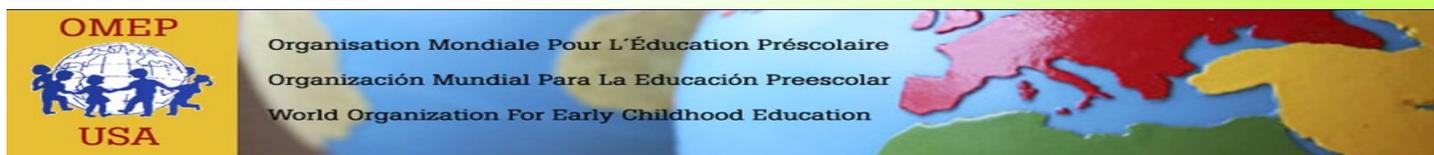


June 2014

OMEP-USA NEWSLETTER



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Message from OMEP-USA President

Jean Simpson

OMEP –USA is hosting the 2015 World Assembly and International Conference July 27-August 1, 2015 in Washington, D.C. (See page 8 for detailed information.). The two co-chairs, Edna Ranck (Left) and Barbara Ferguson-Kamara (Right) have formed committees and the preparations have begun. Fifteen OMEP representatives from the USA will be attending the 2014 World Assembly and International Conference in Cork City, Ireland. Plans for the 2015 World Assembly and International Conference will be presented in Cork. There is much work yet to be done. If you have not signed up to volunteer in some capacity, you may contact Edna (edna.ranck@verizon.net) or Barbara (barbarakamara@yahoo.com). Also, visit the OMEP website at <http://www.omep-usa.org/>.

Editor's note

Please send your story to

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Highlighting OMEP Student Chapters

Whittier College-Whittier, CA

Judith T. Wagner

OMEP Whittier College (OMEP-WC), the first USA collegiate chapter of OMEP, had a busy 2013-2014 academic year. Following are some of the group's activities and events:

- September 2013: OMEP-WC organized a campus-wide celebration of International Day of Peace. The Broadoaks Children's School, the campus lab school that hosts the OMEP-Whittier College, printed stickers noting the event. Members of the collegiate chapter distributed these stickers to college students and faculty throughout the day. The children's chapter that includes all students at the lab school also distributed these stickers and wore them proudly throughout the day. Teachers at the lab school, assisted by members of OMEP Whittier College read books relation got peace building and facilitated discussions about what children can do to help build peace at school, in their communities, and in the world.
- October 15, 2013: OMEP-WC members and lab school teachers created learning activities for pre-school through 8th grade to celebrate Global Handwashing Day.
- November 2013: OMEP-WC hosted a campus-wide film screening and discussion focusing on child trafficking.
- January 2014: OMEP-WC members wrote a presentation proposal on OMEP student chapters and submitted it to the 2014 OMEP World Conference
- April 2014: OMEP-WC and members of at the Broadoaks OMEP Children's Chapter at the lab school, hosted a campus and community-wide Jog-a-Thon to support children's charities. Proceeds totaled \$12,000, which will be distributed to local, national, and international organizations serving children. The organizations were vetted and selected by Members of OMEP-WC in collaboration with the Broadoaks Student Council.

June 2014

Washburn University-Topeka, KS

Judith McConnell-Farmer

Dr. Judith McConnell-Farmer is the University Advisor and Sponsor of the OMEP-USA Student Organization, WU-OMEP, with 35 active members, the majority who are majoring in early childhood education. Activities in 2013-14 are too numerous to list, but following are highlighted service projects:

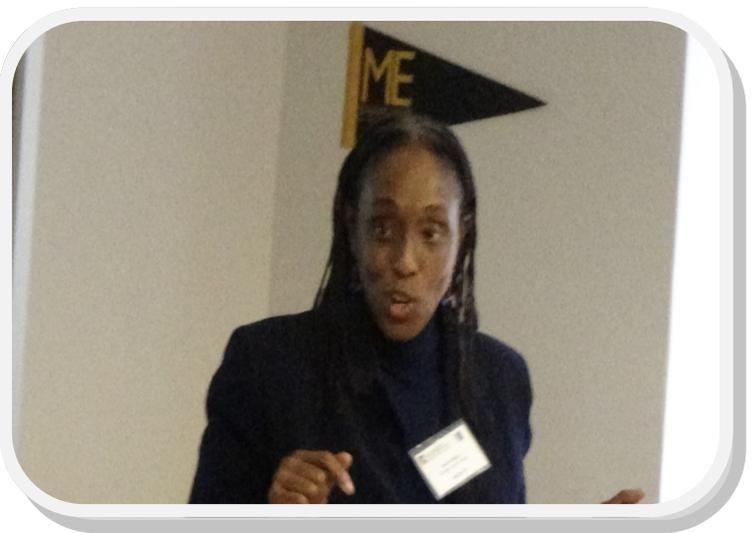
- August, 2013: Ten members spent the day helping teachers at a local elementary school get their classrooms ready for the first day of school.
- September, 2013: Kansas Maid frozen pastries as a fundraiser. We used a portion of the money earned to purchase books for local children.
- October, 2013: A float was decorated and pulled by a truck, while OMEP students marched in back of the float at the Washburn University Homecoming Parade.
- November, 2013: A Kansas Preschool Reads Project was held state-wide in November, 2013, and each of our members read a book to children in area elementary schools, Head Start Centers, and preschools. Dr. Seuss's birthday was celebrated by reading books written by the late Dr. Seuss and sharing art activities with the children at a local Head Start Center. A "Make a Card" party was hosted and cards given to children in local hospitals for International Children's Day.
- January –May 2014: Students volunteered at the Scholastic Book Fair in Topeka and with PTO members at an Elementary School Carnival, as well as hosting a campus-wide drive to gather school materials and teaching supplies for children in Belize, Central America and Tanzania, Africa.
- The year ended with a Celebration of Graduates dinner at the Blind Tiger Restaurant for our May, 2014 graduates and the busy year for the WU-OMEP student organization!



CUNY Medgar Evers College –Brooklyn, NY

Selamawit Thomas

As the first student chapter east of the Mississippi river, we have concluded our first semester as an instrumental organization within CUNY Medgar Evers College. On April 25, 2014 we were honored to present at the 2014 CUNY (City University of New York) Early Childhood Conference in New York City. Our presentation promoted the use of Learning Centers developed to remediate, reinforce and accelerate learning in order to respond to edTPA's goal of addressing missed opportunities. Our inaugural club meeting was held on Tuesday, April 29th. We were privileged to have Dr. Jean Simpson, President of OMEP-USA as our Guest Speaker via Skype video conference. Dr. Simpson discussed the importance of mindfulness and respect for cultural differences on the global stage. She also shared the importance of gaining comprehensive knowledge of educational theorists both renowned and unfamiliar. Further topics of discussion included current world slavery statistics, upcoming United Nations Conferences, and our participation in United Nations World Conference: Games Around The World. This semester we recruited eight new members to the student chapter. We look forward to next semester, fall 2014 where we continue our work as advocates for children and their families by doing just a little more than we are presently doing locally, nationally and internationally.



Board Members: Kristin Brown, President; Selamawit Thomas, Vice President; Shakia Dasher, Treasurer; Sheraine Scott, Secretary; Dr. Donna Akilah M. Wright, Faculty Advisor.

In Memorium...**Johnetta Wade Morrison**

Judi Simmons Estes

Long-time OMEP member, Johnetta Wade Morrison, Ph.D., of Starkville, Mississippi, died at home, Friday, April 25, 2014. She was born in Waynesboro, Georgia, and grew up in Louisville, Mississippi. Johnetta served OMEP-USA in several roles, most recently as Chair of the Gwen Coe Scholarship Award. Johnetta had a long career in education. After receiving a Bachelors degree from Tougaloo College, a Masters Degree from the University of Mississippi, and a Doctoral degree at Syracuse University, she taught elementary school in Hinds County, Mississippi, Madison, Wisconsin, and Syracuse, New York. Following that she had a long academic career as a professor of early childhood education at the University of Missouri in Columbia, and retired after several years at Mississippi State University in Starkville. Johnetta published a body of scholarship pertaining to the education of young children, much of which was based on research she conducted while working with young children in West Africa and the Caribbean. She also supported many children's organizations in the U.S., Ghana, and Jamaica. Judith Wagner, Immediate Past President of OMEP-USA and current World OMEP Vice-President of North America and the Caribbean, shared her memory of Johnetta, "One of my fondest memories of Johnetta was that she relished the role of Sergeant at Arms during board meetings. With grace and humor, she helped keep us focused and stay on target."

A Special Thank You to Judi Simmons Estes

Newsletter editor, Dong Hwa Choi, wants to give Dr. Judi Simmons Estes a special "shout out" of thanks for helping to organize and edit the newsletter June 2014.

She kindly and voluntarily participated in this honorable endeavor.

Again, thank you so much, Judi!

Playdaze is coming to Washington, DC for the OMEP 2015 World Assembly & Conference!

Ronda Hawkins

Recently, a small group of OMEP-USA members, along with Linda Kinney and Rich Rairigh from NC Play Alliance, met with Pat Luce, Director of Special Programs and James Gilroy, Director of Auxiliary Programs at Beauvoir, the National Cathedral Elementary School to discuss a 2015 OMEP World Conference, preconference, PlayDaze event. We met briefly to discuss the PlayDaze planning details and then we were given a tour of the National Cathedral Elementary School building and campus. We are very excited to be able to offer our 2015 conference attendees the opportunity to see this amazing school, experience a PlayDaze event, learn how to bring PlayDaze back to their hometown, and visit our National Cathedral - all on the morning of July 29, 2015! For more information on PlayDaze go to North Carolina Early Childhood Active Play Alliance Website to download the *PlayDaze* Planner and to view *PlayDaze* video clips.

PlayDaze celebrates the value of play and is designed to provide diverse play activities, for diverse groups of children, coming from diverse early childhood settings. The goal is to increase physical activity, to challenge each individual to be creative in mind and body, and to share in the joy of discovery and interaction without the need for competition. *PlayDaze* offers opportunities for supervised unstructured play time.

Article 31 of the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child states:

“parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child, and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts”.

A Message from Edna Ranck

Past President, OMEP-USA and Co-Chair of the 67th World OMEP Conference

ACEI Global Summit on Childhood was held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, on 10-13 April 2014. Its theme was “Exploring the experience of childhood worldwide. Seven collaborating organizations helped make the event a rich and energizing experience. The message to carry home and project throughout the year was: To listen to the VOICES of children and others who lead our communities, nations, and world. See the VISION of those who work toward a sustainable future. Elevate the VISIBILITY of childhood by exploring the collaborative efforts, initiatives, and practices that promote inclusion and participation of children. Many members of OMEP-USA attended and presented throughout the conference. We celebrated our journey to Vancouver and ACEI by greeting old friends, meeting new colleagues, and sharing exciting meals and trips around that amazing city.

The World Forum on Early Care and Education convened in San Juan, Puerto Rico, from May 5-9, 2014. Over 800 participants from 81 countries experienced the usual excitement and thoughtfulness that typifies the World Forum. Dozens of flags from countries on nearly every continent hung from the ceiling to welcomed people as they registered, signed up for no-host dinners, and played with blocks in a corner of the registration area. People attended daily plenary sessions, over 50 breakout segments, and took part in an afternoon of “pop-up workshops” --brief, engaging opportunities to try out various topics such as stonework play (United States), using persona dolls (Turkey), learning from Nelson Mandela (South Africa), the joy of games (India), and learning to dance (Puerto Rico). A moving closing ceremony and a delicious luncheon ended our trip to Puerto Rico and the 10th World Forum. Check out *Exchange Everyday* for information about the next World Forum.

Visiting County Cork in the very south of Ireland will bring 15 OMEP-USA members and colleagues together in July 2014 to attend the 66th World OMEP Assembly and Conference. We will observe at the World OMEP Assembly on the first two days and to attend daily plenary and break-out sessions. Many of us will present workshops, papers, and poster sessions throughout the week. We will attend a banquet on Thursday night and visit early childhood programs during the week. We will urge everyone there to submit a proposal and to register for the 67th World OMEP Assembly and Conference in Washington, DC, USA on July 27-August 1, 2015 - you, too, will be invited! We are expecting you a year from now!

2015 OMEP 67th World Assembly & International Conference

“Early Childhood Pathways to Sustainability”

July 27 – August 1, 2015

The World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP) is an international, non-government organization, founded in 1948 to advocate for the education and well-being of children under the age of eight years-old throughout the world. OMEP is currently established in over 70 countries and is represented at worldwide meetings of UNESCO, UNICEF, the European Council, and other international organizations with similar aims. The aim of OMEP is to promote for all children the optimum conditions to ensure their well-being, development, learning and happiness in their families, institutions and communities.

OMEP:

- * Champions children's rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- * Supports research which may influence the conditions in which children live, develop, learn and play. Helps in any undertaking which will improve early childhood education.
- * Carries out projects which contribute to an understanding between peoples and to peace in the world.
- * Champions children's rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- * Supports research which may influence the conditions in which children live, develop, learn and play.
- * Helps in any undertaking which will improve early childhood education.
- * Carries out projects which contribute to an understanding between peoples and to peace in the world.

Conference Host: OMEP-USA, a National Chapter of World OMEP

Conference Dates: July 27 – August 1, 2015

Host City: Washington, DC

Venue: Omni Shoreham Hotel

Estimated Attendance: 1,000

Conference Components: Plenary Sessions and Workshops, Film Festival, Paper and Poster Presentations, Exhibits, Visits to Early Childhood Education Programs

Continents Represented: Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America, North America and the Caribbean

Host Leadership:

- * OMEP-USA President: Jean Simpson, Ph.D
- * Co-chairpersons: Edna Ranck, Ed.D & Barbara Ferguson Kamara, MS
- * Program and Logistics Consultant: Earla J. Jones, MS, CMP

Partnership, Vendor and Volunteer opportunities are available.

For Additional Information Contact:

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202-841-9082
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**MAKE THIS 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE OF
THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

THE YEAR THAT THE PRESIDENT SENDS THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF CHILD
(CRC), TO THE SENATE, TO CONSIDER ADOPTION

Dodie Sailor, Advocacy Chair

OMEP-USA has supported the United Nations CRC since its inception in 1989. At that time, we asked our members to send a letter to the President to request that the CRC be sent to the U.S. In 2003 OMEP-USA voted to have our new OMEP Children's Day on Nov. 20 to honor and promote the CRC. OMEP began celebrating Universal Children's Day (UCD) on Nov. 20. Next OMEP formed a committee to contact early childhood organizations requesting their organization support Universal Children's Day (UCD) promoting the articles in the CRC. We have had CRC and UCD materials available at recent OMEP International Receptions and are planning to share more information at the conference this year. It is crucial that grass root pressure be put on the president about the importance to our children for the US to ratify this treaty-now.

Forms and information for contacting the president or your senators are available at www.childrightscampaign/images/documents. Urge your organization or classes to put Universal Children's Day, Nov. 20, on their calendar and plan activities to celebrate this year! Put articles in your local newspaper. Pass out flyers to everyone you know.

Call for Films

OMEP-USA

FILMedia@NAEYC Dallas, TX

Since the first OMEP-USA sponsored “Film Festival” was organized and held at the NAEYC 2004 Anaheim, CA conference, the focus has been on providing a wide variety of films *for and about children, teacher education, research and leadership*. The annual session informs and supports early educators to become “media literate”, particularly using media *appropriately* in all types of EC settings. With the rapid evolution of into a multimedia world a title change has been made, from OMEP-USA Film Festival to OMEP-USA FILMedia @ NAEYC. The next program is scheduled to be held during the NAEYC conference in Dallas, TX on Thursday, November 6, 2014.

This year’s FILMedia Planning Committee is in process of gathering and screening films. OMEP-USA members who have produced a digital video/film, know a colleague who has produced a digital video/film to *educate* children, parents/families/community and teachers or know about a film produced by children, are encouraged to submit films by **July 31, 2014**. Acceptance notification will be sent on or before September 15, 2014. Criteria for submission of films to the upcoming FILMedia program include *all* of the the following:

1. A brief (100 word maximum) synopsis of the film,
2. Content is developmentally appropriate with a “G” rating
3. Content must be relevant to children, families, and/or educators,
4. Length must be less than 30 minutes.
5. Production date must be 2009 to 2014.
6. Film should include a title at the front and credits at the end.
7. Subtitles should be in English only
8. Films submitted for preview must be in a DVD format (*NTSC only*)
9. The individual submitting the film should be a active OMEP-USA member.

The FILMedia program format includes time for the audience to respond to each film screened. The director and/or producer of films screened is encouraged so that they can provide a brief introduction and answer specific questions. Their presence is preferred by not required.

Please contact the FILMedia Planning Committee members, listed below, with any questions and information for sending DVDs for review.

Edna Ranck
Judi Simmons Estes
Carol Darcy

edna.ranck@verizon.net
jestes@park.edu
carolrdarcy@gmail.com

Call for Volunteers

OMEPE-USA *FILMedia@NAEYC Dallas, TX*

Will you be attending the NAEYC conference in Dallas? If so, please consider volunteering during the FILMedia program on Thursday, November 6, 2014. Although the program is scheduled for a total of four hours, your assistance as a greeter/host is welcomed for any portion of time available.

FILMedia Committee member, Judi Simmons Estes, is "volunteer coordinator".

Please contact Judi (jestes@park.edu) with any questions and time you have available.

The OMEPE-USA website has a new look and is available for you to obtain information. Even though the website is evolving, you will find important links, history and events of interest to the student of professional with international interests.

The website address is: <http://omep-usa.org>

Join OMEPE- USA on Facebookour Facebook address is: **omep-usa page**.

Post some information, share a thought or a picture. Take advantage of this great media opportunity.

OMEPE MEMBERSHIP

Renewal Notice 2014

OMEPE –USA memberships are to be renewed and paid electronically via the new website <http://omep-usa.org> Thanks to Jean Simpson, Susan Peebles and Ebony Cray Jones who worked diligently to make this website ready so that members receive immediate confirmation of their payment and membership. Note, checks sent through the mail will no longer be accepted.

We value your membership in OMEPE. To receive the International Journal, please renew before December 31, 2014. When received, you will receive your membership card in an email from OMEPE membership at the address you provide on the form. Send membership questions to: omepmembership@gmail.com