

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