

Overall Summary

As with other years, 2007 has been one of transition and growth for the office of the Secretariat. FIU became the home of the Secretariat for a second three-year term after being elected during the Baltimore conference. Kingsley Banya was appointed as Secretary and Hilary Landorf remained Treasurer. Kingsley Banya resigned late in 2007 and Benjamin Baez, Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Florida International University, was unanimously approved by the Board and took on the role of Secretary in November 2007. Roger Geertz González, Assistant Professor, also in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, joined the Secretariat team as Newsletter Editor. Hilary Landorf remains Treasurer. Graduate Assistant Fernanda Pineda continues to run the day-to-day activities of the Secretariat, together with MS student Melissa Blake, who assists with bookkeeping 5 hours per week. The new Secretariat team has met once per semester (minutes available upon request).

Similar to 2006, the Secretariat has put into place the financial processes and procedures that administratively and financially stabilize the Society. The Secretariat also coordinated the Society elections for the second time.

There is a separate treasurer's report, and so we mention here just a few items of particular interest. Our financial situation continues to show improvement. The CIES annual conference in Baltimore netted a \$81,388 surplus under the leadership of President Steve Klees. Our combined income and investment interest this past FY is \$2951. Our total assets are now \$349,801. Our net assets are \$334,031, which includes restricted assets of the Kneller Endowment (\$104,672) and the NAASS (\$6,956). This leaves the Society with operating funds of 222,403. Our fixed annual expenses remain stable, in the range of \$65,000. The Secretariat continues to use a comprehensive accounting system whereby bank statements are entered and balanced and tax accounting is regularized. In 2007 we moved the Society's finances to an accrual accounting system.

CIES Website

Our website continues to receive numerous visits throughout the year. We are glad to report that there was a 65.7% increase in visits to the CIES website this year. In 2006 the CIES website had a total number of 82,382 visits; this year, the total number of visits increased to 125,395. In the last 2 years, our website visits have increased 58.35% (from 73,166 to 125,395 visits) (See Appendix A for statistics).

The 2008 summer's online projects include creating a secure board space with our hosting service, updating the historian's page, and establishing procedures for the SIG website pages. This year, as we did last year, we assisted UREAG and New Scholars in updating their website.

Electronic Communications

Through the development of our online services, the Secretariat strives to facilitate an active and vigorous online community. This year our hosting service expanded the

storage capacity of the Secretariat's e-mail tenfold, and we also created a backup of e-mails from 2005 and 2006. A future project the Secretariat will undertake is the transfer of the board's archives from "WEBCT" to a secure space on our CIES website, where there is opportunity for ongoing discussions.

There has been much activity this year via the list-serv. There were 93 e-mails/announcements from March 2007 to March 2008. We also handled an increased number of miscellaneous inquiries, especially from conference presenters.

This year we attempted to "create" our own list-serv (downloading the membership databases from UC Press) using the Secretariat e-mail (secretariat@cies.us), and enabled this function for our e-mail account. This was a modest but useful way of increasing control over the membership list since we must communicate directly with our members. Presently, UC Press manages our list-serv but communication is controlled by CIES.

Collaboration with UC Press

In 2007 we enjoyed a collaborative relationship with UC Press. We received a full accounting of membership dues, donations, rights and permissions, and journal sales. We now receive a monthly updated membership list and are able to track number changes in both our foreign and domestic membership. Last year we recommended that the Secretariat manage member relations, particularly with regard to electronic communications. Using our own e-mail as a list-serv is a first attempt in securing ownership of our membership list.

SIGs

The CIES Secretariat continues to keep updated records of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) membership, sends calls for SIG papers via the list-serv, keeps a record of SIG payments and annual reports, and includes SIG news and/or articles in the CIES newsletter and SIG announcements in the CIES bulletin.

The Secretariat continues to assist members in coordinating the management of their SIGs, and also in creating new groups. A pending policy matter is the annual dues collection. Last term we set December 31 of 2006 as the deadline for payment for 2007. However, only three SIGs submitted dues on time. For this year, we facilitated payment of dues by requesting pending dues payment during the conference. This seemed like a good option, since SIG members were in attendance. We still receive payments throughout the year (some in the form of lump payments (\$150) or in the form of several small checks of \$10). We strongly suggest that until we find a better way to collect dues, individual payments go directly to the chair, who then mails a \$150 check to the Secretariat. We still expect to collect pending balances at the conference.

Another pending policy matter is the web space for SIGs. Currently, the approach to "web services" provided by the Secretariat has not been very clear. Some SIGs create their own websites (such as Globalization and Education), and Fernanda Pineda uploads the new files. However, other SIGs request that we fully create (e.g., the Early Childhood SIG) or partially create (e.g., the Peace Education SIG) their websites either because they do not know how to create them, or they lack the matching program (FrontPage 2003).

In 2006 Steve Klees established a committee to review SIGs; this committee is chaired by James Williams. Benjamin Baez serves on that committee, which will be making recommendations to the Board soon. The Secretariat has helped this committee with its work, primarily by facilitating the administration of a survey the SIG committee developed.

Conference Planning

This year the Secretariat team worked closely with Gita Steiner (and Doyle Stevick) in conference planning. Since 2007 we worked with the hotel Gita Steiner selected as the conference venue and provided the financial information needed to process the contract. Furthermore, we assisted Robert Arno, who led the committee searching for a conference planning agency, by uploading the call for applications online and disseminating the information via list-serv.

We anticipate that as a result of the recommendations made by the planning committee headed by Gita Steiner-Khamsi, the Secretariat's role in conference planning will expand. See attached proposal for the expanded roles of the Secretariat (Appendix B).

For the 2008 conference we prepared 103 visa letters for foreign presenters/participants. To improve this service, we suggest that presenters are given a deadline for petitioning a visa letter.

We also assisted in checking presenters' memberships to implement the policy that all presenters must be CIES members. Approximately, one third of the presenters (about 500 people) for the 2008 Conference were nonmembers. After our notifications and follow-ups, approximately 250 presenters updated their memberships.

In the event that the Secretariat takes on more responsibilities in the conference planning process, we have begun to investigate conference planning software. After conferring with a software specialist, Landorf spoke with the owner of CONFEX, software used by the Organization of American Historians and numerous other academic conferences. Andria Wisler, coordinator of this year's conference, also spoke with the owner of CONFEX. Both recommend implementation of this software at the next conference.

After the Baltimore conference, we assisted Henry Levin in collecting participants' feedback on their CIES conference experience. Only 16 people replied (comments attached in Appendix C), but we consider post-conference feedback collection a powerful way to listen to our membership. Just as we designed the CER 2008 online survey, we will design the post-conference feedback survey and send it to all participants after this year's conference.

Nominations and Awards Committees

The Secretariat assisted the Awards committee in writing letters for the Kelly award participants, prepared the certificates to winners of the Cain and Bereday awards, and prepared Vandra Masemann's framed certificate.

We also worked closely with Alex Wiseman, chair of the nominations committee. We thank him for another great year of conducting the call for nominations, culminating in elections (coordinated by the Secretariat).

Newsletter

This year Roger Geertz González became the editor of the newsletter. The newsletter is now published both electronically, and in paper version upon request.

2008 Elections

This year, the Secretariat once again coordinated the elections with BigPulse. Members were able to have direct access from their e-mail to the ballot, without logging onto a website with a username and password. The general manager of Big Pulse worked closely and effectively with the CIES Secretariat staff, replied promptly to members' technical difficulties, and kept us informed of the progress of the elections.

In 2006 we received a total of 465 ballots; this year, 484 members voted.

In coordination with BigPulse, we initially sent paper ballots to those members that do not have a registered e-mail address. Big Pulse kept track of the bounced back e-mails which returned after several attempts and sent a list of those to the Secretariat. We then prepared an additional 53 paper ballots. Few members returned them (6) or wrote to the Secretariat with the new e-mail address, as requested on the paper ballot.

We were very satisfied with the services provided by BigPulse. As was the case last year, BigPulse provided space for comments in the online ballot. A typical comment expressed by the CIES membership was, "Thank you for the opportunity to vote online. The system was easy to use and provided all of the needed information in a friendly format. Decisions were difficult, however! Wonderful candidates!" We strongly recommend continuing to conduct elections with the services of Big Pulse. Appendix D contains all the comments of members who wrote them.

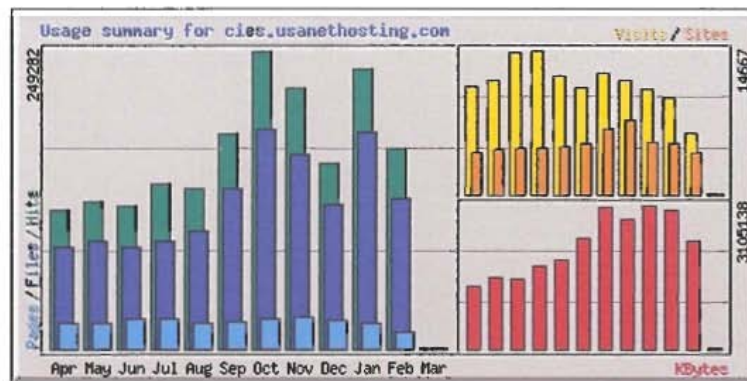
Appendix A
Annual Report for the CIES website
www.cies.us

Usage Statistics for cies.usanethosting.com - Last 12 Months

<http://cies.usanethosting.com/stats/index.html>

Usage Statistics for cies.usanethosting.com

Summary Period: Last 12 Months
 Generated 01-Mar-2008 06:34 EST



Summary by Month

Month	Daily Avg						Monthly Totals				
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits	
<u>Mar 2008</u>	364	292	56	42	44	6880	42	56	292	364	
<u>Feb 2008</u>	5777	4329	504	212	4230	2320978	6155	14640	125559	167536	
<u>Jan 2008</u>	7543	5842	704	317	5221	2991536	9851	21837	181132	233853	
<u>Dec 2007</u>	5005	3884	776	344	5242	3105138	10694	24086	120420	155160	
<u>Nov 2007</u>	7271	5414	878	387	7587	2804462	11616	26345	162438	218159	
<u>Oct 2007</u>	8041	5928	822	399	6657	3052105	12372	25483	183779	249282	
<u>Sep 2007</u>	6017	4477	760	361	5224	2398031	10836	22827	134331	180510	
<u>Aug 2007</u>	4331	3171	696	389	4875	1928981	12063	21605	98314	134286	
<u>Jul 2007</u>	4447	2915	816	473	4642	1805842	14667	25301	90373	137857	
<u>Jun 2007</u>	3980	2838	830	481	4645	1504755	14459	24903	85148	119403	
<u>May 2007</u>	3990	2926	699	375	4573	1541338	11655	21698	90716	123708	
<u>Apr 2007</u>	3873	2840	714	366	4249	1345084	10985	21432	85204	116207	
Totals						24805130	125395	250213	1357706	1836325	

Generated by [Webalizer Version 2.01](#)

Appendix B

Proposal for Expanded Role in Conference Planning for the Secretariat

I. Responsibilities

A. Venue

- Initiates and organizes conference web-site with information provided by President-Elect
- Develops and publishes pre-conference announcement
- Disseminates pre-conference announcements associated with the conference

B. Registration

- Handles special requests from participants
- Coordinates “scholarships”/subsidies offered by President-Elect
- Publishes draft of conference program/agenda on website

C. Program

- Receives all proposals
- Edits and enters proposals into standard format (with special software)
- Solicits reviewers (if requested by the President-Elect)
- Forwards all proposals to President-Elect for assembling into panels
- Prepares final conference program in collaboration with President-Elect
- Produces CD of Abstracts

II. Budget Estimate

A. Conference Planning Software	\$14500
C. Personnel:	<u>\$4500</u>
TOTAL:	\$19000

Appendix C Feedback Comments

Summary of Feedback Comments – Baltimore 2007

+s: basically on two floors with open access up and down (Not elevators); corridors wide enough to pass but close enough to bump into friends/meet new people; vendor tables in spaces where they are easily accessible without having to go to a room; adequate breaks between sessions and especially over lunch; snack bar very accessible; most rooms of adequate size for people attending sessions

-s: too long, liked old format better with workshops/SIGs up front; most all sessions were presentations, need to find ways to encourage dialogue, engage in problem solving; only one handy spot to get lunch... not adequate in bad weather; starting Sunday morning at 8 is not friendly.

--

Hi Hank,

In response to your query:

We are creating an ECD SIG, and it would be good to have another ECD Day.

Secondly, I think there is interest in having an education during and after conflict day (or some such title).

It was great to see you in Baltimore!

Best wishes,

--

In the most recent e-mail announcement for the 2008 CIES conference, the focus of the meeting was described as:

"Gaining Educational Equity Around the World" by gender, race, urban/rural, gender, handicap, social origin, language, countries, macro-regions, and so on.'

Please note that the term "handicap" is no longer used in the discourse to refer to people with disabilities.

I have attached an article that further explains and provides reasoning.

Thanks for your consideration,

--

Dr. Levin,

Baltimore was my first experience attending the CIES conference. I enjoyed the dynamic culmination of theory, research, and various disciplines, and to meet people doing interesting work around the globe.

To me the seeming challenge is that the society is so diverse (inter-disciplinary if you will) that many of the sessions did not seem to have a clear theme. This made it difficult for discussants to give directly relevant feedback to each of the panelists. I realize that the inter-disciplinary and

intimate nature of CIES is what draws many to the organization--certainly it drew and continues to draw me. I am just accustomed to larger conferences (e.g., AERA) in which all presentations within a symposium are concentrated around a specific theme, be it theoretical, methodological, or regarding a particularly research topic. Perhaps further efforts can be made for the 2008 CIES conference to have presentations that are more related and concentrated around particular themes.

Best Regards,

--

Colleagues,

The 2007 conference was for me a very useful one as most of the papers were scheduled in such a way that there was ample time to discuss the issues raised. SO I will suggest that you keep to the format and inform panellist and other presenters to leave at least one third of the time for discussion purposes.

On the social aspect the various receptions also proved useful venues as always for networking. Wishing you great luck with your organisation of the 2008 conference

--

Several good things at the 2007 meeting, and appreciated especially the UNESCO/UIS sessions on international educational statistics. Would welcome sessions on this topic at the 2008 meeting.

--

I liked the meeting between Journal Editors and potential contributors. That could be given greater prominence. (I'm the Editor for the Oxford Review of Education and Deputy Editor for Ethnography and Education.)

The place and date of this conference is excellent - just before AERA. Could we think about doing this every year?

Best wishes,

--

Dear Henry,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the CIES conference this year.. I really enjoyed my time at CIES and look forward to next year. Overall, I thought the conference in Baltimore was very well organized. I have only three small suggestions for next year. They seem trite, but I think they would make a positive difference.

1) I believe that one's school or organization should be in larger type on the name tags since that is often what people are looking to see, rather than a person's name. The name tags this year displayed the names in large font, but the school/organization name was in such small print that you couldn't see it until you were right up close to the person. Making that font larger would help in the networking process.

2) I think free coffee throughout the conference would make a huge difference. Even if it requires having people pay an extra \$5 for their conference registration, I think it makes sense. I heard a lot of grumbling over the fact that we had to pay for coffee during the conference.

3) Room assignments for different panels often seemed poorly matched this year. For example, I was on a graduate student panel in a HUGE (largely empty) room, while many of the higher level panel discussions I went to were in small, overflowing rooms. More attention to this would make sense if possible.

And other than those three suggestions, I thought things went quite well this year.

Many thanks and I hope you are well.

--

Thank you so much for asking for our feedback on the conference. My comments are:

Liked about conference:

Meeting rooms

Opening Reception

Time to meet with colleagues

Consider Changing:

Consider the timing of the conference as weather was/is an issue. We were unable to make it on time due to weather (along with several others). A lot of presenters were not there as they got held up due to weather.

The hotel ran out of rooms very early and like hotels were very expensive. Please consider the cost and number of rooms you reserve.

Regional meetings were not well advertised or attended.

There seemed to be an overwhelming number of student presentations. This is great, but perhaps there can be a limited scope. Also, there were way too many concurrent presentations – it seemed to be more than in the past.

Thanks

--

Thanks for the opportunity to give some suggestions. Here are some thoughts.

- There was a lot of interest in neurocognitive research (particularly with respect to reading) in this past CIES. The next conference could give special emphasis to educational neuroscience applications for international situations. The main conference speakers could discuss this issue. Special requests for presentations on this topic could be invited.

- Constructivism or teacher-led instruction? New evidence suggests rather strongly that 'constructivist' methods short-change the opportunities of the poor (see Kirschner, P. A., Sweller, J., & Clark, R. E. (2006). Why minimal guidance during instruction does not work: An analysis of the failure of constructivist, discovery, problem-based experiential and inquiry-based teaching. *Educational Psychologist*, 41(2), 75-86.) AERA this year will hold a debate on this issue. It will be useful if CIES did the same. This is an important topic because donors spend a lot of money promoting these methods to low-income countries.

- Statistical methods prevalent in research undertaken by international educators. Many education professors and students are weak in this area. A day-long workshop with hands-on exercises on laptops could help professionals update their skills.

--

I suggest encouraging presenters to use more active methodologies in their presentations. I attended a couple of panels where there was room for interaction and discussion beyond the traditional way to conduct the panels. Those are the sessions that I remember the best and that I really learned something.

I suggest being more strict when screening presentations, specially looking at the relevancy of the topic and the soundness of the studies.

--

I really enjoy meeting scholars and students who are interested in the international and comparative education field. It's a great opportunity to bring people together. However, there were only one or two speaker(s) for the first two sessions I attended. Later, several key-note speakers (at least I thought so) in a session were absent as well. After some of the sessions, I was told that the absent speakers who are originally scheduled just didn't show up without any advanced notice. In some cases, even the chair for the session didn't know what's going on.

When I came back from the conference, I heard that this type of situation has been with CIES for a while. If CIES considers to keep returning researchers and scholars as well as welcome new members, this might be a concern to be put on the table. At least some tentative policy is desired to address this so that all CIES presenters (maybe also include future presenters or non-presenters) would regard whether to present or not a more serious business.

Thank you for offering a forum for feedback.

sincerely,

--

Dear Dr. Levin:

I would like to recommend that the Society make a stand in favor of fair trade and labor practices by purchasing tote bags from an organization such as this one:

<http://www.ethicalgoods.org/index.htm>

A month after the 2007 conference, my "Made in China" CIES tote bag still smelled of toxic fumes. So as to avoid further exposure to my small children and myself of unknown but likely harmful substances, I had to dispose of the bag. It then dawned on me that the Society could contribute to the greater good by spending a bit more money on organic cotton bags that would benefit those who made them while also providing its members with a non-toxic and useful bag that could be enjoyed proudly and for many years to come.

Thank you in advance for considering this humble request.

--

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on CIES 2007 when planning for 2008.

Liked about 2007:

- on most panels, the titles of each paper was printed. Although one panel I was on had submitted paper titles, for some reason the titles did not appear on the program.
- there were many facilities within walking distance.
- the timing of the conference is OK.
- having a logical place to post messages was great.
- the internet connection in common places was also good.

Proposed changes for 2008:

- if possible, a less expensive hotel and banquet dinner. The student discount rates help considerably, but it is difficult to go to any conference. However, of all conferences I've experienced, CIES tends to be the most student friendly.
- minimize the discussant role if papers are not shared prior to the panel's assembly. If discussants didn't have the time or were not provided the papers, then skip this role and focus on comments and questions from the panel and the audience.
- ask all participants to have the abstracts available to hand out, preferably the paper.
- restaurant facilities and eating facilities in the hotel were limited for the size of the crowd.
- for some reason a lot of people had their programs go missing. It seems the hotel staff were picking them up and throwing them away. Arrange with the hotel staff to place found programs at the information desk. I, and many others, must have set down the program for a short moment and didn't find it again.

Thanks!

--

Dear Fernanda,

The theme of the 2008 conference seems excellent to me.

I liked very much the arrangement that was made by the schedulers of the 2007 conference to see that papers on early childhood education were not placed opposite each other. I know scheduling is complicated but I hope I hope that the lack of thematic competition criterion can be taken into account in scheduling sessions in 2008, not only for early childhood but for other SIG topics or thematic areas.

Regards,

Appendix D

Members' comments regarding elections

Poll CIES Board of Directors

	Date	Comment
1	14 Feb 08	my choice was based on their wealth of experience and dedication
2	08 Feb 08	I am pleased to vote. Thank you very much for this opportunity! Sincerely, Mariana Coolican.
3	08 Feb 08	None
4	27 Jan 08	Thank you.
5	23 Jan 08	As before, impressive organization of the voting! Well done.
6	18 Jan 08	No comment
7	18 Jan 08	Thank you for reminding me of voting!
8	17 Jan 08	I hope the future board will be as effective as previous
9	17 Jan 08	The candidates should, I think, all be asked to follow a similar point of view (personal, first person OR impersonal, objective) in discussing themselves, their experiences, and their future goals. I prefer the personal, to the impersonal. However, it would be easier to compare & evaluate the candidates if they all followed a similar style of writing. Additionally, it does not impress me (not in a positive way!) if the candidate tells me how really great he or she is. Save that stuff for the book publishers & other venues for self-puffery, please.
10	14 Jan 08	It would have been useful if all options came up at once. i closed the site after voting for the vice-president and then need to re-open it for the board members. This was a bit confusing, so I hope that all my votes were recorded.
11	03 Jan 08	This is a terrific tool!
12	02 Jan 08	This has been an excellent experience. I appreciate your use of this poll product.
13	02 Jan 08	Thank you for the opportunity to vote online. The system was easy to use and provided all of the needed information in a friendly format. Decisions were difficult, however! Wonderful candidates!
14	25 Dec 07	No
15	25 Dec 07	Happy holidays
16	23 Dec 07	The link to candidates' biographies led to last year's candidates. That makes it difficult/impossible for voters to make informed choices.
17	22 Dec 07	the link we were sent to candidate bios was for 2007. a little confusing.
18	22 Dec 07	Thanks for putting the pictures.
19	21 Dec 07	Web ballot is a good idea and well presented.
20	21 Dec 07	Very cool system ... Thank you !
21	21 Dec 07	I appreciate this online voting system for CIES elections. It makes it fast and convenient. Thank you very much.
22	21 Dec 07	great and efficient system!
23	21 Dec 07	The election process is very well streamed, fluid and easy to do. Congratulations to the CIES Secretariat staff for a job very well done.
24	21 Dec 07	I am happy to see that James H Williams will have an opportunity.
25	21 Dec 07	It would have been good if there were a brief biographical statement regarding each candidate's background qualifications for an office. It could have been sent by e-mail to all members before the balloting took place. This ballot is a great

improvement over the past attempts at electronic voting!
thank you!

26 21 Dec 07 I am thankful to CIES for arranging this easy-to-use system for voting. Very informative as well

27 21 Dec 07 This list of candidates does not match the list on the CIES website.

28 21 Dec 07 Thanks to all for their service to CIES