Research Association
- ◆ Currently serves as President Chair and Associate Dean for Global Education in the College of Education at the University of Oregon



# Coming to Kent State!

This is your chance. Talk with family, friends, colleagues, students, maybe even random strangers! The Gerald H. Read Center for International & Intercultural Education will once again be hosting Ten Thousand Villages this year, from November 13<sup>th</sup> until the 16<sup>th</sup> (International Week). Founded in a strong belief in Free Trade, each and every item purchased directly benefits the poverty-stricken communities whose members crafted these elaborate pieces of art.

All remaining profits go towards scholarships for students wishing to pursue a study abroad experience. That goodwill almost overshadows the fact that these are great gifts for the holiday season, only the person receiving the gift won't be the only one smiling!



The Batsiranai Craft Project is based in a highly-populated township outside of Harare, known as Dzivarasekwa. "Batsiranai" translates as "helping each other." The project supports mothers with severely disabled children living under challenging circumstances. In addition to living with extreme poverty, these families often suffer from stigma related to local beliefs regarding the origins of disabilities. Added to the stigma, many are living with HIV/AIDS (25% of Zimbabwe's population lives with HIV/AIDS). The Batsiranai income generation project allows women to work near their homes and thus support the needs of their families, and to be available to care for their disabled child.

Batsiranai is a member of Zimbabwe Parents of Disabled Children Association (ZPDCA), an advocacy organization registered with the Government of Zimbabwe's Ministry of Social Welfare. Within ZPDCA, there are 600 families with severely disabled children living in various townships around Harare. The original Dzivarasekwa group consisted of 24 mothers. The sale of handicrafts has enabled members to reach out to include additional mothers from other townships near Harare. Now 140 mothers with disabled children work with Batsiranai, scattered in townships around Harare. The dream of the project is to grow so that all 600 families may participate in the group's success and "help each other." Purchases from Ten Thousand Villages are an important part of this growth.

Ten Thousand Villages began purchasing from Batsiranai in 2008. Ten Thousand Villages sells "Twin Dolls" from Batsiranai.

*Found on [www.tenthousandvillages.com](http://www.tenthousandvillages.com)*

"One of the missions of Uganda Crafts is to provide hope to disabled people, youth, and those suffering from HIV/AIDS. In addition to training, employees receive health benefits, emergency loans, and transportation. Uganda Crafts employs approximately 300 artisans in five workshops or cooperatives, 85% of them women."



Namayiana is an informal cooperative of Maasai women artisans who create traditional Maasai beaded items. Namayiana means "We are blessed" in Maasai. When asked how long the Maasai have been doing beadwork they answer, "Since the first Maasai was born." These Maasai artisans live about

an hour from Nairobi in the Ngong Hills. Namayiana has provided many benefits to the more than 100 families involved. Income from craft sales has helped to provide food, clothing and school fees for the artisans' families. The women work independently for Namayiana, both at home and at the workshop.

