

Ugochukwu k Agi, Nigeria:

Greetings to dear Colleagues at ISFTE.

I am Ugochukwu k Agi PhD, a Nigerian from the State of Rivers in the Niger Delta Region. I am currently an Associate Professor (Reader) of Educational Administration of the Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rumuolumeni, Port Harcourt, Nigeria. I am married and a Christian of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

I teach Educational Administration, Leadership and Change, and Innovations in Education since my employment in 2004 in above-mentioned university.

My research interests focus on school improvement, educational leadership and teacher development.

Currently, I hold the position of the chairperson of Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Port Harcourt Branch. I am also the sitting Acting Dean, Student's Affairs of my University.

I am seeking election into one of the positions of member-at-large of ISFTE.

MY INTENTION INCLUDES:

- (1) Work with others on the Board to continue with setting up Seminars that develop international reference points for teacher practices
- (2) Work with others to expand the horizon of ISFTE for collaborations and partnerships in stretching the frontiers of professionalism in teacher practices
- (3) Work with others to seek to float quarterly journals with strong focus on emerging issues on pedagogy, curriculum and innovations with the view of developing a learning community at large
- (4) Work with others to seek to expose developing Nations to the usefulness of ISFTE Seminars for teachers' capacity building.

It will be a great honour and an opportunity to work with all colleagues and sharing in the strength of the Team to advance the knowledge and practice of the Art and science of Teaching.

I wish everyone good luck.

Yours truly,

Ugochukwu.

Jackie Chan, Hong Kong:

I started to attend ISfTE seminar as an accompanying person at Bhutan in 2012. Then, I was invited to work as an organizing committee member to organize ISfTE 2013 in Hong Kong at Hong Kong Baptist University. After that, I attended all ISfTE seminars held in different countries. In these seven years, I truly believe the discussion group format of ISfTE seminar is valuable for researchers to provide exchange ideas and suggestions in the field of teacher education. This setting offers a great chance for researchers all over the world to share their research and establish their collaboration network.

I started to serve the ISfTE community on 2016 as the member-at-large member and Web Administrator. In ISfTE 2016, I was hired to become the Web Administrator (renamed as Manager of Communications in 2018) for ISfTE. My duty is to update and deliver the latest ISfTE news to our members through three channels: 1. ISfTE website, <http://ISfTE.org>; 2. ISfTE Facebook page; and 3. E-mail. After ISfTE 2016, I was also elected to become the member-at-large on the board. In my term of service, I tried to bring young or junior researchers' voices and needs into the executive board. This facilitates the participation of young or junior researchers in the field of teacher education.

If re-elected as the member-at-large of ISfTE, I will continue to be a voice for young or junior researchers. Moreover, I will also work with all of you to continue to enhance the reputation of ISfTE in the field of teacher education.

I sincerely hope you will vote me to serve ISfTE as the "At Large" member on the Executive Board.

DeeDee Mower, USA:

Personal Profile

After receiving my undergraduate degree in elementary education from Weber State University, I spent fifteen years in third and fourth grade classrooms as a regular education teacher in Jordan School District, Utah, USA as well as four more years at the district office as an ESL Teacher Specialist. I appreciated the opportunity to have perspectives from both the classroom and from the district office. My interest in second language acquisition and bilingual education grew and I soon completed courses for a Masters in Linguistics from the University of Utah. A few years later, I went back to the University of Utah for a PhD in Education, Culture and Society, which linked all of my interests into one. Once I finished that degree, I had a great desire to teach at a university in a teacher education program and felt very fortunate to have applied and received a position at my alma mater, Weber State University.

My experience at Weber State University has allowed much more growth than all of my other educational experiences combined. My teaching knowledge and pedagogical practices have been enhanced; my scholarship has increased through the work and guidance of my valued colleagues; and the opportunities for service have beckoned me with sweet enticement. My education and experience has allowed me to utilize my expertise in elementary language arts and social studies methodologies. I cannot express how much I enjoy sharing this knowledge with teacher candidates, master students, and colleagues from around the world.

Research Projects and Service

While at Weber State University, I have been involved several research projects and service related opportunities. I have taken students to Thailand for the past three years on a study abroad that included work with an orphanage school in Phuket and university students in Chiang Mai. Working with the Computer Science College at Weber State University, several colleagues and I have helped create English language learning materials for the orphanage students by using native stories and histories provided by the students at North Chiang Mai University. Working with the two educational institutions in Thailand has been a very enriching experience both personally and professionally and our students have increased immensely in their pedagogical knowledge in these culturally relevant environments.

Another service-related experience I have had included my expertise with language arts. I am in my third year as the chair of the Weber State University Storytelling Festival, which hosts national storytellers each year and is the largest youth-involved storytelling festival in the United States. The festival lasts for three days at the end of February every year, and it is in its twenty-third year. This traditional and local festival hosts about 7,000 people during the three days and has events throughout the year on campus and within the community. It requires yearlong planning and designing with university and local community members. Our Executive Committee has seven members, but the Steering Committee includes thirty members, and we meet monthly.

I am currently the past president of the Utah Literacy Association. When I became president, I was left with the problems created by a previous president who had unfortunately misspent funds. I was able to establish funding opportunities and hold a two-day conference with just

under a hundred attendees and very limited funding to rejuvenate the organization and increase the funding for the following year's expenditures.

ISfTE Involvement

Weber State University has had a long and heartfelt association with ISfTE. When I first came to the University as an assistant professor, I quickly learned of the organization and the enthusiasm of my colleagues for its uniqueness and the intellectual benefits. My first attendance was in Denmark in 2017 and then in Japan in 2018. For both of these wonderful conferences, I was able to take advantage of bringing an accompanying person, which was a wonderful experience for them. The ISfTE conference has always delighted me and challenged me. I have appreciated the associations I have made with members throughout the world. The non-political intellectual stance of ISfTE makes me proud to be a member. I feel like I can contribute to world conversations on educational themes and learn from experts in the educational field outside of my own somewhat limited experience. I would love to put time and energy into the success of this powerful organization by being an at-large member. Thank you for your time.

Vera Woloshyn, Canada:

Professional Profile

Greetings! My name is Vera Woloshyn and I am a Professor at Brock University, Canada. I have worked at Brock for over 25 years during which time I have assumed numerous academic, administrative, and service roles including serving as Department Chair, Director of the Joint PhD Program in Educational Studies, and Assistant Grievance Officer. I hold PhD and MA degrees from the University of Western Ontario and a BA (Honours) degree from McMaster University. Consistent with the principles of life-long learning, I returned to formal schooling several times during my tenure as a faculty member to complete professional and graduate-level degrees in teacher preparation (BEd) and counselling psychology (MACP).

Throughout my career, I have taught a variety of courses in educational psychology, cognition and learning, curriculum, reading, assessment and evaluation, research methodologies and mental health and wellness. These teaching experiences have allowed me to work with a variety of students at the undergraduate, teacher preparation, masters, and doctoral levels. I also have extensive experience working with international students and have assisted in the development and delivery of an international MEd program in the Faculty of Education at Brock University.

I hold a strengths-based, holistic approach to learning and wellness that acknowledges the interconnectedness of individuals' cognitive, emotional, social, cultural, familial, physical, and spiritual experiences. My areas of research interest include exploring students' learning experiences as well as developing and implementing supports for those who experience academic and/or socio-emotional challenges. My most recent work involves exploring innovative programs and approaches to support student and faculty wellness, especially as related to the intersections between individuals' sense of well-being, resilience, career satisfaction, and academic functioning.

ISfTE Engagement

Inspired by several of my colleagues at Brock University, I became a member of ISfTE in 2014 and attended my first conference in Turkey later that year. I was especially intrigued by the use of the innovative paper-group format that provided me with the opportunity to spend quality time with colleagues from around the world. I was similarly inspired by the welcoming atmosphere and sense of collegiality extended by members of the ISfTE community. It was at that point, that I became resolved to remain involved with the organization. Since that time, I have attended several annual conferences. I have served as a member and co-editor of the *Journal of the International Society for Teacher Education (JISfTE)*. This year, it has been my pleasure to serve as a conference co-convenor and welcome ISfTE members to Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada.

Nomination for ISfTE Executive: Member-at-Large

It is my sincere hope to become further engaged with the ISfTE community by serving as a member-of-large on the Executive Committee. Through this service, I would like to collaborate with other members of the Executive to promote and sustain the important work of ISfTE, especially with respect to increased efforts to promote international initiatives and networking opportunities, facilitate new scholar development, and promote increased membership within the ISfTE community.

Elections Committee:

Karen Bjerg Petersen, Ingebjørg Aarek, Anne Merete Selvik Ask and Peggy Saunders