Introduction:
Dr. David Anderson, Leadership and Counseling Department, College of Education, Eastern Michigan University (EMU), initiated the idea to host the 2010 annual Midwest Regional Comparative and International Education Society conference at EMU.

I have been actively involved in International Education, with Dr. Anderson's encouragement, since 2008 and happily took on the responsibility of organizing and coordinating the CIES regional conference. Dr. Anderson and I have established partnerships with universities in Russia, Uganda, and The Netherlands. We have hosted scholars from Russia, Uganda, and Iraq, and are successfully contributing to the internationalization of EMU. Dr. Anderson has had previous experience when he hosted the Midwest CIES Regional conference in October, 2003.

Goals:
We set up the following goals for the Midwest Regional CIES conference:
- to promote EMU within the Midwest Region of the United States, nationwide, and internationally as an international university;
- to conduct a comprehensive discussion among the participants about internationalizing curriculum across university disciplines and programs;
- to involve EMU students and faculty across the campus in the conference preparation as well as participation in the conference as presenters and audience;
- to bring faculty and students from other universities throughout the Midwest region of the US and from universities outside of the United States to Eastern Michigan University for the many learning and sharing opportunities and for further collaborations.

Conference Location and Dates:
The conference took place October 29-30, 2010 in the EMU Student Center which is a very attractive newly built facility on the campus of EMU, as the location for the conference. We requested dates of availability from the Student Center in March 2010 and were advised the only available dates were October 29-30, 2010.

It was found later that another international conference, the Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS), https://www.cess.muohio.edu/, was scheduled to take place October 28-31, 2010 at Michigan State University. Some of our colleagues, who are members of both CIES and CESS, decided to attend the conference at MSU.

Conference Committee Members and Volunteers:
Dr. David Anderson, Conference Chair, Associate Professor with EMU's Leadership & Counseling Department (general supervision, hosting the conference participants, reviewing full papers of conference presenters, advertising)
Inna Gorlova, Conference Coordinator, Doctoral Student with EMU's Leadership & Counseling Department (organization and management, organize meetings, collect email addresses, provide information for the conference website, develop the program, correspondence with participants, host the delegation from Russia, organize accommodation and transportation for the conference participants upon request, develop conference evaluation questionnaire)

Cheryl Aubouchon, Director, EMU-Livonia, Doctoral Student with EMU’s Leadership & Counseling Department (assigning rooms at the EMU Student Center, catering, goody bags, email addresses, program review, and conference registration on Saturday).

Christie McWilliams, Doctoral Student at the University of Houston, EMU Phi Delta Kappa Chapter member (proposal reviewing – 90%, Global Networking Dinner organization, goody bags, program review, photographer)

Muayad Mahmoud, undergraduate student, EMU (street signs; he negotiated with the EMU administrators that the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management provides 25 fellowships for EMU students to pay conference registration fees http://www.emich.edu/mwcies2010/scholarships.html )

Dr. Michael McVey, Assistant Professor, EMU Department of Teacher Education (conference evaluation survey design)

Eva Xingbei Ye (collect emails from local universities; photographer)
Serhiy Kovalchuk (collect emails from local universities)

Heather Gray, Michelle Doughty, and Leslie Homier, graduate students with EMU’s Leadership & Counseling Department (help with the posters by remote presenters, photography)

Dr. Kristin Janka Millar, Associate Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Michigan State University (proposal reviewing – 10%, communication with Dr. Maria Teresa Tatt, CIES President)

Barbara Hopkins, Kirk Carman, Karen Metz, marketing team (website design and updates, registration on Friday, payments, budget, goody bags, conference poster signs).

Keynote Speakers:
1. Dr. Stephen Burwood, Director for International Programs, Eastern Michigan University
2. Mr. Michael McClellan, Diplomat-in-Residence, University of Michigan
3. Dr. Jack Kay, Provost, Eastern Michigan University
4. Dr. Maria Teresa Tatt, CIES President, Associate Professor, Michigan State University
5. Dr. Iveta Silova, Associate Professor, Lehigh University, CIES member, Chair of Eurasian SIG
6. Dr. Nikolai Borytko, Professor, Volgograd State University, Russia

Conference Program:
The conference program contained seven keynote speakers (one presented via Skype), open and closing plenary sessions, eight roundtable discussions, nine panel presentations, 18 paper presentation sessions which contained 69 presentations, two poster sessions for 19 poster presentations, and one video/Skype poster session for four presentations by those international participants who were not able to attend the conference. There were 213 presenters assigned to the program who represented 57 universities and 10 countries.
Approximately 250 people were in attendance for the two day conference. Upon the request of their professor, approximately 30 students from Wayne State University were permitted to attend sessions on the second day of the conference but are not included in the total of those in attendance.

The conference program is available at the following site:

**International Participants:**
‘International participants’ are those individuals who traveled to the conference from outside of the United States or those that presented remotely via Skype and YouTube from a country other than the United States.

We had eight visitors and three remote participants from Russia, three presenters from Canada, one presenter from Kyrgyzzstan, one remote participant from Rwanda, and one remote participant from Portugal.

**Technology Use:**
We had one keynote speaker from Russia and four presenters from Russia, the Netherlands, and Rwanda who were not able to attend the conference. For these presenters, we were able to setup video/Skype sessions and poster boards with their PowerPoint slides which were forwarded to us by the remote participants prior to the conference. The remote presenters were requested to prepare their video presentations and upload them to a specific account on www.youtube.com.

Four of five video presentations are still available online:
- Irina Zlotnikova, Rwanda, Africa http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Rv20Ww947w
- Ekaterina Starodubtseva, Voronezh, Russia http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5uDtoR1nWA&feature=related
- Natalia Serostanova, Voronezh, Russia http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7u6gfmcwOI&feature=related
- Ekaterina Gorbunova, Portugal http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZl-vVwXfjE

**Photo 1: Dr. Borytko via Skype**

**Photo 2: Dr. Zlotnikova participating in discussion, via Skype, following her remote presentation**
**Funding:**
We had unused funds in the amount of $3,000.00 which was provided as a Stimulus grant from the Provost’s office at Eastern Michigan University.

We received a total of $5,760.00 from the conference participants and did not use University funds for the conference.

We requested our University sponsor to transfer some of the stimulus grant funds to partly cover the costs of hosting the group of eight Russian visitors.

**Accommodations and Transportation:**
We posted information on Ypsilanti/Anna Arbor local hotels and restaurants on the conference website at: [http://www.emich.edu/mwcies2010/hotels.html](http://www.emich.edu/mwcies2010/hotels.html)

For those participants, who requested hotel recommendations, it was suggested that they stay at the Extend Stay America in Ann Arbor. This is where we accommodated our Russian guests at very reasonable room rates and were able to help some of the guests with rides to EMU and back to the hotel. As an example, we provided transportation for one of our keynote speakers, Iveta Silova, and her four students who also participated in the conference.

We were able to accommodate a few Russian speaking participants (graduate students) in the apartments of Russian speaking students at our University. This not only provided them with free housing but also the opportunity to establish friendships with their peers at EMU. It was a very positive experience for everyone.

**Networking Events:**
We had two networking events during the conference. The first, called “Networking Global Dinner”, was held at the end of the first day in the ‘Tower Inn’ restaurant and was limited to those who made reservations prior to the conference. This restaurant is located within walking distance of the Student Center and was able to very comfortably accommodate the approximately 60 people in attendance.

The second event was planned for those participants who were available and willing to stay after the conference ended. This event was a reception hosted and paid for by the Leadership & Counseling Department and we had roughly 35 people in attendance for this successful event.

**Advertising:**
We used all available resources to advertise the conference. We collected email addresses from different universities, posted the Call for Proposals on various websites, forwarded it to our colleagues through personal networking, and advertised for students in our classes.

In order to advertise on the main campus of EMU, we made use of the digital boards located on campus which are provided at no cost by the marketing department of EMU for University events.

**University Administration Involvement:**
We promoted the CIES regional conference among University administrators who had no prior knowledge of CIES and really appreciated the opportunity to learn about this international organization. We also invited EMU’s Provost, Dr. Jack Kay, and the Director of International Programs, Dr. Stephen Burwood, to deliver keynote presentations at the conference. Our idea for the involvement of top level University administrators was to contribute to the development of International Education across EMU’s campus and make our efforts and initiatives visible on the institutional level and appreciated by the EMU community, by representatives of universities.
elsewhere, and by our international visitors.

Photography:
We had a few volunteers who were willing to take pictures at the conference. As a result, most of the pictures we received were not taken professionally. Our recommendation for the future is to have a professional photographer at the conference.

Reviewers:
We had very limited resources of reviewers. This was very problematic and next time we need to work better in order to attract more people and better distribute the loads. The lack of reviewer resources affected negatively posting the conference full papers as the conference proceedings.

We still do not have the conference proceedings available on the conference website but it is my hope that we will be posting them online at the beginning of February, 2011.

Conference Evaluation:
We developed a questionnaire to assess the conference organization. Shortly after the end of the conference, the link to the survey was sent to each registered conference participant. As a result, the received feedback showed the conference as one that was held with a high level of quality.

Due to the Midwest Regional CIES conference EMU was not only advertised nationwide but also internationally. We believe that this conference enhanced EMU’s image and prestige as a school of higher education that develops International Education on-campus and contributes to International Education in the region, as well as nationally and internationally.

EMU faculty and students were given the opportunity to interact with international visitors, with participants from other universities in the United States, and establish relationships for future collaboration.

Acknowledgements:
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