

To: Dean Wynne Korr and Executive Committee

From: International Committee

Date: April 4, 2012

Re: Year-end Annual Report, 2013

## **--Accomplishments in 2013--**

### **Collaboration with National Taiwan University**

Wynne Korr, Susan Cole and Chi-Fang Wu have been collaborating with faculty at National Taiwan University for the past four years. The collaboration has resulted in biennial international conference that brought together social work scholars from the U.S., China, and Taiwan at National Taiwan University to present and discuss research concerning vulnerable children and families. The international committee continues to foster this collaboration.

- A. *UIUC-NTU Symposium*: The committee continued collaboration with the Department of Social Work, National Taiwan University to plan for the 3rd Biennial International Symposium on Vulnerable Families. The two day biannual social work symposium will be held on May 22-23, 2014, at National Taiwan University.
- B. *Student Exchange*: Collaboration on student exchanges with the Department of Social Work, National Taiwan University continued. Associate Professors Susan Cole and Clinical Professors Mary Maurer and Sherrie Faulkner developed and implemented a student internship experience for bachelor and master of social work students from Taiwan in the Summer 2013 Semester. The students, who were on campus from June 2013 – August 2013, were placed in agencies in the Champaign-Urbana community, received supervision on site by an experienced social work practitioners and at the School of Social Work by tenured, clinical adjunct faculty. Visiting scholars from China and Taiwan were also in residence during 2013-2014.

### **Collaboration with the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies, UIUC**

The committee supervised the use of CEAPS Title IV grant money to integrate more international content into curriculum at the school of social work. The international committee matched PhD students with faculty mentors who expressed interest in expanding international course content. Per the requirements of the grant, the selected PhD and MSW students focused on East Asia and Pacific case studies and practice. Students produced documents with varying content including: annotated bibliographies, international resources, case studies of mental health strategies and interventions in other countries, and examples of articles, books, DVDs and case studies that could convey diversity in social practice globally. Five professors and five MSW or PhD students participated in the project. In total, students spent approximately 260 hours completing this project.

### **Title VI Center Proposals 2014-2018**

The committee submitted two proposals for funding to Title VI centers on campus for the Department of Education renewal grants 2014-2018. Title VI funding decision have been delayed in 2014, and the status of these proposal is unknown

- A. *CEAPS, NTU Partnership*: The first grant requesting \$26,000 was submitted by Mary Maurer and Susan Cole to the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies (CEAPS) to continue building upon the School's productive partnership with National Taiwan University Department of Social Work over the next four years.
- B. *CGS, Certificate on International Social Development*: The second grant requesting \$5000 was submitted by Brenda Lindsey in collaboration with the international committee to the Center for Global Studies to develop a Certificate on International Social Development for undergraduate and graduate social work students.
- C. *All Title VI Centers (8), International Service Learning Initiative*: A third grant was submitted on behalf of the committee by Ben Lough to all Title VI Centers to strengthen the International Service Learning Initiative in collaboration with the University YMCA and the school of social work. All eight Title VI Center Directors on campus signed and sent a memo to the Associate Provost for International Affairs, urging the University to establish a Center for Service Learning. Each center also committed funding to this initiative in the amount of \$1500 per center or \$12,000 total. The committee also provided consultation on the International Service Learning Initiative at the School of Social Work and the University YMCA. Ben organized a symposium in 2013 at the YMCA—three members of the international committee were in attendance, along with more than 35 members of other departments across campus.

### **International Brown Bag Series**

The committee only host one Brown Bag discussion in 2013, by Professor Balgopal on the topic of "Empowering the Rural Poor in India" on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **South Africa Field Placements**

The School of Social Work Field Education office launched an international field placement option in Cape Town, South Africa for MSW students starting fall 2014. Mary Maurer travelled to South Africa to scope out placement sites. The placement options in South Africa will be available in areas of program development and implementation, advocacy, health care disparities, mental health challenges, and child welfare issues.

### **Service Learning in Greece**

The committee coordinated and consulted with Hellen McDonald in her development of a student learning course in Greece. Students across campus will spend eight weeks at social service sites in Greece. Students will integrate cross-cultural comparisons between the sites, become exposed to Greek social welfare issues, healthcare disparities, poverty issues, and the impact of the Greek economic depression. The first group of students have enrolled and will be studying in Greece in 2014.

### **--Recommendations/Future Directions for 2014-2015--**

1. *CEAPS Fourth Year Grant*: The field placement office will work with National Taiwan University to expand student exchanges. Final grant funding from CEAPS for 2013-2014 will help support students exchanges from NTU to UIUC.

2. *International Collaboration with NTU*: Work with field office to develop a structure for international field placements in Taiwan, China, South Africa, Greece and others. Work on facilitating placements in Costa Rica and India have been discontinued per a recent strategic planning session.
3. Potential *International Collaboration with Wuhan University, China*
4. Expansion of the *International Service Learning Initiative*
5. Development of a *Certificate in International Social Development*
6. Continue *International “Brown bags”* on various topics
7. Develop a plan to *better integrate international scholars* with the work of other staff, students, and faculty at the school

**Committee Members:**

Pallassana Balgopal

Chris Larrison

Ben Lough (chair)

Hellen McDonald

Chi-Fang Wu

Min Zhan

Cyrielle Gauthier (student)

Marissa Zayas (student)