Dear Friends and Colleagues of the IEDP,

Fall 2014 flew by as our cohort finished final exams, turned in final papers and gave presentations during the busy month of December. We could not believe our first semester at GSE had come to an end. After a successful end to the first part of our exciting
program, we prepared for our winter break and recharged our batteries to begin our new semester afresh.

Spring 2015 arrived sooner than expected and our cohort finds itself signing up for new courses and deciding what our final schedules will look like... this semester will certainly be a busy one!

In this combined edition of the December 2014 and January 2015 Newsletter you will find our faculty spotlight interview with Dr. Michael Johanek, our alumni interest with Josh Cleveland, and pictures of events from the end of the year and beginning of the new semester along with updates regarding our upcoming speaker series, tweeter feeds and more...

We look forward to a great new start in our Spring 2015 semester!

All our best,

Abby Wacker & Irene Greaves
Co-editors

Faculty Spotlight:
Dr. Michael Johanek
Dr. Michael Johanek has been with Penn GSE since spring 2007, and currently directs a number of programs here, including the Mid-Career Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership, the Penn Educational Leadership Simulations (PELS) Program, and the Inter-American Educational Leadership Network, which he co-directs with Dr. Sharon Ravitch. He completed his BA in Economics at Georgetown University, and both his masters and his doctorate at Columbia University Teachers College.

Dr. Johanek's journey into the field of education began as he was preparing to graduate from college. At the time, his plan was to become either a banker or an actor; however, an unexpected opportunity to teach at his high school alma mater in Cleveland, Ohio changed everything. Despite the fact that it was a clear departure from his original plans, Dr. Johanek enjoyed teaching, and taught for a number of years in both Cleveland and New York.

A desire to truly become fluent in a foreign language led Dr. Johanek to seek out and accept a high school teaching job in Lima, Peru. While there he taught, strengthened his Spanish skills, and developed a fascination with the Latin American region. Dr. Johanek's work in Latin America continues to this day in a number of countries, notably Chile, where he teaches at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (Pontifical Catholic University of Chile). At Universidad Católica, Dr. Johanek works with the university's educational leadership program, which trains both current and aspiring principals in school leadership and management skills. Led by Dr. Johanek, Penn GSE partners with Universidad Católica to offer a joint Educational Leadership certificate program, as well as an annual K12 leadership conference in Santiago each January. The certificate program, which blends in person

Twitter

Governments & UN increasingly controlled by corporate interests. org/3PAv1Ox

VIDEO: Check out @GirlsNotBrides' New Film: "Together, we can end #childmarriage in Zambia" bit.ly/1HtY4fC

Can Smartphones be designed to improve access to finance? brook.gs/1CZr_Pn via @BrookingsInst

Liberia's schools reopen amid warnings that hard work on done.gu.com/p/4SS9y via @GuardianAfrica

Have questions about CIES7? Join the #CIESChat mond, by ou. @AmeenaB @ 8:30p EST with your questions and comme

Social Media Updates

IEDP has been expanding our social media presence, you updated on what we're doing.
and online instruction, involves both Penn and Universidad Católica instructors. Since the program's founding, some 600 Chilean school leaders have earned certificates, over 1,000 have participated in the annual conferences, and over 3,000 have joined a national leadership network.

In addition to his numerous projects in both the United States and Latin America, Dr. Johanek will be targeting a global audience through a MOOC, which he will be teaching in partnership with Dr. John Puckett, also of Penn GSE. The MOOC, entitled "American Education Reform: History, Policy, Practice," launches this month. Dr. Johanek notes that creating a course for a large, global audience is challenging, particularly when examining something as context-specific as school reform. The course argues that an understanding of history is necessary in order to inform current and future school reforms, and uses the United States as an example of this necessity. The MOOC invites students from outside of the United States to use the concepts learned in the course to contribute to an understanding of their own areas. Thus, despite its focus on the U.S., it is the goal of the course that students will learn to critically analyze their own local reform efforts in light of their own local histories.

Dr. Johanek advises IEDP students to always maintain awareness of the realities faced by education practitioners on the ground, and to strive for a balanced integration between theory and practice when doing educational development work. He states, "it is easy to get lost in abstractions that we create to understand the field, but sometimes we reify those abstractions and think we are talking about real things when [in fact] we are talking about our analytical lenses." Theories of practice are useful, notes Dr. Johanek, but only to the extent that they help us to understand what is happening on the ground. Dr. Johanek cautions that this insight absolutely does

- See what current students are up to via 
- Follow the program on Twitter @IEDP_F
- Subscribe to our daily paper with the latest development news stories
- Read our Tweets in story form via Storify
- Join our community via LinkedIn
- Like our brand new official Facebook page
- And keep checking our website!

Upcoming IEDP Lectures

Shirin Lutfeali, Senior Specialist for Basic Education
Literacy
Save the Children
Thursday, February 12, 2015

Cristina Bicchieri, Sacha Jane Patterson Hart
Social Thought and Comparative Ethics
Department of Philosophy, University of Pennsylva
Thursday, March 26, 2015

January 19th, Martin Luther King

Making tutu's and superhero capes for daycares in honor of MLK day #pe
not discount the need for good theoretical work; we often need good theory in order to understand the local, on-the-ground details that will ultimately determine the success or failure of any project.

Educators, like those in other professions, already operate in a global field of shared challenges, something IEDP students seem to recognize well. Seeking to improve and refine professional practice therefore requires collaborations across national boundaries, moving beyond the parochialism that can restrain the field's development. Dr. Johanek's current work in enhancing the Inter-American Educational Leadership Network (Red Interamericana de Liderazgo Educacional) advances this aim, as will this Fall's Global Education Forum at Penn, an exciting new collaboration with Asia Society.

Alumni Interest: Josh Cleveland

Josh Cleveland graduated from IEDP in 2013. Josh interned in Mombasa, Kenya with the Aga Khan Foundation, where he got the chance to design, conduct, and write up a qualitative study of one of AKF's programs. After his internship ended, AKF offered Josh a position as a Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant. This arrangement takes him
to various program sites for a few months at a time to work on different kinds of projects at each site. Earlier this year, Josh spent two months in Osh, Kyrgyzstan, working with local staff to provide analysis, interpretation, and a final report for completion of a quantitative study on early childhood development and reading achievement.

Josh is currently in India, based in a rural part of Gujarat state with one of AKF's sister organizations (the Aga Khan Rural Support Program of India). As an Education Program Consultant, he has been participating in education program planning meetings and conducting site visits with the eventual goal of writing a few grant proposals to help build the organization's education program portfolio in this region. The focus of the proposed program will be on teaching and learning quality at the pre-primary and early primary school levels.

During his time with IEDP, Josh was given opportunities to dig deeper into topics he found fascinating, to be part of the ongoing debates about education and development, and to gain skills that employers in this field are looking for. He appreciates the enriching experience with his cohort members who care and think deeply about what education can and should look like, and to have those discussions guided and framed by professors who care and think equally as deeply about such issues. A few classes Josh took equipped him with specific skills, such as program evaluation, statistics, and proposal writing, that he has used frequently and continues to develop in his professional life. Moreover, IEDP helped him to think critically about development, even as he is engaged in it - to ask difficult questions at times, to think about relationships of power, and to approach his work as a listener and a storyteller.

Josh encourages the current cohort to reach out to the IEDP alumni network. In addition, for
musically inclined IEDP students, he encourages them to get together and make music!