



International News

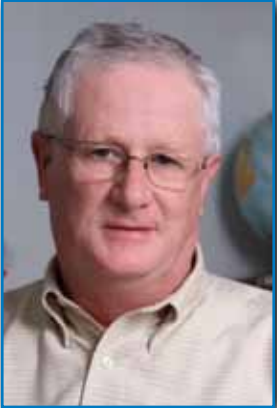
COMMUNITY COLLEGES FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, INC.

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The CCID President's Office Won't Be The Same

by Bob Keener

At some point it happens to all of us as the time comes when we know it is time to retire. John Halder has reached that conclusion after a lot of deliberation and soul searching. John will retire June 30 leaving CCID far different than the day he first assumed the office of CCID president.



John Halder
CCID President

Shortly after John announced his retirement he and I had a long conversation and what follows are the highlights of that discussion.

Keener: You've just announced your retirement at the end of June 2010. You have been at CCID for 12 years. What are the major changes you have seen during this time?

Halder: I actually worked with CCID for about 8 years as

an International Education Director for Kirkwood, plus the 12 years in this position – for a total of about 20 years. During the past 12 years CCID has doubled from about 80 colleges to over 160. We have seen our budgets expand from less than half a million to multi-millions. We have changed from a U.S-centric to a global organization. And in keeping with that we have seen our non-U.S. membership grow from about 5 to 35.

Keener: Why did you decide to retire now?

Halder: I have had a number of health issues this past year, and I know that I don't have the energy that I used to. I just don't bounce back like I did a few years ago. And then I see the energy of people younger than me, and it just suddenly felt like the time was right.

continued on page 3

A Study in Alternative Energy!

by David C. Butty

Twenty-six WCCCD students returned home recently from Brazil in search of the source for green energy technology.

When Eva Richardson packed her bags to participate in the Wayne County Community College District's study abroad trip to Brazil, she knew that the trip was not going to be just another stamp in her passport, but an unforgettable learning experience that will pay dividends long after her college days are over at WCCCD.

Richardson, a pre-nursing student, was one of 26 students from various program disciplines who traveled to Brazil for a week of intensive educational and cultural study. The focus of the trip was to learn conversational Portuguese and study Brazil's role in alternative energy production, specifically, ethanol from sugar cane. WCCCD students were invited to study at the Federal University of Sao Carlos in Sao Carlos, Brazil, about 200 miles from Sao Paulo. The university sits on 1,290 acres with about 150 acres of preserved land.

The students were accompanied by David C. Butty, executive dean for international programs; Mary Jones, vice president at the downtown campus; Judith Smouter, district dean for student services; and Julie Figlioli, project manager in the chancellor's office. WCCCD students have experienced the world by studying languages, political, educational, and the economic systems in countries such as Austria, Australia, Argentina, France, Ghana, India, England, and Mexico. The trip was arranged through Escape Tour International, under the leadership of Irv P. Jones.

While in Brazil, the students participated in Portuguese language classes. They were treated to a great lecture on the various uses of ethanol and the reduction of carbon emission by leading scientists including professor, Dr. Octavio Antonio Valsechi. Dr. Valsechi is a research scientist at the university's campus in Araras, about 60 miles



Tremaine Radcliff (L), Tiffany Mendryaga and Britany Kelly taste fresh coconut juice upon arrival in Sao Paulo, Brazil

continued on page 5



CCID President Retires continued

Keener: But you are not totally withdrawing from CCID are you?

Halder: That's correct. I like to think of this as a phased and strategic reassignment. While I shall be out of governance and decision making, there is a huge amount of CCID that resides in my head. I plan to share this information, make a lot of introductions for my successor, and also work on part-time projects.

Keener: What sort of projects will you be working on?

Halder: I think that most of them can be summarized under the term "branding and marketing." There is a quite a bit of writing and working with the new global regions to assist CCID position itself among similar organizations worldwide. And along side that there are many colleges worldwide that do not know about CCID. I hope to change that.

Keener: What CCID projects or activities are highlights for you as you think back?

Halder: There have been so many, it is really hard to answer, but those that come to mind include the work in Guyana under the leadership of Pete Kellams; obviously, the major awards from the United States Department of State—they have had such a profound impact on CCID; on a personal level the work that CCID has done with the Premier Nurses College in Kumasi Ghana; and the ongoing work that CCID and many colleges—including Sinclair—have done in India. CCID profoundly helped

nurture the community college movement /development in India, just as we are currently doing in Georgia.

Keener: Will you be doing any other work in addition to working 50% time with CCID?

Halder: I've already been offered a couple of private projects. I hope that part of what I shall be doing is working with colleagues here and overseas on a variety of tasks. But it is still early days, and I need to stay focused on CCID for the next few months.

Keener: Who are the people you recall working with during these 20 years?

Halder: Oh gosh, there are so many. And the danger of making lists is that someone will be left out so I hope that I won't offend anyone. I can't forget Peter Kellams from St. Louis. I learned a great deal from Pete when traveling with him overseas in the early days. Paul McQuay from Delaware County was a wonderful mentor to me on the ways of Washington, D.C. Dr. Norm Nielsen, who took a chance and appointed me as the Kirkwood International director; and then Dr. Mick Starceovich who has willingly continued the Kirkwood / CCID tradition. And you, Bob, have been a constant and faithful friend over the years. Your advice has always been solid. Thank you. The office staff have been incredible too, especially Andrea Siebenmann who has been with CCID the longest after me. And Carrie Anderson, who for the past

18 months has kept me focused and organized. And Carol Brown who has masterfully juggled all the components of CCID. All the staff are gems though and through, and it has been great working with such dedicated people.

And I have also learned so much from working with such gifted people as the presidents who have chaired the board and served on the Executive Committee. This list would not be complete without thanking the college international directors who have stepped up to the plate on so many occasions.

And I can't end this without mentioning my wife, Nancy and my children. Nancy has kept the wheels turning at home; represented the family at so many school functions that I'm ashamed to recall them; got the cars serviced, flats changed, electricians called, and so much more. And Simon, Hannah and Rachel have been wonderfully forgiving for the school events I missed. I am truly blessed both at work and at home.

