

## **IAN ANDREWS: Legacy of International Education in SFU's Faculty of Education**

*(excerpted from 2016 Chris Dagg Award for International Impact nomination)*

Dr. Ian Andrews has dedicated his career to education, and has worked in international education for 32 years – half of that time with Simon Fraser University. With the increasing importance of "internationalization" to Canadian educational institutions in the 1990's, Ian was recruited back to his alma mater, SFU, in 1995 to manage the growing international opportunities in the Faculty of Education. In the ensuing 16 years (until his retirement in 2011), he initiated and developed projects and programs involving numerous countries around the world, and he taught, mentored, supported and supervised hundreds of students – both international and domestic.

From 1998 to 2000, Ian was involved in international development consultancy projects funded by the Inter-American Development Bank. Working with the Ministries of Education in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, Ian and other SFU colleagues collaborated with universities and teacher colleges to build capacity in the areas of pre-service and in-service teacher education in those countries. In the mid-2000s, Ian's development assistant work also included CIDA-funded projects in South East Asia. As one of his Faculty of Education colleagues says about Ian: *"His efforts in international education were outstanding, and gave many of us at SFU the opportunity to contribute to the improvement of education in countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, and others."*

International mobility programs/projects delivered in the mid-2000s during Ian's tenure included the *Canada-European Community Program for Cooperation in Higher Education and Training* (funded by the governments of Canada and the EU), and the *North American Mobility Project* (funded through the Organization of American States). The Canada-EU program involved 48 Canadian and 48 European pre-service teachers in 12-week international school placements as part of their teacher education program. With the main objective of strengthening intercultural approaches to teaching and learning, the program resulted in the development and implementation of a culturally responsive curriculum for teacher education. Partners included six Faculties/Schools of Education from four countries: three Canadian universities and three European (England, Spain, and German) universities. The North American Mobility Project was a trilateral exchange program intended to foster the graduate training of education students from each participating country: Canada, USA, and Mexico. Students conducted research in another country with the goal of developing their ability to communicate and practice across cultural boundaries. The program involved, from each country, 3 universities (total 9) and 21 graduate students (total 63). The 2009 publication, *Challenges and Possibilities in Teacher Education: A North American Perspective*, was a product of this trilateral collaboration.

Under Ian's leadership, the Faculty of Education launched the very successful Short-Term Non-Credit international education programs, which were delivered on a cost-recovery basis. Close to 100 programs and a total of almost 2000 teachers and educational administrators from a wide range of countries (including Korea, Japan, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Greenland), have participated in these programs at SFU. Designed to provide opportunities for professional development through integrated activities such as workshop presentations, visits to local schools, and cultural field trips, these programs enabled participants to deepen their understanding of teaching, learning, and leadership in an international context. The response to the programs has been consistently positive and has resulted in further strengthening SFU's reputation abroad.

During his tenure at SFU, Ian was responsible for creating several unique activities for engaging students internationally. One program that exemplifies Ian's outstanding contribution to international engagement at SFU is the award-winning International Teacher Education Module (ITEM), a component of the Professional Development Program which prepares students for completing a BC teaching certificate. The ITEM program was established by Ian in the late 1990's as a way of preparing student teachers for schools where diversity, global education, English-as-an-additional-language and intercultural communication had become integral parts of classroom life and the curriculum. Through the ITEM, groups of students have an opportunity to spend nine weeks abroad, taking part in seminars, teaching, and community activities designed to broaden their experience internationally. Notably, this was the first international practicum sanctioned by the BC College of Teachers. Since 1999, almost 700 student teachers have participated in the ITEM, through partnerships developed in countries such as Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, China, India, and Mali. An impact assessment conducted on the ITEM 2015 cohort revealed quantitative and qualitative growth in intercultural competencies. Past participants often comment on the transformative experience of the ITEM, and how it has impacted their teaching practice. Recently the Faculty of Education received an email from the principal of an international school in Medellin, Colombia, who writes: "*I am an alumni of SFU's ITEM (International Teacher Education Module) with Paul Bishop and Ian Andrews in 2005 (Trinidad). It was an excellent experience and I draw on my learning at SFU every day. I thought of contacting SFU about our vacancy [for an experienced BC certified teacher].*"

In 2005, Ian was instrumental in developing the Master of Education in Teaching English as a Foreign Language, a full-time seventeen-month cohort-based program designed for students to develop their understanding of educational issues and practices specific to teaching English, while studying in a multicultural environment at SFU. This program was created in response to the growing demand for teachers of English worldwide – particularly in China. While the earlier years of the program attracted Chinese students almost exclusively, students now come from many different parts of the world including Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Russia, Ukraine, Brazil, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the USA and Canada. Ten years later, the program has graduated more than 230 students and boasts an exceptionally high retention rate. Graduates of the program remember Ian as a welcoming and supportive mentor who helped guide them through their studies and life in Canada.

In the late 2000s, Ian also created an opportunity for a small cohort of professors from Indonesia to complete their doctoral degree at SFU. This was a special cohort arrangement negotiated with their home institution – an institution with which SFU's Faculty of Education had a long-standing relationship with. With much support from Ian and faculty colleagues, all six of the cohort successfully completed their PhD, with the last one graduating in 2015. They are now all back teaching at their home institution, but keep in regular contact with their supervisors and friends at SFU.

One of Ian's strengths was his ability to draw together talented personnel to carry out international projects and programs. He encouraged many of them to advance their studies and professional development, and engage in research on international education. Ian's active encouragement led to at least 16 masters degrees, and 7 doctoral degrees. He was an advocate for research, and was a founding Steering Committee member of the Centre for Research on International Education. As well, he served on many graduate student supervision committees, contributing his expertise and guiding students in their theses completion.

Beyond the development of international activities, former colleagues speak fondly of their experience of working with Ian: his ability to motivate and inspire others; the excellent staff morale he created through respect, teamwork, open communication, consultation and fun; his dignity, diplomacy, and compassion; and

dedication to international engagement. Almost half of the faculty members were involved in international activities during Ian's tenure – a testament to his motivational influence.

At SFU, Ian has been recognized as an exceptional leader. In 2001, he was asked by the President to undertake a university-wide review of SFU's international activities. The recommendations of this report resulted in re-organization of the university's support structure for its international activities in order to enhance coherence, efficiency and effectiveness. A centralized unit, "SFU International" was created to provide definition and leadership to both the University's internationalization agenda and the strategic framework within which the agenda was implemented. And during the mid-2000s, Ian was asked to assume responsibility for some of the activities in SFU International during a transitional period.

Ian was well-known as a strong advocate for internationalization who led by example through applying his philosophy of a collaborative and collegial style: at the faculty level, across the institution, provincially, nationally and internationally. In 2002, he was recognized by the Canadian Bureau for International Education with their Internationalization Leadership Award.

Anyone who has met Ian will agree that he is a genuinely warm, caring, kind and thoughtful person – and that he is passionate about international engagement. The lasting impact he had on people is evident in the tributes written for his retirement book, and he leaves a strong and enduring legacy of international education in the Faculty of Education.

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*With contributions from Kumari Beck, Margaret Froese, Heather Tobe, Marv Wideen, Kris Magnusson, & David Zandvliet*