



SGIS
Swiss Group of International Schools
Annual Conference
March 6–7, 2009
Zurich



Back to School...
Rekindling a passion for content: Exploring new topics across subject areas

This conference goes beyond pedagogical practice to focus on rekindling a passion for content. The teacher is put back into the classroom not as a process learner, but as a content learner. A wide range of subject specific sessions are offered that will inspire teachers and administrators across grade levels. A variety of inspirational and international speakers, who are experts in their field, will assemble to explore and share issues in subject areas from Biology to Literature, Maths to History, Music to Humanities and ToK to Science. The conference simulates a school day, where attendees circulate through a host of sessions that will prove highly engaging and enriching to one's teaching.

Hosted by the Zurich International School
Upper School, Eichenweg 2, 8134 Adliswil, Zurich



March, 2009

A word from Peter Mott, Director ZIS

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of our ZIS community I would like to extend a warm welcome to you. We feel privileged to be able to host this year's SGIS Annual Conference and hope that your stay here will prove intellectually stimulating and provide ample opportunity for invigorating professional dialogue as you go "back to school."

The theme of this year's Conference contains several key words which describe what may be the essence of an effective, modern education: "(re)kindling", "passion", "exploring" and even that virtually taboo word "content". Without content what we do in our classrooms every day would remain devoid of purpose, without substance or direction. By the same token, however, unless we manage to kindle passion in our students (and within ourselves) for learning and unless we inspire them to explore connections, the unfamiliar beneath the familiar, content remains lifeless, an indulgence only of the mind.

The same is true for us as teachers, of course. We learn not in order to amass facts and knowledge bytes (that would amount to little more than trivial pursuit), but to gain understandings and insights which extend our comprehension of who we are, what we are capable of achieving, and how we might best and most ethically fashion our destiny.

We live in a turbulent, uncertain, some might say chaotic age. More often than not today's forecasts and predictions turn out to be tomorrow's errors and astonishingly poor judgments. I would like to think that the one constant in this maelstrom of our times is the magic which can happen in the interaction between teacher and learner, between learner and the infinite "content" of the world in which we live. When there is passion for examining the unexamined, for questioning the unquestioned, and when we engage in this journey accompanied by "the best that has been thought and known in the world" (Matthew Arnold), anything is possible and we may yet create order and beauty out of chaos and turbulence.

In this spirit I wish you an enjoyable Conference and a reaffirmation of the conviction that yours is the most important profession in the world. Welcome!

Peter C. Mott
Director
Zurich International School



March, 2009

Chairman's welcome

On behalf of the SGIS Committee I should like to wish a warm welcome to all participants at the 2009 SGIS Conference. The Swiss Group of International Schools is proud to be one of the largest and most active international school groups operating in a single country. We are keen to ensure that this small nation's reputation as home to a remarkable concentration of outstanding and innovative international schools is fostered and celebrated. We are committed to helping educators who have made Switzerland their professional home to receive the best possible support and encouragement, not only from their own schools but also from the diverse fraternity that SGIS represents.

Our conference theme this year, "Back to School: Rekindling a passion for content", was chosen to take participants beyond pedagogical practice to focus on reigniting personal interest in a wide range of subject areas, allowing the teacher to rediscover the challenge of being a learner. We acknowledge that much of the value of conferences such as this comes from the personal exchanges between peers and friends, and it is our active hope that you will enjoy the opportunities to build personal links during both the conference days and the gala dinner.

Thank are due to our generous hosts at ZIS; to you, the participants, for taking the initiative to join us in Zurich; to the speakers for sharing their wisdom and experience; to the exhibitors for the practical enrichment and value they add; to the committee and our tireless secretary for their many months of contribution to planning. As always, we hope that you will all leave the conference inspired, motivated and eager to return in a year's time!

Richard McDonald
Chairman, SGIS

Conference Sponsors

We would like to thank our generous sponsors including:

- Apple Computers
- Boots Beauty Products
- Goldkenn Chocolate
- Scholastic International
- Office Depot
- Villars Vanguard Jazz Orchestra
- Exhibitors for their support, sponsorship and raffle prizes

A special word of thanks to Steven James at Atlas Promotions for all his hard work in contributing to this conference.



The Scholastic logo, featuring a white book icon on the left and the word "SCHOLASTIC" in a white, bold, sans-serif font on a red background.

Conference & Transport Information

What is where?

- Registration in the main foyer
- Conference at the ZIS Upper School
- SGIS Conference Office in Room ...
- Exhibitors in the Aula
- Coffee/Tea in the exhibition area
- Lunches to be collected from the exhibition area
- SGIS Gala Dinner at 19:15 at ZIS; music by the *Villars Vanguard Jazz Orchestra*.

Transport information

For those catching the train, connect to Thalwil from Zurich main station. From Thalwil shuttle buses will be in operation at the following times to take you to the ZIS Upper School Campus:

Friday 6th March

- 08h15 to 09h45 Shuttle Bus from Thalwil to ZIS
- 16h30 to 16h45 Shuttle Bus from ZIS to Thalwil
- 18h45 to 19h15 Shuttle Bus from Thalwil to ZIS
- 22h45 to 23h15 Shuttle Bus from ZIS to Thalwil

Saturday 7th March

- 08h15 to 08h45 Shuttle Bus from Thalwil to ZIS
- 15h00 to 15h30 Shuttle Bus from ZIS to Thalwil

*Back to School...
Rekindling a passion for content: Exploring new topics across
subject areas*

Adjunct Conferences and Sessions

Pre-Conference Workshop – Thursday, March 5, 2009

ZIS Upper School

“CIS ACCREDITATION WORKSHOP - THE TEAM VISIT”

CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

**BASED ON THE NEW SEVENTH EDITION OF THE
CIS "GUIDE TO SCHOOL EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION"**

Presented by Gerry Percy, Director of Accreditation Services

Pre-registration required directly with CIS (www.cois.org)

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Co-conference: SGIS Librarians' Group - Saturday, March 7

ZIS Upper School Media Centre – 2nd Floor

09:00 – 10:00 General Forum for SGIS Librarians' Group

10:00 – 11:00 The Online Web 2.0 Tutorial

23 Things is an online, Web 2.0 tutorial originally designed to help public library staff learn about new technologies – Blogger, Flickr, Del.icio.us, RSS, etc. By October 2008, 500 libraries in 15 countries had adopted or adapted the program for their own staffs. Last November librarians at ZIS and our colleagues at ICSZ and ISZL began the tutorial. Are you interested to know how it went – what we learned, what was frustrating, what was fun? Wonder if you could do it too? Want to know how to get started? Not a librarian? No matter... The tutorial's focus is on Web 2.0 tools not on library applications. If you feel hesitant or your staff or faculty has been reluctant to explore the potential of the new Web in the classroom and the media center, *23 Things* might just help get things started.

13.30–15.30 Tour of the ZIS Media Centers

Join the ZIS library staff for a tour of four of our five library media centers and a presentation on the fifth. Each facility has its own unique, functional and appealing physical style. Each serves a different grade range and curriculum needs. We love our media centers and we love to show them off. Be our guests! Please sign up for the tour when you check in to the conference. The tour is limited to 14.

Conference Programme

Friday, March 6th, 2009

- 8.15-9.45 Shuttle bus Thalwil to ZIS
- 8.30-9.30 Conference Registration, Refreshments and Exhibitors
- 10.00 - 10.30** **Opening ceremony**
(Main Hall)
- 10:30- 11:30** **Keynote Address: Kuki Gallmann**
“Content that matters”
(Main Hall)
- 11.30-12.30** **Conference Sessions**
- Session 1 **Dr. Walter Van Doninck (Science and Physics)**
“Big Bang cosmology and its relation to particle physics”
- Session 2 **Robert Allen Johnston (History)**
“What were they thinking? Understanding the rise and fall of Nazism: Part I
- Session 3 **Will Kirkwood (Technology)**
“Keeping it smart – using whiteboard technology in the classroom” – Beginner level
- Session 4 **Thierry Basset (Geography and Geology)**
“Pleins Feux sur les Volcans” (Note: this session is in French)
- 12.30-13.30** **Lunch, Exhibitors and Exhibitor Workshops**
Please see page 12 for Workshop outlines
- 13:30-14.30** **Conference Sessions**
- Session 1 **Mike Tracy (Music)**
“Improvisation for intermediate and advanced Musicians”
- Session 2 **Dr. Bruce Francis (Cross Curricular)**
Description forthcoming

- Session 3 **Professor Valentine Cunningham (Literature)**
“Trying to get to the bottom of literary meaning”
- Session 4 **Dr. Tyrone Hayes (Biology and Environmentalism)**
“Atrazine on our doorstep” Part I

14.30-15.00 **Exhibitors and Exhibitor Workshops**
Please see page 12 for Workshop outlines

15.00-16.00 **Conference Sessions**

Session 1 **Dr. Walter Van Doninck (Science and Physics)**
“Capita selecta from experimental particle physics”

Session 2 **Kuki Gallmann (Science and Social Studies)**
“Environmental priorities for the planet”

Session 3 **Will Kirkwood (Technology)**
“Keeping it smart – using whiteboard technology in the classroom” – Beginner level II

Session 4 **Guy Padfield (Philosophy and Mathematics)**
“Beyond Rubik – Adventures in Higher Dimension”

16.45 **Shuttle service to train station**

Evening Events!

Friday, March 6th

19.15 ***Pre-dinner drinks at ZIS Upper School***

19.45 ***Gala Dinner at ZIS***

Music by Villars Vanguard Jazz Orchestra



22.45 ***Shuttle service to Thalwil train station***

Saturday, March 7th, 2009

- 8.30 Shuttle Service
- 8.30–9.00 Refreshments and Exhibitors
- 9.00–10.00 Conference Sessions**
- Session 1 **Mike Tracy (Music)**
*“Music and Improvisation for Musicians and Non-Musicians”
Part II*
- Session 2 **Robert Allen Johnston (History)**
“What were they thinking? Understanding the rise and fall of Nazism” Part II
- Session 3 **Dr. Tyrone Hayes (Biology and Environmentalism)**
“Atrazine at our doorstep – a deeper investigation”
- Session 4 **Guy Padfield (Philosophy and Mathematics)**
“Divine Logic – the Ontological Argument and its Implications”
- 10.00-11.00 Conference Sessions**
- Session 1 **Kuki Gallmann (Anthropology and Social Studies)**
“Safeguarding traditional cultures”
- Session 2 **Dr. Bruce Francis (Life long learning)**
Description forthcoming
- Session 3 **Dr. Ilya Eigenbrot (Physics and Chemistry)**
“Lasers: Unravelling the Mystery”
- Session 4 **Professor Valentine Cunningham (Literature)**
“Reading the First Page of a Novel. Case study: Dickens’s Great Expectations”
- 11.00–11.30 Refreshments and Exhibitors**

- 11.30–12.30** **Conference Sessions**
- Session 1 **Mike Tracy (Music)**
Music Room
“Music and Improvisation for Musicians and Non-Musicians”
- Session 2 **Dr. Tyrone Hayes (Biology and Environmentalism)**
“Atrazine at our doorstep” Part II
- Session 3 **Dr. Valentine Cunningham (Literature)**
“Reading a Poem and its Poet: WH Auden’s ‘August for the people and their favourite islands’”
- Session 4 **Guy Padfield (Philosophy, Mathematics and Physics)**
“Buddhist Metaphysics”
- 12.30-13.30** **Lunch, Exhibitors and Exhibitor Workshops**
Please see page 12 for workshop outlines
- 13.30-14.30** **Conference Sessions**
- Session 1 **Dr. Bruce Francis (Life long learning)**
Description forthcoming
- Session 2 **Dr. Ilya Eigenbrot (Physics and Chemistry)**
“Munching Molecules: The Science of Food and Cooking”
- Session 3 **Will Kirkwood (Technology)**
“Keeping it smart – using whiteboard technology in the classroom” – intermediate level
- Session 4 **Robert Allen Johnston (History)**
“Guilt and Reconciliation in Germany: dealing with the Nazi past”
- 14.30-15.00** **Closing: Speakers and SGIS committee**
- 15.00** Shuttle buses depart

Exhibitor Workshops

Friday, March 6th - 12.30 to 13.30 AND 14.30-15.00

- Workshop 1 **Stefan Mueller-Morungen, Apple Computers**
"Creative Content Creation at your school"
- Workshop 2 **Sarah Fabel, British Council IELTS**
"How to meet students' requirements for the IELTS test with the growing demand in the outside world"
- Workshop 3 **Susan Krumrei, Scholastic**
"How to get and keep kids excited about reading"
- Workshop 4 **Gerhard Stolz, Texas Instruments**
"Introducing TI-Nspire technology; Differences TI-84 plus TI-Nspire; Working with TI-Nspire documents; Interactive classroom"
- Workshop 5 **Kate Bailey, Curriculum, Evaluation and Management (CEM)**
"Discussion on the use of CEM data in the International School of Geneva"
- Workshop 6 **Diane Simmons-Tomczak, Pearson Education**
"21st Century Online Teaching & Learning"

Saturday, March 7th - 12.30 to 13.30

- Workshop 1 **Stefan Mueller-Morungen, Apple Computers**
"The power of content creation: best practices from around the world"
- Workshop 2 **Diane Simmons-Tomczak, Pearson Education**
"21st Century Online Teaching & Learning"
- Workshop 3 **Gerhard Stolz, Texas Instruments**
"Introducing TI-Nspire technology; Differences TI-84 plus TI-Nspire; Working with TI-Nspire documents; Interactive classroom"
- Workshop 4 **Kate Bailey, Curriculum, Evaluation and Management (CEM)**
"Use of CEM assessment in the primary years"
- Workshop 5 **Zöe Schweitzer, Scholastic**
"Expert Space and Bookflix"

Speakers: Profiles and Topics

Kuki Gallmann

The 100,000 acre wildlife conservancy at Ol Ari Nyiro is the fruition of a 30-year labour of love by Kuki Gallmann. Born in 1943 and raised near Venice, Italy, Kuki always nurtured an inner calling for Africa. Her dreams were realized when Kuki, her husband Paolo and her son from a previous marriage, Emanuele, moved to Kenya in the 1970's. They immediately fell in love with the estate, then a cattle ranch, in the remote district of Laikipia, and settled down to what they expected to be an idyllic future. Fate, however, had other plans. In 1980 Paolo was tragically killed returning to the ranch a few months before the birth of their daughter, Sveva. A few years later Emanuele was fatally bitten by one of the snakes he studied so passionately. Far from allowing these events to destroy the dream, Kuki, resolved to establish a sanctuary for the extraordinary flora and fauna so abundant on the estate; a living memorial to those Kuki loved, a tribute to their dream and an oasis of natural beauty for the future. In 1984 The Gallmann Memorial Foundation was born.

To protect the land for perpetuity, Kuki and Sveva phased out the cattle, dedicating the estate solely to conservation, and established a trust in lieu of their ownership, reflecting their shared belief that we do not own the earth, but are merely its custodians. As the visitor will immediately appreciate, this crucial philosophical nuance is prevalent in every aspect of the conservancy's operation.

Set high above the Great Rift Valley, today the conservancy is a testament to her vision, hard work and determination. A safe haven for free-roaming elephant, zebra, cheetah, leopard, lion, giraffe, buffalo and boasting some of the richest bio-diversity on the continent, one finds some 400+ bird species, one of the largest indigenous population of Black Rhino in East Africa, superb research and educational facilities and outstanding, world-class safari lodges.

In this small corner of Kenya, Kuki has established a natural temple to wildlife, youth education, community service and the preservation of the Kenyan tradition. A flagship for eco-tourism and education, the Foundation actively supports the surrounding communities and promotes that very key to our future: sustainable living and the harmonic co-existence between humans and nature. From forest to savannah, mountains to lakes, the thick, verdant bush teems with wildlife, offering an increasingly rare, unblemished glimpse of the real Africa.

Her 1991 international best-selling autobiography, *I Dreamed of Africa*, has been translated into 21 languages and, in 2000, made into a major motion picture of the same name starring Kim Basinger. At the Kenya Premiere of the film she raised substantial funds that have been distributed amongst the local communities of Ol Morani, Sipili, Kaptuya and Tebelekwa.

She has written four other bestselling books, including "African Nights", "Il colore del Vento" (The colour of the Wind, a collection of poetry in Italian), "Night of the Lions", and most recently "Elephants in my Orchard". She is working at present on a book with the National Geographic. She contributes to several publications.

Innovative schemes for essential oils extraction from indigenous plants have been initiated by her to protect African biodiversity and in 1989 she received His Royal Highness Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands' prestigious "Order of the Golden Ark" Award "for outstanding services to conservation in Kenya and for promoting the study of local plants for medicinal purposes".

She has received an Honorary degree in Human Sciences at the University of St. Lawrence and has been nominated for the Italian presidential award Cavaliere all Ordine della Repubblica Italiana.

She was awarded the prestigious Founder's Award by The American Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) in New York in 2001 and the Mimosa d'Oro for the Woman of the Year Award in Catania, Italy in April 2001 and is a goodwill ambassador for the African Medical Research Foundation and their Flying Doctors Outreach Program. She is **Chairman** of the Education committee of the Laikipia Wildlife Forum that aims to make African ecology part of Kenya primary school curriculum and she is a member of the Olave Baden Powell Society.

Both she and her daughter Sveva became Kenya citizens several years ago, and are passionate world goodwill ambassadors for their adoptive country. Kuki divides her time between Ol ari Nyiro, Nairobi hosting guests including many international schools with international speaking engagements and writing. www.gallmannkenya.org

Mike Tracy

A veritable "Ambassador of Jazz", Mike Tracy is one of America's foremost jazz educators, with more than thirty-five years of performing and teaching experience. Professor Tracy holds Bachelor's of Music and Music Education degrees and a Master's of Arts in Higher Education from the University of Louisville. Among his teachers are nationally prominent jazz musicians such as Jamey Aebersold, David Liebman, Jerry Coker, and David Baker and he has shared the stage with such stars as Ella Fitzgerald, Buddy Rich, J. J. Johnson, Curtis Fuller, Johnny Mathis, Marvin Hamlisch, the Four Tops and the Temptations. He has also teamed up with jazz greats Jamey Aebersold, David Liebman, Rufus Reid, David Baker, Bobby Shew, Jerry Coker, Dan Haerle and Pat La Barbera for concerts and club appearances around the world.

Professor Tracy is Director of the Jamey Aebersold Jazz Studies Program at the University of Louisville School of Music in Kentucky, where his responsibilities include teaching saxophone, advising graduate and undergraduate students, and directing the annual Jazz Fest. In addition to his duties at the University, he is a longtime faculty member of the widely renowned Jamey Aebersold Summer Jazz Workshops, where he has served for over thirty years. Additionally, Tracy has performed and recorded with the Louisville Orchestra in both classical and pop settings. Although education has been the main focus of his career, Tracy has also made forays into the worlds of recording, publishing, and arranging. He has four CDs to his credit on the SeaBreeze label.

In the classrooms, studios and concert halls, Mr. Tracy has developed a variety of innovative approaches to jazz education, enabling him to work with music students of any proficiency.

Sessions:

Improvisation for Musicians

Open to all musicians – jazz/non-jazz, accomplished/novice. Session will focus on improvising over a blues and possibly a modal tune. Try your hand at being expressive and overcome the fear of improvising. Learn to communicate via your instrument/voice without speaking. Make sure to **bring your instrument and/or voice!**

Music and Improvisation for the Non-Musician, Session 1

This session will focus on how to listen to and appreciate a jazz performance – live or on recording. Hear what the jazz musician listens to and for, and how it opens the door for the creative process via improvisation. Participants will be encouraged to try improvising with others in a musical setting – no musical experience necessary.

Music and Improvisation for the Non-Musician, session 2

A continuation of session 1, (equally open to those who did not attend the first session). A review of how and what to listen for as an improviser in a group setting. Participants will improvise with the instructor, amongst themselves, and with a recording. Inhibitions are left at the door, for improvising is fun!

Dr. Ilya Eigenbrot

Dr Ilya Eigenbrot, as a young man, built over twenty different model rockets, employing reaction propulsion systems using chemical propellants including cellulose, zinc-sulphur and black powder. The rockets included ones with simple inertial guidance and telemetry systems, as well as single-shot still cameras. Ilya went on to study Chemistry at Heidelberg University and Imperial College London, where he then completed a PhD with Professor David Phillips in the application of lasers to medical imaging. He became the Director of the International Office of Imperial College, and went on to found a laser company in France. In 2008, he became the Principal of St. George's School in Switzerland. He has been involved in science communication worldwide for over 15 years. He probably has Europe's largest private collection of lasers.

Sessions:

“Lasers: Unravelling the Mystery”

The word 'Laser' still conjures up images of death-rays and scientists in white lab coats in the minds of many people, but this versatile device, dubbed 'The Solution in Search of a Problem' when it was first invented only 45 years ago, has invaded all of our lives. Whether in CD players, laser printers or the fibre optics that carry our conversations around the globe, we all use lasers in some way practically every day. Find out what makes lasers tick, what makes them so special, and what kinds of things they can be used for in this exciting talk stuffed full of demonstrations.

"Munching Molecules: The Science of Food and Cooking"

We must all eat, but what is our food made of? Chemicals. What do we call it when we mix chemicals and heat them? Chemistry, of course! And just like a good chemist must understand what's going on in their test-tubes to get a successful reaction, so a good cook must understand some of the chemistry in the saucepan to make a great meal. Unconvinced? Then come to 'Munching Molecules: The Science of Food and Cooking' and find out for yourself. You will be treated to a smorgasbord of culinary chemistry, as reactions occur under your very gazes (and noses), and dinner is served.

Professor Valentine Cunningham

Valentine Cunningham is Professor at Oxford University specialising in modern literature and literary theory, and he has written in books, essays, chapters in scholarly criticism, in Introductions to novels, in his anthologies (of Spanish Civil War writing and Victorian poetry and poetics) on a **wide range** of critical-historical **topics**, including Shakespeare, the Novel, the Victorians, literature of the 1930s (most notably in his seminal 1989 work *British Writers of the Thirties*), postmodernism, musical literature, theology and literature and the Bible. He has lectured widely around the world and has been a Visiting Professor in the USA, Australia and Germany (where he was Permanent Visiting Professor at the University of Konstanz for ten years). Professor Cunningham reviews widely for various British and American journals and newspapers, and broadcasts regularly for BBC Radio on literary and musicological topics. He has twice been a judge for the Booker Prize (1992 and 1998), and was a Regional Chair for the Commonwealth Writers Prize (Eurasia Region) in 1999 and 2000. His most recent book is *Reading After Theory* (2002).

Sessions:

Trying to get to the bottom of literary meaning.

An illustrative story of an attempt to pursue what is traditionally thought of as the goal of critical reading, namely 'getting to the bottom' of the literary matter – with the help of Shakespeare's Bottom the Weaver.

Reading the First Page of a Novel. Case study: Dickens's Great Expectations.

The important first page: where we fall into narrative, into the fiction, where the plot starts and the fable opens, and where the steering of the reader and the reading begins. How do we do it, not fall into error, get it more or less right?

Reading a Poem and its Poet: WH Auden's 'August for the people and their favourite islands'

Taking this canonical English poem as a test case for the reading of a text in several possible dimensions: in itself as a formalist construct; in relation to its author; in relation to its historical time.

Dr. Bruce Francis

Bruce Francis served as President of Capella University from 1995 to 1999, then as Chancellor until 2002. Prior to joining Capella, he was President of Saybrook Institute, (1991-1995), Academic Vice President of Walden University(1980-1991) and Associate Professor of Higher Education and Associate Director of the Survey Research Center at The State University of New York at Buffalo (1970-1980).

Dr. Francis earned a PhD in education and psychology from the University of Michigan (1970), with emphasis on the organizational and social psychology of higher education. During the 1960s he served as a faculty member and administrator at the University of Maryland's campus in Munich, Germany and was featured speaker at the graduation ceremonies of Augsburg and Nuremburg American High [School](#) and at the Institute Montana in Switzerland.

He is a Consultant-Evaluator for the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association and serves as trainer and facilitator in North Central's Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) and has published 3 books and over 50 articles and research reports, including *The Proposal Cookbook*, a step-by-step guide to dissertation research.

His current areas of interest include cognitive science, adult learning, distance education, chaos and complexity theory, and qualitative and quantitative methodologies in inquiry and action research.

Currently, Dr. Francis holds the position of Distinguished Senior Faculty at

Capella. He teaches online courses in the History of Education, Future of Education, and Advanced Research. He is a member of the Naples, Florida chapter of the Council for Inquiry where he is exploring the memetics of religious belief and the findings of modern science that challenge them.

Sessions: *Awaiting information*

Robert Allen Johnston

Originally from Texas, Robert Johnston studied at Saint Petersburg College in Florida and Wayne State University in Michigan with a concentration in History, International Studies and German. After eighteen months on a full scholarship to Germany he completed his undergraduate studies at the Amerikanistik Institute at Ludwig Maximilians Universität (LMU) under Prof. Berndt Ostendorf. He is currently employed by the LMU at the Geschwister Scholl Institut for Politics as a Research Assistant for a 2 year project on Guilt and Reconciliation under Prof. Doktor Cristopher Daase and Doktor Stephen Engert and is on sabbatical from his graduate thesis in Amerikanistik since the birth of his daughter Amelia in January. He is a trained guide for the KZ memorial at Dachau and was certified under the the direction of Herr Peter Koch who is the educational department head of the facility. He has led countless "Third Reich" tours in Munich and is an engaging and informative speaker.

Sessions:

What were they thinking? Understanding the rise and fall of Nazism (Parts I and II)

Guilt and Reconciliation in Germany: dealing with the Nazi past

Dr. Tyrone Hayes

Dr. Tyrone Hayes is a leading biologist at the University of California at Berkley, gave a talk about his discovery that the weed-killer atrazine may be short-circuiting the reproductive machinery of amphibians exposed to farm chemicals in spring runoff. The result is a large number of feminized male frogs. Dr. Hayes is the first to link pesticides to the mysterious ill health of amphibians native to North America. More information can be found at <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/field/explorers/tyrone-hayes.html>.

Sessions: *Atrazine at your doorstep Parts I and II*

Dr. Walter van Doninck

Dr. van Doninck, a German-born Belgian citizen, studied Physics in the Universities of Antwerp and Brussels, work that led to a doctorate in the domain of sub-atomic particle physics. Since then his research work and widely published writings have established him firmly as a leading figure in his area of expertise. In addition to a teaching role at the Vrije Universiteit in Brussels he has collaborated for many years with researchers at CERN, near Geneva, working on some of the most ambitious scientific experiments ever conceived in the quest for a better understanding of the Laws of Physics that govern the universe.

Sessions:

Capita selecta from experimental particle physics

At the eve of the start-up of the Large Hadron Collider at the CERN laboratory near Geneva, a review will be given of our present understanding of matter and forces at the elementary level. The anticipated highlights of the LHC research programme will be illustrated. The recent progress in our understanding of the neutrino sector will also be reviewed.

Big Bang cosmology and its relation to particle physics

After reviewing the experimental pillars on which the Big Bang hypothesis rests, the early instants of the universe, invisible to astronomers, will be illustrated in the context of the Standard Model of particle physics. The expected contributions to our understanding of the universe from particle physics research will be highlighted.

Please note that these sessions do not require specialised scientific knowledge.

Guy Padfield

Guy Padfield was educated at Ipswich School and won an open scholarship to Pembroke College, Cambridge, in 1983, graduating with an M.A. in Natural Sciences and Theology, with Sanskrit. In 1989 he was awarded an M.Phil. in Philosophical Theology from Oriel College, Oxford, with a thesis on the logical structure and progression of Kierkegaard's stages of existence. After a period teaching maths and physics in international schools he read Law at the University of Westminster and in 1995 was called to the Bar at

the Inner Temple. He was soon drawn back to teaching, however, and never practised Law. He currently teaches Maths, Physics and Theory of Knowledge at Collège Alpin Beau Soleil in Villars sur Ollon. He is a keen musician, endurance sportsman and butterfly photographer.

Sessions:

Beyond Rubik – Adventures in Higher Dimensions

The standard 3D Rubik's Cube has baffled and entertained people for about 30 years. Recently, working, higher-dimensional analogues have appeared on the internet allowing you to scramble and solve cubes in 4D and 5D – cubes that cannot be produced physically or even truly pictured with our 3D visual imagination. Participants will use these working 'hypercubes' as a starting point for an exploration of higher dimensions and ask what it would be like to live in a higher-dimensional world. Mostly, this will be just for fun – but if physicists are right, higher dimensions are a reality. No mathematical (or cubing) knowledge is needed for this session.

Divine Logic – the Ontological Argument and its Implications

In the 11th century, Bishop Anselm set out his famous 'ontological argument' – a purely logical proof of the existence of God. Related proofs were subsequently proposed by others, including celebrated mathematicians like Descartes, Leibniz and Gödel, and today there are still those who claim forms of the argument are valid. But many mathematicians and philosophers, including most notably Kant and Russell, have vigorously opposed the idea that pure logic can bring anything at all into existence, let alone the Almighty. This session will consider and evaluate the arguments and ask what is at stake. What are the implications for our understanding of reality if pure logic can, or alternatively cannot, wield existential force?

Buddhist Metaphysics

Early Buddhism bequeathed a legacy of scholarly philosophical analysis that remains widely unknown or misunderstood in the modern world. This session will look at the Buddha's original teachings on the nature of conditioned existence and see how they developed in the hands of philosophers like Nagarjuna (2nd-3rd century AD) into an understanding of reality not dissimilar to that of later empiricist and positivist thought in the West. While the session will address the relevance of Buddhist analysis to a contemporary understanding of reality, there will be no attempt to promote Buddhism as a religion, the session being aimed at those of any faith or none.

Will Kirkwood

Will Kirkwood is the IT Curriculum Coordinator from the Lower School at ZIS. His background is classroom teaching and he enjoys exploring different ways to present information.

Sessions:

Keeping it Smart (Beginners I)

Have you ever wondered what tool can bring "IT" into the classroom in an easy yet highly engaging way? The Smartboard is one of the most powerful IT tools available which can enable teachers to effectively integrate technology into their daily teaching practice. This session is designed for people who are new to using - or have never used - a Smartboard (or interactive whiteboard). We will explore how by investing just a small amount of time to learn the basics you too can use this tool in amazing ways in your classroom. So let yourself become the student and explore the possibilities.

Keeping it Smart (Beginners II)

This is a continuation of the first session "Keeping it Smart". People who missed the first session are welcome to attend this session. The purpose is to equip interactive white-board users with a useful array of practical ideas.

Keeping it Smart: Taking it to the next level (Intermediates)

So you use a Smartboard (or Interactive Whiteboard) - but do you really use it to its full potential? Smartboards are an amazing tool and during this session we will explore ways to bring your lessons to life. This session is aimed at people who have been using the Smartboard for a while. So if you want to take your understanding to the next level, this session should provide practical ideas and strategies.

Thierry Basset

Attiré par la nature et les sciences dès son plus jeune âge, le genevois Thierry Basset débute ses études supérieures en 1983 au département des sciences de la Terre de l'université de Genève. Après l'obtention de sa licence, il décide d'orienter ses travaux de recherches vers la volcanologie. Après deux missions de terrain sur l'Etna en Sicile et de nombreuses

analyses en laboratoire, il conclut son diplôme, puis continue ses études avec une formation de troisième cycle sur les risques géologiques. Il décide ensuite de prolonger ses travaux de recherches en volcanologie et se lance dans un doctorat qu'il effectue dans le cadre d'un projet de coopération scientifique et humanitaire entre la Suisse et le Guatemala. C'est en 1995 qu'il obtient le titre de docteur ès sciences.

Depuis 1998 Thierry Basset consacre toute son activité professionnelle à la vulgarisation scientifique en sciences de la Terre. Il conçoit, organise et guide des voyages à thèmes volcanologiques en France, en Italie, en Grèce et en Islande. Il organise et guide des journées de découvertes géologiques en Suisse et en France pour expliquer la longue histoire géologique qui se cache derrière les paysages des Alpes et du Jura. Il présente des conférences sur les volcans, anime des expositions, participe à des festivals, donne des cours grand public dans les universités populaires et participe activement à la formation continue des enseignants suisses. Toutes les activités que Thierry Basset développe actuellement n'ont qu'un seul et unique but: partager ses connaissances avec le grand public pour lui faire découvrir une facette souvent méconnue, mais souvent spectaculaire, de la nature.

Session:

Pleins Feux sur les Volcans

Une éruption volcanique est le plus beau spectacle que la nature puisse nous offrir. Ce cours traitera de la relation entre les volcans et la tectonique des plaques et des différences entre les volcans effusifs et les volcans explosifs.

SGIS Membership information

Please remember to pay your membership fees for 2009/10 by June 10 2009.

Membership fees

CHF 4 per student with a minimum of CHF 400 per school and a maximum of CHF 3000 per school

Bank details

Account: Swiss Group of International Schools
UBS, PO Box CH 1260 NYON
Account number: 228-E0122617.O



***The 2010 Annual General Meeting will be held on
Friday September 26, 2009 —Venue TBA.***

***The 2010 SGIS Conference will be held on
March 5-6th, 2010
at the International School of Lausanne***

Please check the website for SGIS News and Events!

Please complete the attached Conference Feedback form included in your binder as we plan for future conferences and SGIS events.