

By Elaina Loveland

Fostering Hope

ALTHOUGH the United States has been engaged in wars abroad over the last few decades, the full consequences sometimes elude us.

What is so unique about the international education profession is that we are able to help others in dire situations improve their options because education offers a powerful antidote to the tribulations of war: hope.

I was reminded of this recently at the NAFSA annual conference in San Diego as the highest number of attendees ever came together to connect across borders, and one very important theme was the role of fostering peace and social justice through international education. I picked up the newspaper one morning on my way to the convention center and read that President Barack Obama declared that nearly all troops in Afghanistan will withdraw by the end of 2016 (except a small number to protect the U.S. Embassy). This was timely news because our current cover story, "Overcoming Decades of Devastation: Revitalizing Education in Afghanistan," by David Tobenkin explores how colleges and universities have been assisting universities in Afghanistan to reinvigorate their higher education systems through partnerships that can help Afghan students have better opportunities despite the devastation in their country over the last several decades. This article is the second in a two-part series about partnerships with Iraq and Afghanistan to help revitalize higher education in those nations after U.S. military presence. The first article, "Reawakening Higher Education in Iraq," was published in the November/December 2013 issue of *International Educator*.

Also in this issue, the feature story, "All Smiles," by Kim Fernandez is about the internationalization of a discipline that might not seem like an obvious choice—dentistry. Future dentists and dental hygienists are increasingly becoming exposed to international field work opportunities in their degree programs as internationalization is becoming more popular at many dental schools. One of the newer initiatives in overseas dental student experiences is moving past simple trips to treat cavities and infections, and toward establishing permanent programs that will improve dental health in an area even when a U.S. school isn't on the ground there. For example, at the Colorado School of Dental Medicine, Director of Global Health Initiatives and Assistant Professor of Pediatric Dentistry Elizabeth Shick is working with a large company in Guatemala to open a permanent dental clinic in an area near large banana plantations. "One trip a year isn't what we were looking for," she says. "We want something sustainable to provide consistent care for the people in that country."

Last but not least, don't miss the annual International Enrollment Management Supplement accompanying this issue—the cover story focuses on diversifying international student recruitment strategies, which should be helpful going into the 2014–2015 academic year. **IE**

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