

## GC Network has Connections

Global Connections network of schools currently includes Directors of two of Australia's leading independent school associations.

Congratulations to **Noelene Horton**, Principal of Lowther Hall Anglican Grammar School, who is Chair of the Association of Heads of Independent Secondary Schools of Australia (AHISSA) and to **Chris Tudor**, Head of St. Philip's College in Alice Springs, who is Chair of the National Council of Independent Schools Associations (NCISA).

Global Connections is fortunate to have two such dedicated and able Heads of School involved.

## Fundraising Appeal Sent in May Blossoms Early

The Global Connections Foundation received two generous gifts in June as the result of a fundraising appeal sent in May. The Helen R. Buck Foundation gave \$4,000 and \$5,000 was received from the Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation. These gifts enable the Foundation to provide financial assistance to principals attending the Seminars.

The Directors of the Foundation will continue to pursue funding so that School Leaders from every educational sector will have a chance to participate in Foundation sponsored seminars, regardless of budget restrictions.

Since its incorporation, the Foundation has secured over \$150,000 in funding from 93 donors.

To assist the Foundation in identifying grant opportunities, please contact the Foundation's Treasurer, Isobel Pelham, at [info@globalconnection.org](mailto:info@globalconnection.org)

## It *Is* a Small World After All!

### SECOND-GENERATION CONNECTION MADE AT NYC SEMINAR

Following his presentation on "Global Perspective in Independent Education" at the annual National Association of Independent Schools conference in New York, Peter was invited with three other Global Connections Foundation Directors to participate in an afternoon meeting of "Internationalists" at Columbia University's Teachers College. There he met Victor Novakovska, a graduate student at Columbia, whose mother, Venera Novakovska, is the founding Principal of Nova High School in Macedonia. Of equal importance is her participation in Global Connections V and her future attendance at GC VII in France this July.

It's very nice to know that in this instance, the acorn hasn't fallen far from the tree!



*Foundatio President Peter D. Pelham  
and Victor Novakovska*

## A Small World, Encore!

John Guyatt, Deputy Head at Sevenoaks School in England, met fellow GC Seminar participant Dancia Laukova, Bilingual & International Project Manager at the Bilingual English-Slovak Grammar School, in Slovakia, while at a workshop in Croatia. Here is how John recounts the meeting:

Some weeks ago I was asked by the Director of the British Council in Zagreb if I would be able to help with a workshop for Croatian teachers to be held in the town of Varazdin. I had worked with him on projects in Romania where he had previously been based and so I accepted with alacrity. I knew that the other workshop leader involved was from Slovakia and had a sense of *deja vue* when I met her. Danica Laukova, in turn, had had a nagging sense of half remembering a name when she saw that I was from Sevenoaks in England.

All was revealed when we both realised (after a few glasses of wine) we had met in 2001 at the Nairobi Global Connections. The warmth of our embrace across the table in a Varazdin tavern was such that our Croatia colleagues may have inferred more than warranted about the nature of Global Connections! As always, it was wonderful to catch up on news of other participants, while Danica's account of the China meeting renewed my rage and envy that I had not been able to attend.

## Meet the Directors

In addition to Peter and Isobel Pelham, The Global Connections Foundation is fortunate to have five outstanding Directors:

- Rod Fraser, Principal of Ivanhoe Grammar School, Australia;
- Mrs. Stella Lau, Principal of the Diocesan Girls' School in Hong Kong;
- Mrs. Hilary Matthews, a Wilson Bicentennial Fellow at Deerfield Academy in the U.S.;
- Malcolm McKenzie, a Rhodes Scholar and Principal of the United World College of the Atlantic in Wales;
- Eric Widmer, Headmaster of Deerfield Academy, U.S.

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[www.globalconnection.org](http://www.globalconnection.org)

## Global Connections VII and the Thematic Wheel

The setting of the 2003 Global Connections Seminar is as nearly symbiotic with the theme of the meeting as is possible. "Crossing Frontiers: Culture, Language and Bilingualism" is a perfect theme for France and for the host school, L'Ermitage, a bilingual and multicultural school. However, early and collaborative efforts on the part of the Bilingual English-Slovak Grammar School and a Bilingual Form in Bratislava in June, 2002, helped set the stage for GC VII.

The organizer of "Bilingual Forum-FACT II" was Danica Laukova, the Bilingual and International Project Manager of the Bilingual English-Slovak Grammar School in Sucany Slovakia. Danica has participated in GC V and VI and will attend GC VII in July. It is through Global Connections that she met Chris Hunter.

The 2002 Forum in Slovakia involved 30 participants from 6 countries of Eastern and Central Europe and included specialists from the British Council, CERNET-Vienna, Science Across the World, and Chris Hunter, Directeur of L'Ermitage and the host for GC VII.

Discussion centered around the importance of language and understanding as well as the pragmatic elements of European citizenship, jobs, and the importance of multilanguage skills.

The impact of this Bilingual Forum and the association already established between Chris Hunter and Danica Laukova, through Global Connections, lent themselves to further collaborative interests, which have resulted in GC VII,

as the theme of the July 8 - 12 Seminar reflects.

Symbolically, the concept of "Crossing Frontiers: Culture, Language and Bilingualism" is suggested by a Thematic Wheel, a series of concentric circles which attempt to define the relationships between language, learning, community, citizenship, history, and the interconnectedness of national, regional, and global perspectives.



Notion of Citizenship" and "Building and Supporting Identity in the Bilingual Classroom" to "Examining the Role and Impact of Information Technology: Moving Towards a Blend of Cultures" and, finally, the "Sense of Community and the Emerging Global Citizen."

The current tensions in world affairs argue strongly for not only intercultural awareness but also an international mindset. The understanding of culture,



GCVII host Chris Hunter with Isobel Pelham

There will be ten speakers who will address various aspects of these interconnected relations from both an historical and futuristic perspective. They will comment on topics as varied as "Towards an International Mindset: Examining the Development of Identity

Through the

language, history, and a willingness to "Cross Frontiers" is mandatory for the educators of today and the learners of tomorrow.

## Why Global Connections?

Initiated at the suggestion of several independent Heads of School in the U.S., Global Connections has developed into a growing network of diverse schools worldwide. There are now some 200 schools in 41 countries that have participated in one or more of the annual Seminars.

Of greater importance are the myriad of outcomes which result from the Seminars among and between a significant range of schools nationally, regionally, and internationally.

These outcomes, as well as a brief description of each Global Connections Seminar, are annotated on the Foundation's website: [www.globalconnection.org](http://www.globalconnection.org). The website is available to all interested educators.

In a similar fashion, no membership dues are required for participation in Global Connections. Criteria for involvement include: excellence within the educational context of the interested schools and their communities, demonstration of community outreach and service, a willingness to explore experiential education, and a desire to collaborate and share ideas and programs with others.

The reason Global Connections has focused primarily on involving Heads of School is to provide them with time to share, reflect, and think about their school's environment for learning in the company of a group of no more than 100 of their colleagues from very different cultures and environs. For many the Seminar is a time of enlightenment.

To help in this process, each of the past three Seminars has crafted a Declaration on that year's theme. This provides not only an unusual and democratic statement on that year's Seminar topic, but also a synergy and



*Participants at GC VI, China*

documentation which can be shared with all academic staff and students in each of the participating schools. In addition, articles on several Seminars have been written by different Heads of School and, following Global Connections IV, a wonderful book called *Owned by the land: Global Education and the Environment*, was published.

### Who Pays?

Each year's Seminar is hosted by a different school, in a different country, and on a different topic.

A comprehensive fee for the Seminar is established by the host school. It covers accommodation, meals, local transportation, honoraria for guest lecturers, and printing.

Grants-in-aid are provided for less-advantaged schools. For Global Connections VI, 13 grants in the amount of \$16,474 were made available. These grants are met in two ways: (1) The annual Seminar fee is established in order to provide a modest number of grants-in-aid for less-advantaged school delegates while (2) the Foundation also raises funds annually to provide a small portion of its operational expenses but primarily to underwrite additional support for economically-in-need schools.

In addition, Global Connections has been supported financially and programatically by the following foundations:

- *Esther A. and Joseph Klingenstein Fund*
- *Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation*
- *Helen R. Buck Foundation*
- *E.E. Ford Foundation (which grant went specifically to Trinity School in New York City for support of its three-year exchange program*

*with Tiger Kloof Educational Institution in South Africa)*  
 • *Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation in New Jersey in support of three Principals to attend Global Connections VII in France.*

### What's Next?

Worldwide tensions could curtail the activities of many international programs. However, it is precisely to reduce such tensions, misunderstandings, and ignorance, that Global Connections exists. It provides a time, place, agenda, and space for School Leaders to come together, to share, and to discuss issues of relevance to them and their colleagues today -- including, "How does the school community worldwide address issues of ignorance, teacher training, geography, multiculturalism, economics, and language?" How, in fact, do we respond



to "Crossing Frontiers: Culture, Language and Bilingualism," the theme of this year's Seminar in France?

In the January issue of the National Geographic Magazine, John M. Fahey, Jr., President and CEO of the Society wrote:

*In a nine-country poll of 18 to 20 year olds commissioned by the Society, we found that only 13 percent of Americans could locate Iraq on a map, and only 23 percent of respondents worldwide could name four countries with nuclear weapons.*

In part, Global Connections is endeavoring to alter such statistics through enlightened and dedicated School Leaders.

## From the Podium

Peter Pelham, President of The Global Connections Foundation, was invited to speak on Global Connections at two major educational association seminars.

### The Association of Boarding Schools

In December, 2002, he presented on "Global Connections: The Means to an End" at The Association of Boarding Schools annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

### National Association of Independent Schools

In February, 2003, he presented on "Global Perspective in Independent Education" at the National Association of Independent Schools' annual meeting in New York City. Terry Guest, a long-time participant in Global Connections and Executive Director of Round Square, also presented.

In spite of our current world conflicts, the value of international outreach in the educational arena is still of vital interest to schools. There were between 30 and 50 participants at these respective sessions, as well as many informal discussions with interested U.S. and international school administrators.



## Letters from Global Connections Participants

**As viewed from The Northern Territory, Australia:**

*This was the fourth Global Connections conference I have been privileged to attend and the face to face discussions I was able to have with more than 40 Heads of schools in some 17 countries was again immensely valuable. I came away challenged, excited and affirmed in the realization that much of what we are striving to do at St. Philip's is widely agreed to be the most effective way of educating young people today.*

*At the end of our deliberations there was painstaking consultation to produce and accurately translate, 'The Wuhan Declaration.'... I think of a good education as a building with many windows. As students progress through school they should be encouraged to open every one of those windows and take a look at what's out there. The best schools are the ones with the most windows.*

*There are many ways to foster or facilitate learning and it is important to use those which are most effective. Whilst using these widely, I remain convinced that there are some things which simply have to be taught and learned. China provided an excellent example of the place in education for rote learning which is being ignored by many educators. There is no other way of learning the Chinese characters which form the basis for that written language. The characters simply have to be learned before a person can read or write.*

*Like the Chinese, we must recognize the*

*importance of finding a balance. While they have implemented a mandate for more creativity and innovation in the classroom, perhaps we in Australia should be striving to ensure that some of the fundamental traditional elements of learning are mastered by all students.*

Chris Tudor, Principal  
St. Philip's College, Alice Springs

**And as recorded by other Heads of School worldwide:**

*I am exceptionally grateful to you and your Foundation for financially allowing me this extraordinary experience. I can only hope that somewhere, somehow, over some rainbow my deeply felt learning will assist someone else in the same wonderful way that you, in your vision, have given to me and thus to St. Cyprian's School in the Cape.*

Ms TJP Fairbairn, Head  
St. Cyprian's School, Cape Town, SA

*GC VI was a real eye-opener for me. It's the first international conference that I've taken part in and the first time for me to get in touch with so many principals and representatives from different corners of the world. The experience was both a challenge and an inspiration for me. I was eager to share my excitement with my colleagues and principal as well as try out what I have learnt from this trip with my students in the classroom.*

Catherine Li, Assistant Principal  
Marymount Secondary School, Hong Kong

*It is difficult to put into words the world of feelings and emotions, of confidence and joy,*

*of intellectual brainstorming and professional satisfaction which I experienced during the 6th Seminar on Global Connections. For me, it will always be a very special memory with very positive consequences for my school and the community of teachers in Romania.*

Veronica Focseneanu, Headmistress  
Ion Luca Caragiale National  
College, Romania

*Somehow, what had started as a most intimidating environment, reinforced on the first day by the strangeness of the language and the post-Soviet style heaviness of the conference room, had become magical. Global Connections VI succeeded: people from around the globe had connected, deeply, with great sensitivity, to each other, to the world around them, to the world awaiting them upon their return.*

*While most come thinking that the presentations will be the principle activity, the true justification for our coming together is the declaration: it becomes the goal. The group labors together towards a common objective. The process resembles that of a birth: we give birth to a hope, to a dream. And it is hard. It takes some pushing. It also takes special care and attention. What had started as a very masculine environment, the opening banquet, the toasting, the loud celebratory hellos, has become feminine. The shift is palpable: I've witnessed and helped in the birth of my two children. It's draining emotionally, psychologically and physically. But we did it: we gave birth to a statement of purpose, or raison d'etre. The babe will out: it has become an act of love."*

Chris Hunter, Directeur  
L'Ermitage, France

## In Memorium

**ALAN A. PATTERSON**

Global Connections is sad to report the death of a friend, fellow educator, and world traveler. As the former Headmaster of Mowbray College, Australia, and most recently the Director of Foundation Studies at Trinity College, University of Melbourne, Alan participated exuberantly in five of our six Seminars.

He encouraged collaboration, outreach, and excellence. He was as keen a sports competitor as he was a dedicated and skilled artist and gardener.



For his many contributions to the community and to education he was awarded the Order of Australia Honour.

For Global Connections, we've lost a kindred spirit, an advocate, and a catalyst for collaborative education. His passing will deplete our ranks momentarily but his spirit will stimulate us to further our initiatives. For some of us, we can still feel Patto's passion and we'd better get on with it!

Peter D. Pelham  
February, 2003