

Newsletter

Chair Holds First Interactive Webcast Symposium

On November 10 and 11, 2007, the UNESCO Chair in Arts and Learning held the first of a series of interactive webcast symposia from the Akwe:kon Room in the Faculty of Education at Queen's University, Kingston, Canada. The theme of the symposium was *Creativity Education through the Arts: Goals, methodology and impact*. The program included two web-casts, each two hours in length. In the first, several distinguished speakers made presentations and, in the second, panellists responded to questions and comments from arts educators on-site and around the world.

While it was not possible to determine how many people watched the web-casts and equally impossible to estimate how many will watch the streaming video that continues to be available on demand, an indication that the web-cast was widely viewed was a report that the discussion board was accessed more than 200 times during the event. Comments posted on the discussion board and received via email originated from around the world. Countries represented by off-site viewers included Australia, Brazil, Canada, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the United States.

Evaluations and comments received about the symposium were overwhelmingly positive. As one viewer wrote, "A great experience: Excellent speakers with genuine expertise and commitment to the field, and admirable use of innovative technology to enable virtual participation." Another viewer wrote, "Congratulations on the symposium. I watched the presentations on Saturday morning and enjoyed all of them thoroughly. What a terrific way to communicate with people at a distance!" Yet another commented, "Firstly let me say that I was impressed with the use of modern technology in broadcasting your symposium. As an individual logging on, I was happy to see a seamless use of modern

techniques to broadcast your ideas. Well done." A viewer who made extensive use of the discussion board remarked, "It was great to be able to participate online in this kind of forum."



Web-cast participants in the Akwe:kon Room



Dr. Rosa Bruno-Jofré prepares for the web-cast with Mr. Larry Deir, e-Services, and Professor Larry O'Farrell, holder of the UNESCO Chair in Arts and Learning.

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Further Information

To learn how you can participate in events sponsored by the UNESCO Chair in Arts and Learning or to learn more about the goals and activities of the Chair, please visit our website.

www.unesco-queens.ca

Webcast Presenters Consider the Role of Arts in Creativity Education

Policy makers around the globe have begun to recognize the importance of creativity as a key element in a forward looking society. In response to this imperative, educational authorities have identified the arts as a venue in which creativity can be developed in young people. The Webcast Symposium held by the UNESCO Chair in Arts and Learning on November 10 and 11, 2007 sought to clarify the issues surrounding creativity education through the arts, with a focus on goals, methodology and impact. The program was organized and hosted by Professor Larry O'Farrell. Professor O'Farrell holds the UNESCO Chair in Arts and Learning at Queen's University in Kingston, Canada, where he is Professor of drama and arts education.



Dr. Laura A. McCammon and Professor Aud Berggraf-Saebø

Presentations on November 10

On November 10, participants were welcomed by Dr. Rosa Bruno-Jofré, Dean of the Faculty of Education at Queen's University. Describing the UNESCO Chair as integral to the Faculty, she discussed aesthetic experience from a postmodern critique. Mr. David A. Walden, Secretary-General of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO explained how arts education fits with the priorities of UNESCO and how UNESCO has promoted it through international meetings and World Conferences. He also described the role of UNESCO Chairs and highlighted the importance of this, the only UNESCO Chair in the field of arts education.

An international survey of drama/theatre teachers on creativity in drama/theatre education was presented jointly by Dr. Laura A. McCammon, Associate Professor at the University of Arizona in Tucson and Aud

Berggraf Sæbø, Professor at the University of Stavanger, Norway. This study addressed fundamental questions about creativity education. What is creativity? Can it be taught? How do teachers of drama/theatre feel about teaching creativity? Results suggest that teachers of drama/theatre believe they are creative but feel that they are not well supported by their school systems.

Three colleagues from the Faculty of Education at Queen's University spoke next. Dr. Rena Upitis, Professor of Arts Education reminded participants about the lost arts of manual activity associated with craft making and domestic arts, relating them to current priorities in sustainability and caring in schools. Dr. Rebecca Luce-Kapler, Professor of Language and Literacy, cited the power of poetry to engage our human response and prepare us for the serendipity of insight and enquiry. Dr. Stephen Elliott, Associate Professor of Art Education and co-coordinator of The Artist in Community Education Program, argued that the arts are best positioned to offer a creative learning space in schools.

Ms Theodora Stathopoulos, recipient of the 2006 Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence and music specialist at FACE School in Montreal, used the occasion to reassess her own practice in fostering creativity, especially by stimulating student motivation through transcending musical experiences.

A report on the National Arts and Learning Symposium 2007 was presented by Ms. Madeleine Aubrey, part-time professor at the University of Ottawa and Dr. Michael Wilson, retired Professor of the University of Ottawa. The symposium was positioned as a response to the UNESCO World Conference in Arts Education with an emphasis on formulating an action plan for Canadian arts education. A second National Arts and Learning Symposium will be held October 29-31, 2008 at Queen's University, hosted by the UNESCO Chair.

Queen's Chair the first and only UNESCO Chair in Arts and Learning.



Mr. David A. Walden



Dr. Rena Upitis



Dr. Rebecca Luce-Kapler

Professor O'Farrell closed the webcast with a brief report on the World Creativity Summit held in Hong Kong in July, 2007 and plans for a second Summit in Taiwan in 2008.

Streaming video continues to be available.

Panel Discussions on November 11

The web-cast on November 11 featured panel discussions involving several presenters from the previous day. They were joined by Ms. Angela Elster, Executive Director of The Royal Conservatory of Music's Learning Through the Arts program and by Inouk Touzin, coartistic director of Groupe des Deux (G2) and development officer with l'Association des théâtres francophones du Canada (L'ATFC). Panel members discussed issues raised by representatives of on-site discussion groups and from web-cast viewers who contributed by e-mail or through the discussion board. Julia Brook, a PhD student at Queen's, coordinated questions from the Internet.



Ms. Theodora Stathopoulis

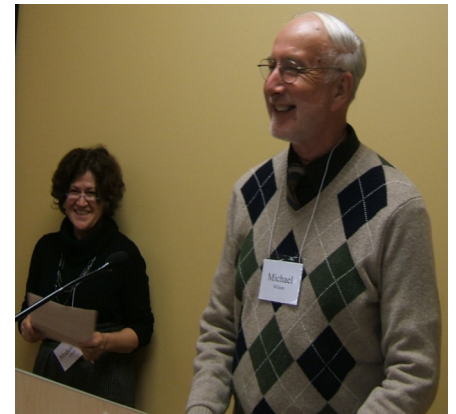
Cultural Program

On-site participants took part in a cultural program on November 10. This included a performance by Young Choristers Limestone Senior Choir (director Sherri Shenton) which recently celebrated two decades of vocal artistry. The program also featured singer-songwriter Gary William Rasberry who had just finished recording a solo project called *Curving for the Coast*, as well as novelist and poet Steven Heighton whose latest novel *Afterlands* was published in 2005 in Canada and in 2006 in the USA, where it was a New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice.



Dr. Stephen Elliott

"The arts are best positioned to offer a creative learning space in schools."



Ms. Madeleine Aubrey and Dr. Michael Wilson

Streaming Video Still Available

Streaming video of both web-casts supplemented by discussion papers prepared by some of the presenters continues to be available to viewers with broadband Internet access. Links can be found on the UNESCO Chair web-site. www.unesco-queens.ca

The Next Interactive Web-cast

The UNESCO Chair in Arts and Learning will hold the next Interactive Web-cast on May 6-7, 2008. The topic will be the development of a curriculum for teacher education in drama/theatre and the potential of e-learning to build capacity in this field.

Teachers of drama/theatre believe that they are creative but that they are not supported by their school systems.

Upcoming International Conferences, Festivals, Symposia, Workshops, and Courses in Arts and Learning

A regular feature of this newsletter is a schedule of upcoming conferences, festivals, symposia, workshops and courses of interest to artists and educators working in the field of arts and learning. We would like to circulate information about all, relevant arts and learning events. To add an event to this list in the next edition of the newsletter, please send information following the format, below, to unesco@queensu.ca. Events are listed in order of their announced dates. The UNESCO Chair in Arts and Learning at Queen's University is not responsible for most of these events. The Chair is unable to independently verify the details listed below and will not be liable for any inconvenience or loss resulting from inaccuracies or program changes. We are unable to provide additional information on any specific event and ask that you refer to the website or contact information provided in the listing.

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24th Alternative Academy, Centre For Drama Education Of B&H, Mostar, Bosnia And Herzegovina, January 2008: Light Design & Forum Theatre , February 2008: Puppetry , March 2008: Costume Design & Impro Theatre, April 2008: Sound and Music in Theatres, May 2008: Third Eye Opens (text work) June 2008: Playback Theatre
bihcdo@cob.net.ba.

The Second International Conference on Design Principles and Practices, Miami, Florida, USA, January 9 – 11, 2008 <http://design-conference.com>

6th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, January 11 – 14, 2008,
www.hichumanities.org

Leadership Retreat Weekend, Ontario Music Educators' Association, Orillia, Ontario, Canada, 8-10 February, 2008, e-mail lmatt0812@rogers.com .

Drama Australia Annual Conference, hosted by the South Australian Association for Drama in Education, Adelaide, Australia, March 2008, www.dramaaustralia.org.au

American Educational Research Association, Annual Meeting, Special Interest Group in Arts and Learning, New York NY, USA, March 24-28, 2008, www.aera.net .

6th Athens International Theatre/Drama and Education Conference, Theatre and Education at Centre Stage, the Hellenic Theatre/Drama and Education Network, Athens, Greece, March 27, 28, 29, 2008,
www.TheatroEdu.gr .

National Drama International Conference, Drama – Mind, Body & Spirit, St. Aidan's College, University of Durham, Durham, UK, April 8 – 11, 2008. www.nationaldrama.co.uk

International Conference: Performing Arts Training Today, International University "Global Theatre Experience" (IUGTE) Bovec, Slovenia, April 14-17, 2008, www.iugte.com/projects/Conference.php .

International Conference on African Culture and Development, ICACD, Accra, Ghana, 20 April 2008 to 24 April 2008, www.icaed.ccoghana.org/

International Symposium on Creative Construct: Building for Culture and Creativity, The Centre of Expertise on Culture and Communities at Simon Fraser University in collaboration with the City of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada, April 29 – May 1, 2008.
www.symposium2008.ca

The Caribbean International Conference on the Cultural & Creative Industries , National Cultural Foundation, Barbados, 05 May 2008 to 06 May 2008, www.ncf.bb.

Interactive Web-cast Symposium: Toward a curriculum for drama/theatre teacher education, UNESCO Chair in Arts and Learning, Faculty of Education, Queen's University, Kingston, Canada, May 6-7, 2008, www.unesco-queens.ca.

International symposium on cultural policy trends and challenges in Western countries, INRS, Québec, Canada, 07 May 2008 to 08 May 2008, www.inrs.quebec.ca.

16th ASSITEJ World Congress and Performing Arts Festival, Old Knowledge – New

Word, International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People, Adelaide Australia, May 9 – 18, 2008,
www.assitej2008.com.au/home

2nd World Creativity Summit, Taipei, Taiwan, June 5-8, 2008.

28th ISME World Conference, International Society for Music Education, Bologna, Italy. July 20-25, 2008,
<http://www.isme.org/2008/>.

American Alliance for Theatre and Education, Annual Conference, Creating Footprints in the Arts of Theatre and Education: Walking the Dream, Atlanta GA, USA, July 22 – 28, 2008, www.aate.com/conferences.asp

International Performers Village 08, Malpils, Latvia, August 1-28, www.iugte.com/projects/Performance.

The 32nd World Congress of the International Society for Education through Art, Osaka, Japan, August 5 - 9, 2008, www.insea.org/.

38th Annual Conference of the Council of Ontario Drama and Dance Educators, London, Ontario, Canada, 24-26 October, 2008,
www.code.on.ca
National Arts and Learning Symposium, hosted by the UNESCO Chair in Arts and Learning, Faculty of Education, Queen's University, Kingston, Canada, October 29-31, 2008, www.eduarts.ca.

PS 2009, Peace Sustainability Conference (Education Day June 19), Faculty of Education, Queen's University, Kingston, Canada, June 14-20, 2009, www.unesco-queens.ca

UNESCO World Conference on Arts and Education organized by the Korea Arts and Culture Education Service, Seoul, Korea, dates and venue to be announced, 2010.

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