

Keynote Speakers for Opening and Closing Plenary Sessions

Terrice Bassler



Bio Data:

Terrice Bassler is an education development specialist whose career has spanned several decades of working for both the World Bank in Washington and, during 1994-2005, for the Open Society Institute (foundations of philanthropist George Soros) in many parts of the world. Mrs. Bassler assists national governments, local communities and non-governmental educational organizations with their efforts to improve schooling, often during historic times of conflict, sociopolitical transition and human struggle. She has worked in Bosnia and Kosovo to help keep schooling alive, in South Africa to support educators and disadvantaged black learners to move forward from the apartheid era, and in China's education reform during the late 1980s. Recently, she has been assisting with the revival of teaching and learning in the vast earthquake-affected areas of Pakistan, where thousands of schools collapsed onto victims when disaster struck in October 2005 at just after 9:00 in the morning.

An experienced leader, trainer, writer and analyst, Mrs. Bassler has edited a collection of her own and colleagues' reflections on the experience of war, schooling and transformation across the Balkans, where she lived and worked for many years. The book is entitled *Learning to Change* (2005), published by the Central European University Press and available through Amazon.com. She holds degrees from McGill University in Canada and George Washington University in the US. During 2003-2005, Mrs. Bassler was a Visiting Fellow with the Institute of Education in London. In 1996, she was honored in the country of Albania by the naming of a four-classroom, elementary school, "Shkolla Terrice Bassler" in Belshe, a rural community where she introduced successful programs to increase community involvement in education.

An itinerant American national, she currently divides her time between residences in the U.S. and South Africa. Mrs. Bassler serves as an independent consulting advisor to numerous groups and worthwhile initiatives. This way of life allows for balance between continuing engagement with social activism and the vital space for reflection, well-being, and sharing.

Abstract of Presentation:

Schooling as Mirror and Magnet: Transformative Education in Distressed Societies

This opening keynote presentation will highlight the inspiring efforts of communities to cope, recover, and recreate their schools in times of conflict, profound social transition, and natural disaster. Drawing from her experience assisting development around the world, the speaker will highlight cases from post-

communist countries, the Balkans during wartime, South Africa after apartheid, and Pakistan following the vast human devastation of the earthquake in 2005. She will offer insight into the patterns and paradoxes of transformative educational change from The talk will kick off deeper discussions and sharing throughout the conference about the civic energy, modeling and psychosocial "life space" that emanate from a school and can be a powerful transformative force for a learner, family and entire society.

Peter Dalglish



Bio Data:

In the summer of 1985, shocked by images of emaciated African kids he had witnessed on television, Peter Dalglish bought a one-way ticket for Khartoum, Sudan. On arrival he was hired by the United Nations World Food Program to coordinate humanitarian assistance in Darfur for 50,000 children displaced by a drought of biblical proportions. He was 27 years of age, spoke only a few words of Arabic, and as a Stanford-educated lawyer had no experience managing large-scale emergency operations. Over the ensuing years Peter has worked with bruised and battered children confined to squalid cells in jails and mental institutions, with girls struggling to read and write in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan, and with semi-nomadic children living on abandoned oil barges on the White Nile in South Sudan. In 1988 he founded Streets Kids International, which under his leadership earned the coveted Peter F. Drucker Award for Non-Profit Innovation. Most recently Peter served as Senior Advisor for the United Nations program to combat child labor in Nepal. His second book "Rescuing Richie Rich" about the redemptive powers of overseas volunteer experiences by young people raised and educated amidst affluence will be published in November 2007.

Abstract of Presentation:

Education without Borders: Changing Students' Lives and Changing the World

Peter Dalglish has spent twenty years in the front lines of Afghanistan, Pakistan the Sudan and Nepal designing and managing projects for some of the world's poorest children. Among his most dedicated volunteers have been recent graduates of IB schools in Europe, Asia and North America who have opted for a 'gap year' before continuing their studies at university. Peter believes that IB schools can play a key role in "preparing young people not merely for lives defined by materialism and consumerism, but rather so they are equipped and eager to address some of the biggest challenges of our age". He often quotes Kurt Hahn, the founder of Outward Bound and the United World Colleges, who cautioned his own students about "the paralyzing effects of wealth and affluence." Peter's keynote presentation,

drawing on his extensive experience connecting IB schools with projects in the developing world, will both provoke and inspire.