

NETHERLANDS PLAYS HOST TO EXECUTIVE DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Students from the third cohort of the Institute's Executive Doctoral (EdD) program spent eight days in the Netherlands in June 2014, attending a weeklong seminar on higher education in Europe presented by current faculty members and graduates of CHEPS (Centre for Higher Education Policy Studies) at the University of Twente.

The seminar was organized around the Bologna Process and the creation of the European Higher Education Area. Forty-seven countries have signed up to participate in the Bologna Process in an attempt to standardize the quality of higher education and facilitate transfers between European universities. Seminar topics included: the European Union and higher education and research policy; leadership and management in European and Australian higher education; higher education funding and financial management, and the internationalization of higher education. On the final day, the students participated in "Imaginalia," a simulation game designed by CHEPS faculty members, in which they used knowledge acquired during the seminar



(L-R) Executive doctoral students Dina Swearngin, David Lowery, Mumbi Okundaye, Trish Jackson, Arthur Vaughn, Tandeca King Gordon and Deb Dietzler enjoy a break from their studies while in the Netherlands.

to design an imaginary country's higher education system from the ground up, and then to lead and manage a fictitious European university.

The group was based in the lovely medieval city of Haarlem, a suburb of Amsterdam in the province of North

Holland, and the center of the country's flower industry. Students spent one day at the University of Leiden, the oldest university in the Netherlands, founded in 1575 by William of Orange, and another at one of the newest institutions, Amsterdam University College, founded

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(L-R): Students Deb Dietzler, Mumbi Okundaye and Katie Lloyd participate in "Imaginalia," a simulation game designed by CHEPS faculty, during their final day of study abroad in the Netherlands.

in 2008, with 750 undergraduates from more than 60 countries.

International study is a key component of the EdD program and one of its strongest selling points. More importantly, the experience is formative for students like Danny Thompson, assistant director of student affairs at Emory University School of Medicine, who said he's now inspired to look at how international education is promoted within the U.S. Mike West, associate vice president of adult and graduate education at Carthage College, added that "the international immersion experience in the Netherlands was incredibly valuable to my theoretical and practical understanding of higher education through an international lens."

Mumbi Okundaye, program

coordinator for masters and doctoral programs in UGA's College of Public Health, was surprised to find that "the challenges in the higher education systems in Europe were very similar to those in the U.S.— open access, increases in demand, quality control, and diversity." The latter was of interest to Jay Terry, assistant dean of Clayton State University's College of Information and Mathematical Sciences, who found differences in the concepts of diversity and viewing a definition of minority through the "lens of nationality" unexpected.

Above all, international trips for cohorts are a strong bonding experience. "The Haarlem seminar provided a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time with my cohort colleagues while having an in-depth educational experience," said Deborah Dietzler, associate vice president for alumni relations and annual giving at the University of Louisville. Katie Lloyd, director of admissions to the one-year MBA program at Emory's Goizueta Business School, agreed: "The time spent together as a cohort was memorable beyond expectations."

When not in the classroom, the cohort enjoyed sightseeing and cultural activities. Among the highlights were visits to museums, a dinner cruise on the canals, and a guided tour of the Peace Palace in The Hague, the seat of Dutch government.

The Peace Palace, built with money donated by Andrew Carnegie, houses the International Court of Justice, the Permanent Court of Arbitration, and The Hague Academy of International Law. By a stroke of luck, the Netherlands trip coincided with some advanced rounds of FIFA's World Cup competition, the most watched sporting event in the world, in which Holland finished third and the country was awash in orange, a great finale to a truly enriching experience.

— Elisabeth Hughes

IHE ABROAD



Faculty members Karen Webber and Rob Toutkoushian visited the University of West Indies (UWI) in Trinidad in June.

Faculty members Karen Webber and Rob Toutkoushian visited the **University of West Indies (UWI) in Trinidad** in June. The visit included an overview of UWI programs in tertiary education. IHE faculty provided comments on key features of graduate level programs of higher education in the U.S. Webber also made a formal presentation on "Issues to Consider for Online and Distance Learning." Toutkoushian conducted a workshop on the topic of national strategies for financing higher education. It included an overview of general models for financing higher education, details on how it is done in the U.S., and then a discussion of how it is done in Trinidad.

He repeated the presentation as part of a seminar for **Croatian** administrators and faculty who visited UGA in February representing the Higher Education Initiative for Southeastern Europe (HEISEE). The latter is part of an ongoing effort on behalf of Ed Simpson, distinguished public service fellow emeritus, who has made several trips to the **University of Rijeka** over the past year to assist in the development of a master's program in higher education management and governance. This program, designed to build administrative capacity, is partially funded by a grant from the U.S. Embassy. Institute faculty, who supplied syllabi for the proposal, will teach particular segments once it is established. A student exchange program is also a hopeful development through HEISEE.

In June, Libby Morris served on a panel and also presented a paper entitled "U.S. Research Universities in the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities" at a conference delivered by the International Festival of Business in association with the **University of Liverpool in England**. The conference examined future challenges in higher education including internationalization, access, and participation and research. "We have a partnership with the IFB and the University of Liverpool and are hopeful for future collaborations with students and faculty," Morris said.