

ICASSI 2013 Wageningen, The Netherlands

The 46th Summer Institute was a most comprehensive and enriching learning experience. Held in a lovely, welcoming town, Wageningen, an hour's commute from Amsterdam, the hotel Hof van Wageningen hosted, fed, housed, rented bicycles, and provided tourist information for the participants. Wageningen is centrally located in the heart of the Netherlands, near the Rhine River, pastures of sheep and cattle, cultured flower gardens and friendly residents. Bicycles were the mode of transportation, and bike pathways were provided along each major thoroughfare.

Wageningen is famous for its University, which specializes in education for healthy food and living environment. The town of about 37,000 inhabitants hosts a number of students and visitors throughout the year. An unusual heat wave encouraged the cooperation and patience of the group; many purchased fans to share and ice water was consumed in giant quantities. The short walk to town provided sweet, cool relief with the excellent ice cream that only the Dutch can provide.

Sandwiched between multicultural meals, activities, and social interest embracing conversations, the life changing classes dealt with contemporary challenges in the areas of couples, individual, family, school, and group counseling. New and returning faculty provided learning experiences in the areas of work place, personal responsibility, leadership development, art therapy, lifestyle, grief, parenting, early memories, trauma, encouragement, addictions, and cooperation.

Practical and intellectual lectures and demonstrations were provided during Bloc 1 each morning from learned, experienced practitioners from all over the world including: Eva Dreikurs Ferguson (USA), Gerhard Baumer (Germany), Paul Rasmussen (USA), Karen John (UK), Jay Colker (USA), Theo Joosten (The Netherlands), Uti Landscheidt

(Germany), Frank Walton (USA), Bill Linden (USA), and Marion Balla (Canada).

In keeping with its foundation of a psychology of two languages, lectures were translated between German and English to help participants share in the learning and exchange of ideas. Friends from 28 nations exchanged the cultural and linguistic diversity that is so fundamental to the continued success of ICASSI. The children's and youth programs enhanced the young people's natural helpfulness and encouraged their new multicultural friendships.

Participants learned alongside and shared experiences with their colleagues from around the world, acquiring knowledge and professional skills used in their everyday work and living. Throughout the activities, classes, and administration of ICASSI, the focus on cooperation, equality and mutual respect between and among groups and individuals encouraged mental health and strength based lives.

The results of 2013 ICASSI were far-reaching and admirable. The experiential learning stimulated leadership in many countries where personal and institutional influences can help to establish a world of peace and cooperation.