

## Reflections of the Executive Director

### CLAUDIA GALLANT SHARES HER VISION OF THE FUTURE



*Claudia Gallant, Executive Director, (center) with NAIS employees Tina Wood and John Hawkins.*

It is with a great deal of sorrow that I write my first letter as executive director of the foundation to the Global Connections Community. So many of you have written about Peter, his larger than life presence, his vision, his determination, his gift for friendship that I fumble to find new words to contain and express the grief of a community. As I reflect on my all too brief time of knowing him and working by his side, I hold two images firmly in mind. First, he knew that the next phase for Global Connections was at hand. He knew it as fiercely and clearly as if he had touched the future. Second, he knew that the future would build on but look different from the bedrock foundation that he had created. What he didn't know was how soon the mantle would be finally passed on. The very best way I know to honor Peter and his vision is to grow and sustain it. This was my commitment to him and to the community that was touched by him.

In mid-March, the Board of Directors met in Wales, thanks to the hospitality of Malcolm McKenzie and the United World College of the Atlantic, and one of the most important outcomes of that meeting was the newly crafted statement of Global Connections Core Values. You will find these printed in full elsewhere in this newsletter and I welcome your thoughts once you've reflected on them. The core values will provide a guide for us at every

level of our work and I hope will become familiar to every individual and school that considers itself to be part of the Global Connections network. Here, I'd like to comment briefly on each one.

First, we are committed to exploring and celebrating difference. Samuel Taylor Coleridge wrote in one of his notebooks some time in 1812 that it is only when a man grasps the "otherness" of the other that he stands upon the fertile ground where true empathy can be nurtured and mature. At Global Connections, we believe that while there is much to be celebrated in what we share, it is critical that we engage with one another in dialogue that promotes understanding and respect for difference.

Second, we are committed to creating an environment in which global consciousness is positioned at the center of every action, project and partnership that we facilitate. What does this mean exactly? We believe in local action for global results, and like Wangari Mathaai, who planted trees in Kenya, one tree on one tiny plot at a time, we are committed to developing global consciousness across our individual school communities, one student, one teacher, one principal, one parent at a time.

We are committed to developing globally conscious citizens in our schools.

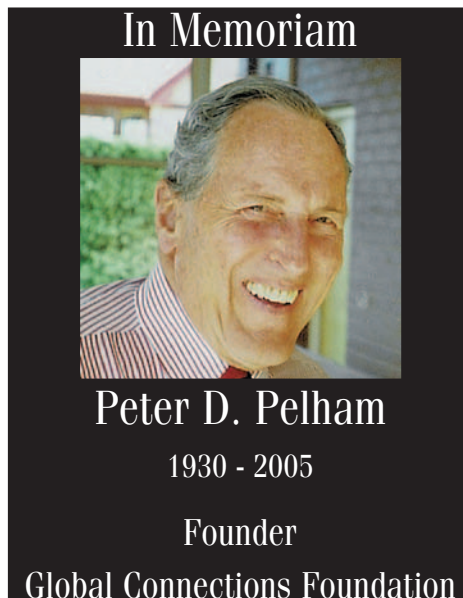
Third and fourth, we are committed to the results of globally conscious communities: to building cross-cultural partnerships and in so doing to serve and share in order to build community.

Fifth, we believe that no progress will be made without collaborative leadership committed to transformation of schools at every level of school life: mission, board and faculty development, curriculum innovation, management of physical plants, community outreach and experiential learning. We are committed to providing an environment, infrastructure and resources in which school leaders can become globally conscious themselves as well as find ways to lead in collaboration as teams.

And, finally, we are committed to the ethics of sustainable living. We believe that every practical choice is embedded with an ethical dimension and that teaching for sustainable living includes providing experiences in which our students fully participate and that demonstrate the integrated, systemic nature of the global community and its management of the earth's resources.

Based on a thorough, impassioned discussion of these core values, the Global Connections Board of Directors gave its unanimous support to adopting them as the underpinning of what we do and how we do it. I hope that you will write me your thoughts about the core values as well as write often about what you are doing and how you are doing it in your schools. We didn't know that this meeting would be our last with Peter. It is significant that the document that it produced contains the very best thinking of the board under Peter's leadership and is a clear articulation of the values that will provide the GC vision for the future.

Sincerely,  
Claudia



## New Director Joins GC Foundation Board

Nihal Goonewardene is an entrepreneur, educator, and philanthropist. A native of Sri Lanka where he graduated from the prestigious St. Joseph's College in Colombo, Nihal went on to earn undergraduate and graduate degrees in the U.S. at Oakland University and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

Of particular interest to Global Connections is Nihal's leadership of the International Science and Technology Institute, Inc. (ISTI) of Arlington, Virginia, a major NGO now in its 26th year of activity. As its President and Chief Executive Officer, Nihal has led ISTI to operations in more than 50 countries worldwide with clients including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and various U.S. Government agencies in areas of health, nutrition, finances, and private sector development.



*Nihal Goonewardene.*

Nihal is also a member of the Fletcher School Board of Overseers' Development Committee, President of the Sri Lanka Association of Washington, D.C., and has spearheaded the Tsunami Relief/ Rehabilitation Fund for Sri Lanka.

We welcome Nihal as our most recent Director. There are now nine (9) persons on the Board of Directors of the Foundation, three of whom are founding Directors and officers. Four Directors are also Heads of Schools worldwide.

### *Statement of Purpose*

Global Connections encourages school leaders worldwide to develop global consciousness and to promote international cooperation in their schools.

### *Global Connections Core Values*

The Global Connections commitment is to create an environment in which participants will:

- Explore and celebrate difference
- Develop and promote global consciousness
- Build cross-cultural partnerships
- Learn to serve and share in order to build community
- Learn to lead collaboratively in order to transform schools
- Promote and practice the ethics of sustainable living

*we gained special insight into the value of this cross-national sharing around key educational issues facing the world. Your seminars continue to demonstrate that educators from around the world, despite their many differences, share a belief in the potential of education to bring out the best in humanity. For that, we congratulate you."*

The Dodge grant will be used in part to underwrite the seminar costs of four delegates from the State of New Jersey to attend GCIX.

Sodexo, the leading food and facilities management services company in North America, has provided more than five million dollars and more

## Location Selected for the GCX Seminar in Summer of 2006

Global Connections Foundation announces GC X "Tradition and Innovation," Amman Baccalaureate School, July 12-22, 2006.

Pre Seminar: July 12-14, 2006: Old city of Amman, the Roman Forum, the Temple of Hercules, Madaba, Mount Nibo, King's Academy.

Seminar: July 15-19, 2006, "Tradition and Innovation"

Post Seminar: July 20-22, 2006: Petra and Aqaba

The seminar is designed for school leaders. Space is limited. Applications will open on line on or around September 1, 2005.

Questions can be addressed to Claudia Gallant at [claudia@globalconnection.org](mailto:claudia@globalconnection.org) or 410 647 0102.

### *Join Our Global Family*

The Global Connections Foundation is a not-for-profit public organization. For more information or to contribute to the foundation, please contact us by phone at 410 647 0102..

## Fundraising Outreach Reaps Rewards

The Global Connections Foundation has benefited from the generosity of The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, Sodexo, and the David and Margaret Close Fellowship Fund all in support of delegates to GCIX.

In a letter to the Foundation in March, David Grant, Executive Director, wrote:

*"The Global Connections Foundation is among 90 organizations that are, today, receiving Dodge Foundation checks that total almost 5 million dollars. The dollars are a small representation of the worth and impact of your collective work. In your case, we were pleased to learn about the success of last summer's two seminars in Bulgaria and Romania. Due to Ross Danis' attendance at the two seminars,*

than five million of in-kind service to charitable organizations in the last three years. A central part of the Sodexo mission is to improve the quality of daily life of all the people they serve. Being socially responsible is critical to this commitment and the reason why Sodexo has become the first company in the industry to endorse the Global Sullivan Principles of Social Responsibility. Global Connections Foundation is fortunate to receive a gift that will support a delegate to GCIX from a less advantaged school from South Africa.

The David and Margaret Close Fellowship Fund was established in the summer of 2004 in memory of and to honor two long time friends and supporters of Global Connections. Income from the fund will be used annually to support delegates from around the world.

## News and Outcomes from Around the GC Network

Letter from Larysa Olefirenko, Secondary School #8, Ismail, Ukraine, Community Outreach (GC 4,6,7 and 8):

*Twelve students of Secondary School #8 will be recognized by the Alliance Francaise, and will travel to France in May to receive their award, for the creation of a "center of rest" for the community. Led by the head French teacher, the center was designed, built and planted by students and will be available to the entire community. The design and written description of the project received First Place in an important Ukrainian writing competition.*

Congratulations, Larysa!

News about Brikena Baxhaku, Mathematics Teacher and Department Head, Harry Fultz Institute, Tirana, Albania,. Global Leadership (GC 7 and 8):

Brikena has been appointed the director of the Harry Fultz Institute in Tirana and has recently taken on this new leadership position. HFI will benefit enormously from her long-term experience at the School, her multi-lingual perspective in Italian, English and Bulgarian as well as her wide pedagogical expertise. We wish her well in her new position.

News about Simona Baciu, International School of Cluj, Romania. Professional Development (GC 8):

When Simona was invited to the US by Oregon Episcopal School after GCVIII, Dulaney Bennett, made arrangements for her to spend time with Charyl Cathey, her middle school head. Simona will subsequently host Charyl in Cluj, where they will work together on administration and school development. Simona has also made connections with both the Severn School, Severna Park, MD, where she met with adult and student leaders, and the Evergreen and Lawrenceville schools in New Jersey. During her visit to NJ she enjoyed an evening hosted by Ross

Danis of the Dodge Foundation.

News about David Hodge, Principal, Tamaki College, Glenn Innes, Auckland, New Zealand. Global Leadership (GC 6):

David's outstanding leadership of Tamaki College was highlighted in a Focus article in the Sunday Star-Times (Auckland), January 23, 2005. The article credits David's vision and rigor for the extraordinary turn around of the college in a city whose population is underserved and whose economics are challenged at every level. David led the school from one that graduated no students bound for university to graduating last year's class of 45% (23 students) heading for university and a further 25% beginning other tertiary study. When asked how he accounts for the success of the school, David points to a no-excuses attitude in everything the school does. "The idea is if you show people you can be excellent with one thing, you show them you can be excellent with many others."

Well done, David.

News about Rosa Storelli, Principal, Methodist Ladies College, Kew, Australia, Student and Faculty Development/Experiential Learning (GC 2 and 7)

Rosa Storelli and Stella Lau, Principal of Diocesan Girls' School, Hong Kong and a member of Global Connections Board of Directors, have inaugurated a student exchange, initiated by a three-week visit of 8 girls and 1 staff member from Hong Kong to Australia. A reciprocal exchange to Hong Kong is planned for 2005.

News about Chris Hunter, Directeur, L'Ermitage, Maisons-Lafitte, France Student/Faculty Development/ Experiential Learning, Host School, GC 7 (GC 4,5,6,7 and 8):

Chris Hunter and Zhang Zhen, principal, Number 1 Middle School, Wuhan, China, have signed an agreement of educational cooperation that calls for exchanges of administrators, teachers and students.

News about Hugh Pullan, Head, Dhirubhai Ambani International School, Mumbai, India. Community Outreach/Experiential Learning (GC 7):

In partnership with Chris Hunter of L'Ermitage and Pierre Pean's NGO, The French-Indian Schools of Bombay, Hugh has inaugurated a student visit of L'Ermitage students to Mumbai, where they conducted a school assembly, met and visited with many students and currently maintain communication through video conferencing and e-mail.

News about Stephen Rensink, Teacher Facilitator, Character Education, York Region District Schools, Ontario, Canada. Student Development/ Experiential Learning (GC 8):

Stephen has created an infrastructure whereby Bulgarian and Romanian students that he met during GC 8 have been able to communicate with Canadian students electronically and conduct discussion on a variety of topics of mutual interest focused on character education. Stephen will conduct a follow up visit to Romania this summer.

News about Vidojka Harej, Teacher of English, Solski Center Nova Gorica, Delpinova, Slovenia. Community Outreach (GC 8):

Vidojka had an extensive article on her experience in Global Connection 8, Bulgaria/Romania, published in the Slovenian IATEFL Newsletter, a professional publication for teachers of English in Slovenia and published in English.

*Do you have news items, projects or outcomes to share with the network? Please send them to Claudia at [Claudia@globalconnection.org](mailto:Claudia@globalconnection.org) or FAX to 01-410 647 0014.*

# Global Connections IX: Guatemala - Program Schedule and Overview

## PRE-SEMINAR PROGRAM

Thursday July 21, 2005

Arrive Guatemala City;

- Check-in and registration will be handled at the hotel. Reception and Welcoming Dinner.

Friday July 22

- Breakfast in the hotel
- Bus to the South coast of Guatemala where a visit is scheduled to Programa Educativo del Sur (Proesur) and Colegio Americano del Sur
- Presentation and tour of the project and an opportunity to see and talk to students at the school
- Lunch at the school
- Bus to Antigua Guatemala
- Afternoon free in Antigua at the Villas de Guatemala Hotel
- Dinner included

Saturday July 23

- Breakfast in hotel
- Bus to UVG-Altiplano.
- Presentation and tour of the project and an opportunity to see and talk to students at the University.
- Bus to Panajachel at Lake Atitlán.

- Hotel Atitlán in Panajachel, on the shores of Lake Atitlan.

- Lunch (free)
- Participants will have free time in the afternoon to swim, visit local markets and sightsee. Supper this evening will be free and participants will be able to visit the town and eat on their own in town or in the hotel. Options will be clearly laid out for the participants' convenience.

Sunday July 24

- Breakfast in the hotel
- Travel to the world famous market town of Chichicastenango for a visit to the indigenous market and an opportunity to shop.
- Lunch (included)
- In the afternoon, the group will travel by bus to Antigua.

*The preseminar package includes 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 dinners as well as three nights hotel stay, transfer from the airport to the hotel and coach transportation during the program. One lunch and one dinner are at the expense and option of each participant.*

## SEMINAR

Sunday July 24

Arrival and check-in at the hotel in Antigua, Portahotel. (Participants in the pre-seminar tour will arrive by bus from the highlands. Newcomers will arrive from the airport in Guatemala City and will have received instructions.)

- Welcoming Dinner

Monday July 25

- Breakfast in the hotel
- The morning will be devoted to speakers and the inauguration of the seminar
- Mid morning coffee break
- Lunch
- There will be a directors' meeting in the afternoon. Other participants will have an opportunity to visit museums, sightsee or have a tour of the colonial city of Antigua.

- Dinner (free)

Tuesday July 26

- Breakfast in the hotel
- Morning conferences
- Coffee break
- Lunch
- Afternoon conferences
- Coffee break
- Dinner (free)

Wednesday July 27

- Breakfast
- Morning conferences
- Coffee Break
- Lunch
- Afternoon the group will check out from the hotel in Antigua and return to Guatemala City (Marriott Hotel)

- Hotel check-in and dinner

Thursday July 28

- Breakfast
- A visit has been planned to the American School and the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala.

- Lunch
- Afternoon conferences
- Coffee break
- Dinner

Friday July 29

- Breakfast
- Morning closing ceremony and conclusions
- Coffee break
- Lunch
- Those not participating in the post-seminar tour will be departing this

afternoon. Departures will be coordinated from the hotel.

- Dinner (free)

*The seminar includes 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 3 dinners and 6 coffee breaks. It also includes 3 nights hotel in Antigua and 2 nights in Guatemala City, bus from Antigua to Guatemala City, and transfer from the hotel to the airport. It includes materials, space, and audiovisual equipment for the conferences. Also included will be name tags, pens, etc. One dinner is at the participants' option and expense.*

## POST-SEMINAR PROGRAM

Friday July 29

- Participants in the postseminar program will remain at the hotel in Guatemala City tonight.

Saturday July 30

- Breakfast
- Departure for airport in Guatemala City for the flight to Flores in the northern part of the country.
- Visits to ancient Mayan ruins
- Lunch
- Check-in at the Villas de Guatemala Tikal Hotel.

- Dinner

Sunday July 31

- Breakfast
- Visit to the ancient Mayan city of Tikal
- Return flight to Guatemala City
- Return to the Marriot Hotel in Guatemala City

Monday August 1

- Breakfast
- Departures for the airport coordinated through the hotel

*The post-seminar includes 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 1 dinner. It also includes 3 nights hotel (two in Guatemala City and one in Flores, Petén), bus transportation to the airport, airplane ticket to Tikal and tour to the archaeological sites*