

et

EARCOS TRIANNUAL MAGAZINE

East Asia Regional Council of Overseas Schools

May 2010



Full House at ETC2010!

Don't miss the 42nd EARCOS Administrators' Conference 2010

October 30 - November 2, 2010

Sutera Harbour Hotel, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia

Keynote Speakers:
Charlotte Danielson
Allan Odden
Dr. Yong Zhao



Brent International School host the Special Education Network in Asia (SENIA) Conference 8

Making Connections: Advocacy for Students with Special Education Needs in International Schools in Asia

On February 26 and 27, 2010, Brent International School Manila hosted the 8th Special Education Network in Asia (SENIA) Conference, *Making Connections: Advocacy for Students with Special Education Needs in International Schools in Asia*. With two keynote speakers, Tina Santilli and Tracy Alloway, and a wide variety of special education related workshop topics in the *Advocacy, Awareness, and Interventions* strands, the conference drew participation from over 120 delegates from 30 different international and local schools and organizations from China, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam. During the opening ceremony, Andrea Zubiri, an 11th grade student at Brent International School Manila, recited her original poem entitled, “Being Different Ain’t So Bad,” for the delegates, which included special and general education teachers from all levels, guidance counselors, speech and language and occupational therapists, psychologists, administrators, special education consultants, and parents.

Ms. Santilli and Dr. Alloway led the conference strands, *Advocacy/Awareness* and *Interventions*, respectively. Conference workshop topics in these strands included social skills and cognition, reading and writing strategies, communication and collaboration, co-teaching, effective inclusion practices in the lower, middle and upper schools, assessment, resources for teachers and parents, self-advocacy, parenting, and autism spectrum disorders.

Ms. Santilli, as the practitioner, focused her keynote address and workshop presentations on the direction and successful development of special education programs in international schools. Her career experience has been divided between international schools in Tanzania, Indonesia, Singapore, Taiwan, and Qatar, including two International Baccalaureate World Schools, as well as schools in the United States, with instructional and leadership responsibilities in special education needs (SEN) and English as an additional language (EAL) in pre-school through graduate level higher education. She has presented topics related to SEN and EAL in a number of conferences, including the International Baccalaureate Organization’s Global Languages Convention in Singapore, the 5th Scientific Special Education Conference in Qatar, and the EARCOS Teachers’ Conferences in Manila and Bangkok. Currently, Tina is the principal of the Learning Center School (TLCS) in Doha, Qatar. TLCS is a unique school in the region, serving students in grades 1-12 with learning differences.

Tracy Packiam Alloway, Ph.D., as the researcher, shared her expertise on working memory and its impact on and strategies to improve students’ learning outcomes. Dr. Alloway is the director of the Center for Memory and Learning in the Lifespan at the University of Stirling, UK. She is the author of over 75 scientific articles and books on working memory and learning, and has developed the world’s first standardized working memory tests for educators, published by Pearson. Her research has received widespread international coverage, appearing in outlets such as the *Guardian*, *Daily Mail*, *Scientific American*, *Forbes*, *US News*, *ABC News*, and *NBC*. She is much in demand as an international speaker in North America, Europe, Asia and Australia, and is an advisor to the World Bank on the importance of working memory. She was recently awarded the prestigious Joseph Lister Award by the British Science Association for bringing her scientific discoveries to a wide audience.

The conference, guided by Jeffrey Hammett and Ian Sutherland, Brent’s deputy headmaster and director for academic affairs, respectively, and chaired by Ericson Perez, coordinator of Brent’s student services in the middle and upper schools, was supported by the Brent community, with donations from the Parent Teacher Association and Spirit Shop, as well as from EARCOS. Richard Krajczar, the executive director of EARCOS, was the guest of honor at the conference dinner. Sharing his wealth of experiences as a student and an educator, Dr. Krajczar gave praise and admiration for the delegates and encouraged them to continue their important work as advocates for students with special education needs.

SENIA was started by a group of international school teachers in China in 2002. Over the past eight years, SENIA has grown and developed as an organization of special education professionals whose mission is to “encourage the sharing of their strengths and be advocates for the young people with whom they work.” The intention was to create a network forum for professionals working with children with special educational needs in Asia. The heart of SENIA is advocacy for children with special needs in educational settings. Since its early beginnings, the group has grown and has included international school teachers, educational psychologists, therapists, support assistants, parents, and other professionals in the field of special needs. More information about SENIA can be found on <http://www.brent.edu.ph/senia>.

by Ericson Perez

2011

EARCOS TEACHERS' CONFERENCE

March 24-26, 2011 | Sutera Harbour Hotel | Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia (North Borneo)



Keynote Speakers

Geoff Green > Adventurer, Students on Ice

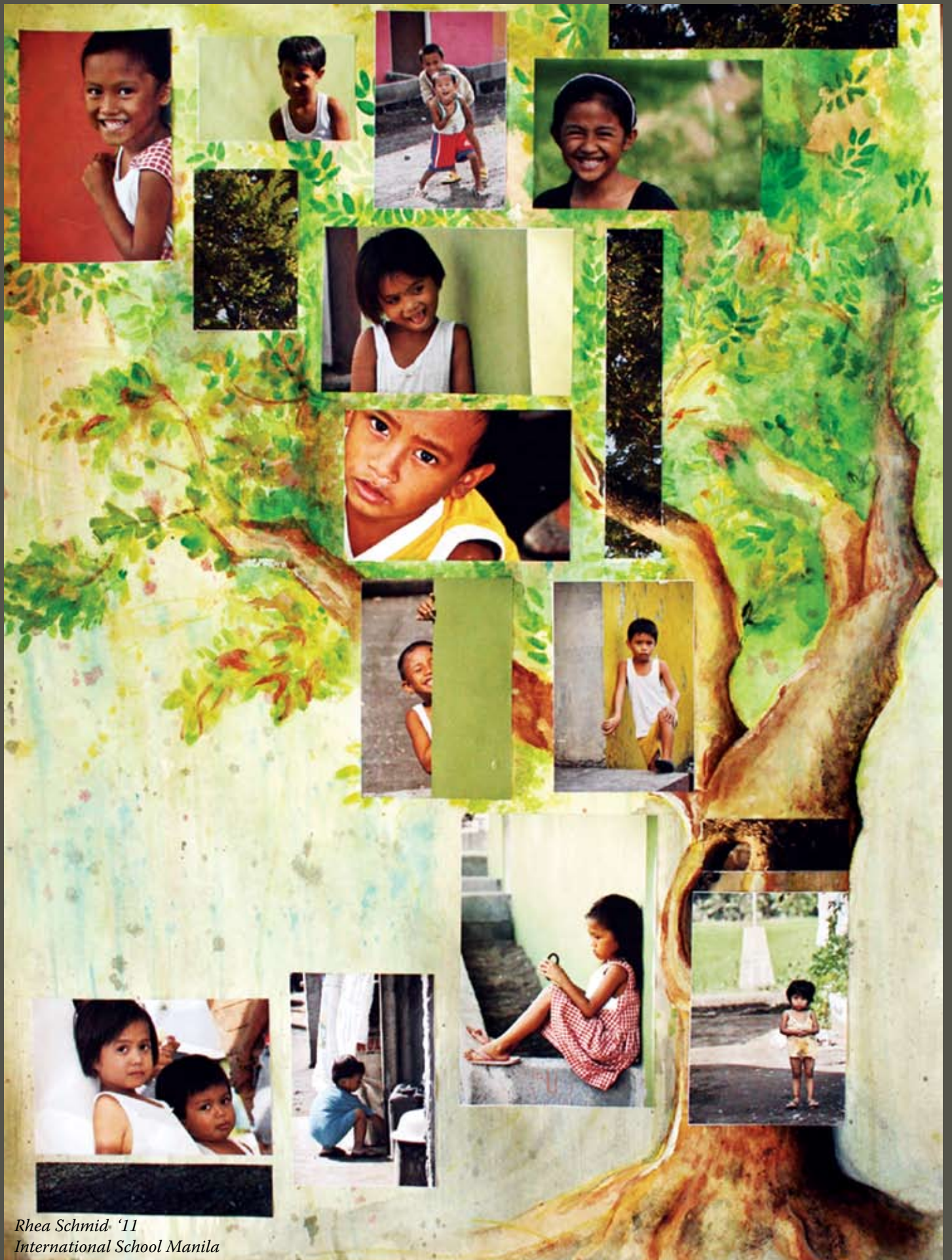
Fred Mednick > Founder, Teachers Without Borders

Michael Thompson > Psychologist- Boy's Issues

Social Studies
Science
Early Childhood
Children's Authors
Chinese Language

for more information please visit the EARCOS website at www.earcos.org

Strands



Rhea Schmid '11
International School Manila