

39<sup>th</sup> Northeast Regional Conference on the Social Studies  
**Social Studies: Global and Local Connections, Shared Responsibilities**

March 26-28, 2008  
The Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale  
New Haven, Connecticut

New Haven, CT – Programs in International Education Resources (PIER), of the Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale, and the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies (CCSS) will co-host the 39<sup>th</sup> Northeast Regional Conference on the Social Studies from March 26 to 28, 2008 in New Haven.

Hundreds of social studies teachers, school administrators, and other educators from across New England, New Jersey, and New York are expected to attend the annual assembly, which takes its cue this year from a quotation by the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "Before you've finished eating breakfast this morning, you've depended on more than half the world. This is the way our universe is structured . . . We aren't going to have peace on earth until we recognize this basic fact of the interrelated structure of all reality." In concert with this theme, "Social Studies: Global and Local Connections, Shared Responsibilities" will present events and activities geared toward preparing students to be informed citizens in an increasingly interconnected world community.

Highlights of the conference will include a Welcome Address by New Haven Mayor John DeStefano, Jr. and Linda Lorimer, Vice President and Secretary of Yale University; and a Keynote Address by political scientist, global activist, and commentator Benjamin Barber speaking on "Terrorism, Interdependence, and Democracy: How Globalization Transforms Social Studies." Bill Curry, former Connecticut state controller and state senator, two-time Democratic gubernatorial candidate, and advisor to President Clinton will comment on "The Upcoming Elections and Other Political Observations." In "Muppet Diplomacy: How Sesame Street is Working to Change Our World," Charlotte F. Cole, Vice President for Education and Research at Sesame Workshop in New York, will explain how whimsy is tackling critical indigenous problems around the world, such as teaching children in Kosovo not to pick up grenades.

Special presentation "Using Popular Music in the Social Studies Classroom" will feature West Hartford teacher Stephen Armstrong, who will demonstrate ways to analyze the changing social fabric of America with one song from each decade of the twentieth century. A pair of workshops sponsored by PIER will examine in depth and from many perspectives the complex complementary issues of worldwide migration and human rights. A new film from Katrina Browne/Ebb Pod Productions will depict *Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North*, following nine members of her Rhode Island clan as they travel the infamous triangular trade route, learning along the way the disturbing particulars of their ancestral family business.

In leisure moments, conferees will have the opportunity to sample the amazing array of international cuisine available in New Haven's restaurants and bistros on a guided tour led by two members of the PIER staff.

"NERC 2008" is headquartered in the Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale with additional sites on the Yale campus.

For further information and registration, visit the conference website [www.ctsocialstudies.org/NERC2008.htm](http://www.ctsocialstudies.org/NERC2008.htm) or contact Maxwell Amoh, Conference Chairman, at [maxwell.amoh@yale.edu](mailto:maxwell.amoh@yale.edu) or (203) 432-3438.