

reaching out



Over 200 students from 18 Iowa schools gathered in Coralville recently for the 10th Annual International Day Human Rights Conference. This year's conference focused on the human right to health care.

The students, 6th through 12th graders, attended a keynote address from Clyde Lanford Smith, founder of Doctors for Global Health, an organization that promotes health,

education, social justice, and human rights throughout the world.

Smith presented stories and photos from his work around the world.

Pausing on a slide of a malnourished Philippine girl, Smith said, "I want you to think about ways we can work together so that all people have enough to eat. I think everyone sitting in this room has an opportunity to make a difference."

Students also attended two breakout discussion sessions from a list of topics ranging from "Race and Rights in Japan" to organ donation.

Craig Just, an adjunct associate professor in the UI College of Engineering, led a session called, "Health, Water, and Sanitation in Haiti." He started his talk by holding up a bucket of brown, murky water he'd collected from a pond.

"Who wants to take a drink?" he joked, before letting the students in on the point of his display.

"We have about 6.5 billion people, that's one in five people in this world, who drink water that looks like this," Just said. "To me, safe drinking water is a basic human right."

Jessie Glenn, a junior at Kennedy High School in Cedar Rapids, attended Just's session and said it opened her eyes.

"It's interesting to compare our water to everyone else's, to think about the advantages we have," Glenn said.



Smith describes Doctors for Global Health.



Just illustrates some of the world's poor drinking water.



Engaged students can make a difference.

education firsts

Cuthbertson One of Navy's First Female Aerial Navigators

Later in her life, Madeline (Burks) Cuthbertson (MA '49) was known as an exceptional math teacher and active volunteer. But in her 20s, Cuthbertson was part of an elite group of women who made history in World War II as part of the Navy's first co-educational class of navigators.



Madeline Cuthbertson serves as one of Navy's first female aerial navigators.

Out of 100 students in that class, 12 were members of WAVES, Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, a group started in 1942 and recognized as the first female military personnel whose duties were "truly those of regular air crew members," according to a 1999 *Aviation History* article.

While the WAVES boasted 86,000 female members in total between 1942 and 1945, only some 100 trainees, including Cuthbertson, became qualified aerial navigators.

Cuthbertson navigated on flights carrying cargo and personnel to San Juan, Guantanamo Bay, and the Coco Solo air station in the Panama Canal Zone.

Cuthbertson, who passed away April 29, 2006, remembered male passengers being surprised by her presence.

"At the canal zone, our passengers were sometimes men on their way stateside after years in the Pacific. When they asked what I was doing on the flight, and I told them I was the navigator, the looks on their faces were unforgettable," she said. "These were unheard of responsibilities for a woman in the Navy in those days and I guess they wondered if they'd ever see home again!"

Cuthbertson reached the rank of full Lieutenant before retiring from the Navy in 1947.

Expanding Experiences, Linking International Learning

Kathleen Goodman, a doctoral student in Higher Education, was among 13 Americans on a recent cultural study tour of Ghana, a country of some 22 million people in western Africa, to learn about the country and student affairs at its seven universities.

The trip was sponsored by ACPA, an organization for student affairs professionals and graduate students, and included stops at three universities.

“Across the board they told the same story of having enrolled too many students in the past several years and feeling the strains in housing and in classrooms that aren’t big enough to hold the number of students they are registering,” Goodman said. “The government of Ghana has done a good job of getting more students to attend and stay in school, but they have not made any plans for how to meet the needs of those students who want to go on to college.”

Goodman and her fellow travelers learned that Ghana’s school administrators plan to restrict enrollment in the coming years to alleviate overcrowding.

“This seems to echo the major economic problem that Ghana faces: It is a nation rich in resources—gold, cocoa, and tomatoes—but has no means to process those resources. Everything gets exported,” she said. “Now it seems like they are also at risk for ‘exporting’ the bright and educated individuals of their country who are desperate to get a college education and determined to find the means to do it, even if it means leaving the country. I suspect that this may become a real problem, unless those students are committed to returning to Ghana after they graduate college.”

Goodman said her trip, which also included stops at cultural and artistic attractions, taught her about global inequities and left her with many questions.



Ghana leaves Goodman (L) with questions and a desire to make a difference.

“I saw firsthand the poverty that we all know exists in Africa and I grappled with the reasons why our world is filled with such inequities. I wondered what it would take to make things change and what role I can play to make a difference in the world,” she said. “All in all, visiting Ghana was a wonderful experience that will affect me for the rest of my life.”

Testing Accommodations Focus of Coffman Lecture



Visiting Professor Susan Phillips

Susan Phillips knows there are no easy answers in the debate over testing accommodations. “I think this has been a tough issue because we have policy goals that are pulling us in opposite directions,” she said, noting that educators and testing experts are torn between a goal to include all students in testing

and a goal to maintain test score validity.

Phillips, whom UI professor emeritus **Robert Forsyth** describes as “one of our nation’s foremost authorities on assessment law,” discussed challenges in high stakes testing accommodations at the William E. Coffman Lecture Oct. 12. Her talk covered everything from important legal cases to types of accommodations.

Amanda Hornaday, a third year doctoral student in School Psychology, said she attended the lecture hoping to clarify the issues test accommodations raise.

“As a student learning about educational standards, relevant legal cases, and current legislative mandates, it is quite easy to be confused about where these things overlap and at what level they are enforced in what areas,” Hornaday said.

Hornaday said she was particularly interested in Phillips’ distinction between creating “access” to tests and “success” on tests.

“I had never thought about parsing these two constructs apart when it came to test accommodations,” Hornaday said.

Phillips said discussions about test accommodations often refer to “leveling the playing field.” But she feels that is an unclear term.

“We need to differentiate between problems the test causes and problems the test reveals,” she said.

Phillips has served as a visiting professor in the Department of Psychological and Quantitative Foundations this fall. The Coffman Lecture Series has existed since 1995 and is sponsored by the Iowa Measurement Research Foundation.

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