

THE 16th ANNUAL
FAMILIES IN GLOBAL TRANSITION
Annual Conference



THE GLOBAL FAMILY: REDEFINED

MARCH 21-23, 2014 | TYSONS CORNER, VA



KITCHEN TABLE CONVERSATION DESCRIPTIONS

Intercultural Couples: Strengths And Challenges*Katarina Holm-DiDio*

Room: McLean

This session, by Katarina Holm-DiDio, presents recent studies in the area of culture and conflict resolution in marriages. The presentation concentrates on two areas of study: intercultural marriages, their challenges and strengths; and research on cultural differences in conflict and conflict resolution style among married couples of different cultural origin. The focus is on the impact cultural differences in values, norms and expectations, have on conflicts and conflict resolution in marriages. The discussion will also examine the merits and difficulties of intercultural marriages.

Creativity and Transition: Nurturing the Creative Potential of TCKs*Mary Langford & Kyung Hee Kim*

Room: McLean

International education guru Mary Langford, M.A and creativity expert Dr. Kyung Hee Kim, Ph.D. explore the possible links between creativity and the TCK experience, and how international schools should respond to effectively optimize the creative potential of their students. The kitchen table discussion will cover strategies that foster creativity including nurturing curiosity, encouragement imagination, risk-taking, nonconventional learning and more.

Adoption And The Expatriate Family*Becky Matchulliss*

Room: McLean

Becky Matchulliss, CCPC, PCC, who has coached expatriate families for 13+ years, will lead this discussion. Adoption is a very individualized family choice and comes with a lifetime commitment. This workshop will explore reasons for expatriate family adoption; the unique challenges that go into the mix for an adopted child living in an expatriate family; and considerations for expatriate parents in raising an internationally adopted child in a mobile lifestyle. What are painful truths and powerful solutions for being an effective parent to an adopted child?

Supporting Unique Assignment Types*Jennifer Rowe*

Room: McLean

Join Jennifer Rowe to discuss the changing dynamic of traditional long-term international assignments and how it affects the nuclear family through the move. Unique assignment types call for more flexible family structures which may include periods of separation, remote host locations which may hinder the ability to communicate on a regular basis, or expectations of cultures of similarity. We will address these potential challenges and provide strategies for how families can effectively manage through the transitions.

SATs For TCKs: How Non-Standard Students Can Make the Most Of Standardized Tests*Josh Stephens*

Room: McLean

Join ArborBridge's Josh Stephens for a lively discussion of all aspects of admissions testing for U.S. colleges. Josh will offer practical tips for families with children facing the college application process, including timing, test preparation, test format and questions, and practical tips that parents and educators can pass along to their kids.



2014 PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

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The first girl in her village to attend high school, **Dr. Kyung Hee Kim** moved to Seoul to study and became a teacher. Moving with her two children to America to pursue a PhD, her quest to understand what sparks creativity in us all has taken her to Michigan, Georgia and now the College of William and Mary in Virginia. Though much sought after in academic circles, Dr. Kim seeks to convey her message to parents and 'laymen'. Her own cross-cultural journey and the realization that she is the mother of two TCKs has introduced her to the world of the international expatriate community.



Elizabeth Liang was raised in Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, Morocco, Egypt, and Connecticut as a Guatemalan-American business brat of Chinese-Spanish-Irish-French-German-English descent. She graduated from Wesleyan University. *Alien Citizen: An Earth Odyssey*, Elizabeth's autobiographical solo show, has begun its national tour in festivals and the college circuit. She is an award-winning bilingual actress who works in theatre, television and film. Among her TV credits, she had a recurring role on "The West Wing." Elizabeth co-hosts the podcast "Hapa Happy Hour." She is also a published essayist and teaches a class on writing one's solo show, memoir or personal essay.



As a psychologist, **Dr. Jill Kristal** views life through the lenses of emotional awareness and interpersonal connection. As an expat, repat and President of Transitional Learning Curves, Jill understands the needs of expat employees and families from personal and professional perspectives. These paths have guided her work toward areas often perceived as 'non-essential' to the expat experience. However, she knows that applying emotional intelligence to life situations improves their outcomes. Jill is an internationally known speaker and writer. She uses her skills to provide solutions that enhance over-all well-being and improve emotionally intelligent functioning.

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Ellen Mahoney is the founder and CEO of Sea Change Mentoring, an online mentoring program that helps expat youth transition into adulthood and maximize the benefits of having lived abroad. Ellen grew up in Asia before moving back to the US to attend the University of Oregon. She studied counseling at George Washington University and has worked in adolescent development for 15 years. Prior to creating Sea Change Mentoring, she designed the volunteer management and program strategies for iMentor, the US's leading online youth mentoring organization. Ellen serves as Scholarship Chair on the FIGT Board of Directors.

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An American TCK who attended schools in three languages on three continents, **Mary Langford's** international education career has included admissions, alumni, teaching and leadership roles in IB, US, British, Spanish and Saudi Arabian schools. As Deputy Director of ECIS she managed training programmes for boards, leaders and teachers, with a personal interest in international mobility, transition, and intercultural and language matters. Proactively involved with parent and expatriate service providers, she has spoken at numerous events worldwide. Having visited over 80 international schools, as a London-based independent consultant she now shares her expertise with families, international schools, and universities.



Becky Matchullis, CCPC, PCC, has coached expatriate families for 13+ years. She brings the richness and wisdom of her own experience to coaching families to successfully navigate transitions and crises. Becky grew up as a TCK in 4 countries and lived as an adult in Cambodia, Indonesia, Kuwait, and Canada. She's raised four TCK's, one an international adoptee. She coaches families in NGO, mission, and corporate arenas who are considering adopting; going through the process of adopting; or have already adopted children.