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*Newsletter of the Centre for
the study of Education in an
International Context
Department of Education*

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NEW STUDY CENTRE FOR CHINA



Students at the first Shanghai Study Centre unit

In November 2005 we were delighted to offer the first unit of the Advanced Courses programme to a group of teachers and administrators in Shanghai. The establishment of this Study Centre arises out of our collaboration with the Yew Chung Education Foundation, which has international schools in China in Beijing, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Chongqing, and in establishing this link we particularly appreciate the support received from Dr Betty Chan (Director of the Yew Chung Education Foundation), Dr Gary Morrison (Assistant Director with responsibility for Yew Chung

International Education Services), Anthony Dang (deputy to Dr Morrison), and from colleagues based in Shanghai including Yolanda Pu, Alice Zhang and Joyce Chan. The unit, Research Methods in Education, was taught by Jeff Thompson and Mary Hayden, who en route had participated in Beijing on 3 November in the Yew Chung international education symposium entitled 'Educating the Global Child'. Unit participants were from a number of different schools in and around Shanghai, and plans are now well advanced for the second unit to be offered in April or May 2006.



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

A personal view by Professor Jeff Thompson

Looking back - and going forward!

No doubt there are many people – including not a few readers of this newsletter – for whom one or more key experiences in their lives have, on reflection, set them on a road to a chain of events which turned out to be of central importance in a way that could never have been anticipated at the time. In reflecting now, on my formal retirement from the University of Bath and my role with the IBO (though I will still be around! – see below), there are a number of such key professional moments without which my career would certainly have taken a quite different path.

Aside from the decisions to become a school-teacher and then a teacher-trainer – both important against the opportunity to continue in Cambridge with scientific research – the first such key moment perhaps, given the direction in which my career path subsequently led, was when, while at University College London in 1968, Alec Peterson – then Director of the Department of Educational Studies at Oxford University – asked me to ‘knock together a few Chemistry questions’ for a new



Jeff Thompson retired from his post at the University of Bath at the end of September 2005. He has been elected as an Emeritus Professor of the University and will continue teaching, writing and researching with CEIC

countries? As an IB examiner, Chief Examiner, Chair of the Examining Board and – more recently – Academic Director and Head of the IB Research Unit, I have experienced at first hand many developments, many challenges and many ‘full and frank’ discussions with colleagues, as well as having my interest in the field of international schools and international education well and truly ignited.

Difficult as it is to narrow down the choice of significant professional moments in a long and action-packed career, the next point I would identify as having been crucial to me professionally was my move

to Bath in 1979. As the new young professor I joined one other professor (Ken Austwick) and a team of colleagues in a university little more than ten years old. Becoming Head of Department soon after, for the first in what was eventually to be three stints of three years each in that role, as well as Arts Area Chair and Pro Vice Chancellor, was challenging and stimulating. Having spent the period 1979–2005 as professor in the same university may seem to suggest potential for stagnation and tedium, but in reality nothing could be further from the truth. New developments within both the department and the growing university more broadly, together with the IBO involvement that ran throughout this period and the major national initiatives to which I was fortunate enough to contribute, meant that there were not too many dull or repetitive moments – if any at all!

‘It is difficult to narrow down the choice of significant professional moments’

programme being developed called the International Baccalaureate. Who would have thought then that, some 37 years on, the IBO would have grown to the point where it offers three programmes covering the entire school age range in over 1600 schools and more than 100

A personal view by Professor Jeff Thompson

The third significant moment I would identify is the establishment at Bath of CEIC. Growing out of an idea that had been bubbling under for some time, and linked closely to the international school and IBO involvement noted above, CEIC's establishment in 1992 brought together Jim Harvey and myself, with Mary Hayden, David Black and Sue Oakley, in the first stages of developing the teaching of the modular Masters programme into a more flexible and accessible model for those based internationally. Jim's first foray to teach a group of teachers in Dar es Salaam, and our first teaching of MA modules on campus in July, were the prototypes for the Study Centre and Summer School programmes that have become a central part of the Advanced Courses programme since that time. And how interesting and exciting those developments have been, in terms of the numbers of teachers and other education professionals who have studied with Bath through one or more of these routes, in addition to the full-time and part-time Masters and Doctoral programmes already pursued by those based more locally. More recent developments have included the generation and implementation of an international education unit for the new EdD programme, and a range of publications relating to international education which have appeared in the form of books and journal articles. And that's not to mention the 2002 launch of the *Journal of Research in International Education*, which I continue to edit and which has attracted some excellent pieces of writing to date (though more are always welcome – readers please note!).

Which brings me to my final point (and in doing so I am conscious of the many other points I could have chosen to mention) which is the establishment of the IB Research Unit at Bath in 2000. As the IBO has grown, so has the need for evidence to inform decisions made with respect to the three programmes – and indeed to support the claims that are made for those programmes. The closeness of those working in the IBRU with colleagues in CEIC has given me particular satisfaction and has, I believe, enhanced the quality of work associated with each of them, and I owe a massive debt of gratitude particularly to Mary Hayden who has been – and continues to be – a crucial part of that development.

In reflecting on these four key points in a long and rewarding career, I am conscious of what has *not*

been mentioned. In choosing to focus for the purposes of this article on international education-related issues, I have not mentioned the involvement I had over many years in science education nationally – including the Association for Science Education, the British Association for the Advancement of Science, and chairing the first (science) national curriculum working group – with the English National Board for Nursing, Midwifery & Health Visiting, and with a number of aspects of the national curriculum and examination system.

‘how interesting and exciting those developments have been’

So what comes next? The Welsh Baccalaureate pilot internal evaluation project in which I am involved will run until 2007, and I will continue as Chair of the national Examinations Appeals Board until 2008. The University of Bath has conferred upon me the title of Emeritus Professor, which means that I will continue to be involved in teaching and supervising Masters and Doctoral students, as well as other academic activities. I also plan to keep researching and writing, and to continue to play an active role in CEIC activities in particular, as well as supporting the ongoing work of the IBO – cheering from the sidelines, at least! I look forward to continuing to interact with the many teachers and administrators I have been privileged to meet and fortunate enough to work with to date, and to meeting many more colleagues who are involved with the crucially important task of promoting international education worldwide. Serious gardening and golf will have to wait for a while yet!

‘Serious gardening and golf will have to wait’

CEIC AROUND THE WORLD

Recent months have seen a wide range of activity in our Study Centre work, with plans for more unit teaching over the coming months. This activity has centred on two themes: consolidation of existing Study Centres and the inauguration of new Study Centres.

Work in our existing Study Centres since the last edition of *Intercom* has involved:

- **Paul Toolan** travelling to Düsseldorf to teach 'Managing Human Resources in Education' at the International School of Düsseldorf in June;
- **Paul Denley** teaching 'Understanding Learners & Learning' at Tanglin Trust School, Singapore in August; and
- **Felicity Wikeley** working with students on 'Research Methods in Education' in October, located at the International School of Brussels.

Further teaching visits to current Study Centres are planned as follows:

- **Mike Fertig** is teaching 'Managing Educational Organisations' at Tanglin Trust School (November 26-29) and at the New International School of Thailand in Bangkok (December 2-5);
- **Yolande Muschamp** will be teaching 'Understanding Learners & Learning' at the International School of Brussels (April 8-11); and
- we have plans to teach 'Managing Educational Innovation' at Tanglin Trust School in mid-April 2006. Dates have yet to be confirmed but full details will appear on our website as soon as they are finalised.

So much for existing Study Centres! What about those new locations?

First, it is immensely pleasing to record the inaugural visit to our new Study Centre in Shanghai, located at the Shanghai Yew Wah International Education and Training Center in conjunction with the Yew Chung Education Foundation. Mary Hayden and Jeff Thompson visited the Center in November to teach 'Research Methods in Education' to a lively and interested group of teachers from the region. There are plans to follow up this initial visit with further unit teaching in the next six months. Please watch our website or contact us direct for further details.

Also in November, Trevor Grimshaw was in Vienna to teach 'Teaching in a Bilingual Context' at our new Study Centre located at the Paedagogische Institut. We are planning to follow this first visit with the 'Assessment' unit at the end of March 2006 - again, details will be posted on our website as soon as they are confirmed.

Finally, we are in active discussions with colleagues about the possibility of establishing a Study Centre in Dubai over coming months. We will be posting details on our website as soon as plans are firmed up.

'Thank you to our local Study Centre Coordinators'

So, this is a very busy time in terms of Study Centres. I would like to take this opportunity of saying a public 'Thank You' to our local Study Centre Coordinators, without whom none of this activity would really be possible. The detailed practical arrangements which they make involve anything from ensuring that teaching rooms are available to looking after the tutor when, for example, they lose their voice! The Coordinators are vital to the smooth running of the Study Centre visits, so thanks to you all!

Mike Fertig, Director of Studies for Advanced Courses

CEIC AROUND THE WORLD

Singapore Study Centre



ULL students at Tanglin Trust Study Centre, Singapore

The second MA unit to be taught at the Singapore Study Centre took place over a weekend at the end of August 2005. The centre, based at the Tanglin Trust School, has been set up with support from staff in the school, particularly Ron Stones the CEO. The unit was 'Understanding Learners and Learning' and it was taught by Paul Denley to a group of thirteen students - six from Tanglin Trust School itself, five from Garden International School in Kuala Lumpur, one from the United World College in Singapore and one who flew in all the way from Kathmandu! This was a busy time for teachers from Tanglin preparing for the start of the school year, but everything went very smoothly, largely due to the very efficient organisation from Linda Ang, the Study Centre Co-ordinator.

While Paul was at the school he gave a short talk on 'brain-based learning' to a group of about 25 staff from across the school which promoted a lot of interest and some debate about the subject. New discoveries are coming up all the time and it is important to look at the implications for teaching and learning, but teachers need to beware as there are also a lot of 'neuromyths' around! The next unit to be taught in Singapore takes place at the end of November when Mike Fertig is teaching 'Managing Educational Organisations'. This will make use of the newly refurbished Professional Development Centre which is an enviable resource in the school.

ALLIANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Educating for Global Citizenship

27 – 29 October 2006

Shanghai, China

CALL FOR PAPERS

The third conference of the Alliance for International Education (AIE), following successful conferences held in Geneva and Düsseldorf in 2002 and 2004, will be hosted by the Yew Chung Education Foundation.

Proposals for presentations are now invited, and should indicate for which of the following strands the presentation is intended:

- Defining global citizenship
- Developing the global citizen in diverse contexts
- Helping teachers and administrators to promote global citizenship
- Designing curriculum for global citizenship and international understanding
- Partnerships that make a difference in promoting global citizenship
- Challenges for institutions that promote global citizenship

Proposals should be sent to arrive by no later than **31 March 2006** to Beatrice Miller at CEIC: b.c.miller@bath.ac.uk

Further details of the AIE, and conference, may be found on the AIE website: www.intedalliance.org

Comings and Goings

Dr Harriet Marshall



As noted in *Intercom* (21), earlier this year Dr Harriet Marshall was appointed to join the CEIC team as lecturer in international education. Dr Marshall is now in post and will be participating in the teaching of international education units of both the Advanced Courses and EdD programmes, as well as supervising dissertations and theses in relevant areas. No doubt many of our readers will be meeting Harriet – either face to face or virtually! – before too long.

Prof Jeff Thompson

As noted elsewhere in this edition of *Intercom*, on 30 September 2005 Jeff Thompson formally retired as Professor of Education at the University of Bath and his term of office as Head of the IB Research Unit here on campus at Bath comes to an end on 31 December. Those who know Jeff, however, will not be surprised to hear that his diary for the coming year appears every bit as full as it has been previously: as Emeritus Professor at the University of Bath he will continue to be involved in teaching and supervising research at both Masters and Doctoral level, as well as researching and publishing – and involvement in other activities – in areas relating to national and international education. Jeff may still be contacted via his University of Bath e-mail address (j.j.thompson@bath.ac.uk) and is already booked up to participate in conferences, seminars and other events during the coming year – and, indeed, to chair the Alliance for International Education conference which will take place in Shanghai, 27-29 October 2006. We are pleased to have been able to persuade Jeff to contribute to this edition of

Intercom a personal reflection on his career to date, which appears on pages 2 and 3.

Colleagues at CEIC and the IB Research Unit were delighted that two major international education organisations have recently chosen to honour Jeff's long career in international education. As described in *IBRU News* (pg 7), in July 2005 the International Schools Association (ISA) awarded the ISA Distinguished Award for services to international education during their annual conference, and at the November 2005 ECIS conference a special award was made in recognition of Jeff's contribution to the promotion of international education. It's difficult to imagine a CEIC, Department of Education or University of Bath without Jeff – but we suspect (and hope) that we may not notice much difference for some time to come!

STUDY CENTRE DATES

26 - 29 November 2005

Tanglin Trust School, Singapore

Managing Educational Organisations

2 - 5 December 2005

**New International School of Thailand,
Bangkok**

Managing Educational Organisations

8 - 11 April 2006

International School of Brussels, Belgium

Understanding Learners and Learning

April 2006

Tanglin Trust School, Singapore

Managing Educational Innovation

[dates to be confirmed]

April/May 2006

Yew Chung International School, Shanghai

[to be confirmed]

12 - 15 May 2006

**New International School of Thailand,
Bangkok**

[unit to be confirmed]

IBRU News

The period since the last newsletter was published has seen colleagues representing the IB Research Unit (IBRU) in a variety of contexts internationally. In July 2005 Jeff Thompson, Head of IBRU, gave a keynote speech on self-evaluation for internationalism at the International Schools Association (ISA) conference in the Netherlands, which was also attended by Zhen Yao and James Cambridge as guest speakers. Jeff also participated in the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) Summer School in London during July, and in the Conference of IB Heads in Bangkok in October, as well as in the November 2005 ECIS conference, at which presentations were also made by Zhen Yao, James Cambridge, Richard Caffyn and Anna Simandiraki.

Ongoing IBRU projects include the Intergenerational Learning Project (on which James Cambridge made a presentation at the CAS Coordinators' workshop at the International School of Munich), the Practitioner Research Project (described in the last newsletter) and the Finland Vocational Project – for which Richard Caffyn has twice visited Finland in recent months in order to conduct interviews with teachers and students. The School-University Transition Study and the Finland Distance Teaching Project have both recently been completed.

The International Education Research Database continues to be freely available online via the 'Research' shortcut on the IBO public website (www.ibo.org). This is a searchable database that lists citations to books, chapters, journal articles, theses and dissertations addressing a variety of aspects of international education. Anna Simandiraki, who manages the database, reports that it will soon exceed 4,000 entries. IB Research Notes, a quarterly newsletter published jointly by IBRU and the IB Curriculum and Assessment

Centre (IBCA), also continues to be freely available online from the IBO public website.

Also of note is that two honours in the international education world have recently been bestowed upon Jeff Thompson: at the ISA July conference when he was awarded the ISA Distinguished Service Award for services to international education, and at the November ECIS conference when Jeff was honoured with a special award in recognition of his contribution to the promotion of international education and his continued support of ECIS over the years. As has been noted elsewhere in this edition of Intercom, 31 December 2005 will see Jeff's period as Head of IBRU come to an end (although, also as noted, he will continue his work as an Emeritus Professor of the University of Bath). Direction of IBRU from 1 January will pass to Jonathon Marsh, Head of Professional Development at IBCA, who from that date will spend time in Bath working with IBRU colleagues, as well as in Cardiff.



Jeff Thompson receives ISA Distinguished Service Award from Clive Carthew

PROGRAMME FOR SUMMER SCHOOL 2006

UPDATE OF CONTACT DETAILS

Week 1 (3 - 7 July)

Dissertation Support

Week 2 (10 - 14 July)

Managing Educational Innovation
Personal Knowledge for Sports Coaching
Education in an International Context
Theory of Language
Research Methods in Education
Issues in Science Education

Week 3 (17 - 21 July)

Managing International Schools
Assessment of Pupil Achievement
Educational Discourse
Technologies for Learning
Strategic Issues in Higher Education

Week 4 (24 - 28 July)

Managing Human Resources in Education
Education, Globalisation and Change
Foreign Language Learning
Research Methods in Education
Understanding Learners and Learning
Environmental Education:
Learning & Teaching

Participation includes:

- Access to library and other University facilities
- Accommodation available on campus
- Social activities

**Contact Philippa Wheeler for
further details**
(p.n.wheeler@bath.ac.uk)

CEIC Office

CEIC coordinates all administrative arrangements relating to Study Centres worldwide, and to the annual Summer School. CEIC colleagues also support research into international education and development projects worldwide.

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Prof Jeff Thompson: Founding Director of CEIC
(J.J.Thompson@bath.ac.uk)

Mr Mike Fertig: Director of Summer School
(M.Fertig@bath.ac.uk) (see also below)

Mrs Philippa Wheeler: CEIC and Summer
School Administrator (P.N.Wheeler@bath.ac.uk)

Advanced Courses Office

Coordinates anything to do with submission of unit assignments and dissertations, examiners meetings, feedback of grades to students, etc

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