CRITICAL FRIENDS GROUP
NEW COACHES TRAINING

Barcelona, Spain

“These strategies have opened my eyes to the needs teachers have for ongoing professional growth and have given me tools to help provide ongoing learning opportunities for my teachers”
Anne Taffin S’Heursel Baldisseri
Pre School Principal, St Pauls School
San Paulo, Brazil

June 25-29, 2012
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY SEMINAR
at The American School of Barcelona

presented in partnership by
Seminar Facilitator Biographies

Margaret MacLean—Lead Facilitator
An educator with over 30 years experience, in seven countries, Margaret currently provides professional development and Critical Friends Group (CFG) coaching support to teachers and school leaders internationally. She has taught at all grade levels from Pre K to grade 6 and served for over 15 years as a school administrator. Margaret is a former Vermont Principal of the Year and is a member of the School Reform Initiative (SRI). Begun in the mid 1990’s at the Annenberg Institute at Brown University SRI is focused on developing collaborative school cultures, encouraging reflective practice, and rethinking leadership—all in support of increased student achievement. The CFG model is the basis of this work. Margaret’s efforts take her to schools throughout the US and internationally to provide training seminars and school coaching. She has presented at many conferences around the world and worked directly with international schools to develop school wide systems for effective professional collaboration including: Shanghai American School, the American School in Japan, Seoul Foreign School, American International School of Mozambique, FMV Ayazaga Isik Lisesi, Istanbul, the International School of Tanganyika, St Paul’s British School in Sao Paulo and the International School of Helsingor in Sweden. margaret.maclean@ruraledu.org | www.teachercollaboration.org

Deborah Holman—Co-Facilitator
An educator with 20 years experience, in three countries, Deborah is currently vice principal at Newton North High School, a public school outside Boston, Massachusetts. She began her career teaching high school history and English at the International School of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and recently spent a sabbatical year at the International School Bangkok, Thailand. At Newton North, she manages operations and professional development, including leading the school’s collaborative team initiative now in its third year. The initiative is focused on building capacity for meaningful professional collaboration within a complex high school. An experienced CFG coach and member of the School Reform Initiative, Deborah has led numerous inter-disciplinary CFGs and teams at her schools. She has also co-led coaches’ trainings in the Boston area as well as at the Shanghai American School. She has presented on collaborative teams at the School Reform Initiative’s annual winter meeting and at EARCOS in Bangkok. debholman@gmail.com

Lori J. Lauscher—Intern Facilitator
Lori (LoLa) began teaching internationally after graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. She is now in her 22nd year of secondary education, currently holding the position of IB Coordinator at the American School of Barcelona, her sixth international school, as well as teaching IB English A HL and the Theory of Knowledge. LoLa has presented at international teacher conferences including: NESA, CEESA, AISA, MAIS and ECIS, as well leading many workshops for teachers locally. A passion for teaching and improving student learning drives her towards educational leadership and her own life-long learning. LoLa has been a head of department, an advisor for student leadership groups, and coach of several sports throughout most of her career. Her experience working in teams of like-minded individuals led her into working with more diverse groups, and she began officially working with CFGs during a two-day session at an ECIS two-day preconference event led by Margaret MacLean, where teachers from several schools with diverse backgrounds formed their own CFG, continuing to meet around Europe. The lessons learned in the CFG have transferred into the ASB school leadership and classrooms alike, making these school teams more productive and focused.

Keelin Swalve –Intern Facilitator
Nearly 20 years ago a love for new languages, traveling, and people brought Keelin from a small town in Wisconsin to Spain. After attending university in Spain, Keelin returned to the U.S. and taught Bilingual/Dual Language fifth graders in Arizona. Years later, she had the opportunity to return to Spain, as one of a group of American teachers selected by the Spanish Embassy to participate in a children’s literature seminar. Keelin soon made Barcelona her home, as a fifth grade teacher at Benjamin Franklin International School. She later joined the school’s English as an Additional Language (EAL) team, which required close collaboration with other teachers. In this role, Keelin currently is the 2nd and 3rd grade EAL specialist and chairs the Professional Development Committee and the Elementary Assessment Committee. Her aspiration to bring teachers together to improve student learning began after attending an ECIS two-day preconference event led by Margaret MacLean. After a series of CFG retreats in Switzerland and Germany, organized by the original group, she has since put the work into practice with her team and department, as well as the full faculty at her school. Keelin and Lori Lauscher, will present together at the MAIS Annual Conference and with Margaret at the preconference of ECIS’s Annual Conference.
Professional Learning Communities
The creation of professional learning communities is complex work, requiring a commitment by administrators, teachers and coaches. It also requires high quality preparation and sustained support. This 5 seminar-course teaches new coaches how to create and effectively sustain a professional learning community in their local setting.

Seminar-Course Description
This professional development seminar will support your ability to initiate or extend adult professional collaboration in your school by developing and sustaining professional learning communities (PLCs). The Critical Friends Group (CFG) model is the basis of the work. Begun in the fall of 1995 at the Annenberg Institute at Brown University, the CFG program is focused on developing collaborative school communities, encouraging reflective practice, and rethinking leadership—all in support of increased student achievement.

“The three schools that comprise my district have several issues that could be decided or resolved by the PLC processes you introduced us to. I am extremely interested in applying what I learned in my setting. Hopefully we will be able to host you at our site in the near future. Great job!”
Bob Eisenberg, Principal
Universal American School, Kuwait

“Thank you for your leadership....These last two days have allowed me to think deeply about what I value in my own practice and how this impacts on others I work closely with and lead each day”
Meryl Siggs, Principal Elementary Division
International School of Zug and Lucerne

The CFG program helps educators create what Stanford’s Milbrey McLaughlin calls “learning communities” in their settings, where practitioners collaborate to deepen their knowledge of subject matter, examine their teaching practice with a critical eye, and consider issues of organizational change that support improved classroom practice. The program emphasizes making one’s practice public, continuously assessing teaching in relation to student learning, and routinely adapting teaching practices and school structures to meet the changing needs of today’s students.

Our Goals for this Seminar
During the seminar, you will learn how educators, in collaboration with colleagues, can improve student learning. You will prepare to adapt and translate your experience to group work you will do during the school year. To this end, you will work to develop a professional learning community while learning the concepts, habits, tools, and skills that lead to more reflective practice.

By the end of the seminar, participants will:
• Understand the significance of professional learning communities in improving student learning
• Know about and practice several strategies for engaging in reflective discourse based on ideas contained in different kinds of “texts”
• Understand how to give and receive productive feedback on professional practice
• Understand and practice using several methods for increasing learning by examining student and adult work collaboratively—knowing when to use which method
• Have a clear sense of the role of a facilitator in creating and sustaining a professional learning community
• Have a practical plan for using the materials in a variety of settings

“I want to thank you for being such an approachable, friendly facilitator. You made me feel so comfortable and it was so easy to approach you about anything. I have attended this conference twice before. This time I felt I brought back something substantial that could impact and actually implement”
Maimoona Farooq, Karachi Grammar School
Karachi Pakistan

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY SEMINAR 2012 • info: www.teachercollaboration.org
CRITICAL FRIENDS GROUP NEW COACHES TRAINING • Barcelona, Spain • June 25-29, 2012

Our Location
Barcelona is Spain’s second largest city, and the 2,000 year-old capital of Catalunya. It is a thriving port town with an excellent year-round climate, a cosmopolitan attitude, and enough art, architecture, nightlife and gastronomical delights to satisfy travelers of all ages and budgets.

Barcelona Spain was the seat of a vast Mediterranean empire when Madrid was still a small outpost on the sweltering Spanish steppe. Since 133 BC, the Romans, Visigoths, Franks and Moors have all, at one time or another, controlled Barcelona. The city grew increasingly more powerful throughout the middle ages. In 1561 the more centrally located city of Madrid became the seat of the Spanish Royal court, though well into the eighteenth-century Barcelona enjoyed special privileges and autonomy in the Catalunyan region.

This seminar is open to educators from around the world.

Though it has a population of over three million, Barcelona Spain feels much smaller and more accessible than typical cities of its size. Most Barcelona attractions are easily seen on foot.

Seminar Schedule
• Monday–Friday, June 25th-29th, 2012
• Monday 9:30 am - 3:30 pm
• Tuesday–Thursday 8:30 am-3:30 pm
• Friday 8:30 am-12:30 pm

Course Fees
Course fees are 450 Euros for ASB faculty, and 550 Euros for non-ASL employees.

Included in the registration price:
• all course materials  • refreshments

In the event of your cancellation, fees are refundable until May 25th, 2012.

Minimum Class size 15 participants.

To register please complete the attached form and email it scanned as a PDF to: margaret.maclean@ruraledu.org

The American School of Barcelona (ASB) is a private, non-profit, coeducational day school serving students from 3-18 years old in the greater Barcelona metropolitan area. ASB offers a university preparatory curriculum which provides its graduates access to American, Spanish and international universities. The American School of Barcelona is an international community of learners that engages and challenges students to become caring and educated citizens of the world through varied learning activities that emphasize critical thinking, inquiry-based knowledge, artistic appreciation and multiple perspectives. ASB strives to be a leading international school in Europe, offering a premier education to internationally-minded families (expatriate and local) in Barcelona

REGISTRATION DEADLINE MAY 25th, 2012

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY SEMINAR 2012 • info: www.teachercollaboration.org
Enrollment Form

How to Register:
1. Print and complete this enrollment form, indicating your method of payment.
   [Please ensure that all the information requested below is included and printed clearly]
2. Email the enrollment form (scanned as a PDF) to margaret.maclean@ruraledu.org OR
3. Send your registration form and check (or PO) by postal mail as requested below.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE MAY 25th, 2012

ALL information requested below MUST be provided for you to be registered. [please print clearly]

Date: _____________
Student Name: _________________________________________________________
Email: ________________________________________________________________
Alternative email if available: ______________________________________________
Mailing Address: ________________________________________________________
Work #: _____________________________
Home #: _____________________________   Cell #: __________________________

Highest degree obtained:
❏ High School
❏ Associate
❏ Bachelor
❏ Master
❏ CAGS
❏ Doctorate

Payment is required to reserve a space. Please choose one of the following methods of payment:

❏ A Euro check in the amount of tuition made payable to AMERICAN SCHOOL OF BARCELONA
   [please send checks to: Lori Lauscher, American School of Barcelona
   c/o Jaume Balmes, 7 Esplugues de Llobregat 08950 Barcelona, Spain]

❏ Please bill my organization [copy of PO must be included if PO required for payment]

Organization's Name: __________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________
              PO #: _________________________________    OR   Check #: __________________

Student Signature: _______________________________________

I WISH TO ENROLL IN THE FOLLOWING COURSE:
Start Date:  Professional Learning Community: New Coaches Seminar
25.6.2012
End Date  Instructor: Margaret MacLean   Location: American School of Barcelona
29.6.2012    Total Tuition Due: ❏ 450 Euros ASB Faculty   ❏ 550 Euros non ASB staff   [please check one]

PAYMENT / CANCELLATION POLICY: In order for us to provide the most experienced instructors and superior learning environment, we
must ask that you adhere to our payment/cancellation policy. All tuition and fees are payable before your course begins. No refunds are
available after the course begins. If you are unable to participate in a course and you cancel your enrollment BEFORE May 15th 2012,
the tuition, minus an administrative fee of 50 Euros, will be refunded. We reserve the right to cancel the class should enrollment not reach
15 participants by June 1st, 2012. In this case all fees will be returned. Registering for this event provides the sponsors the right to publish
photos or video of you taken at the event for promotional purposes.

________________________________________________
Your Signature

presented in partnership by

[Images of logos: School Reform Initiative, American School of Barcelona, Teacher Collaboration]