



# FIGT Connections

Where Research Comes to Life

## Families in Global Transition

### In This Issue

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT  
 CONFERENCE FEEDBACK  
 CONFERENCE PHOTOS  
 REMEMBERING DAVID C. POLLOCK

### Quick Links

FIGT Website  
 Join FIGT Membership

### Contact FIGT

PO Box 3363  
 Warrenton, VA 20188  
 1+202.360.4916  
 Fax: 1+202.962.3939  
 execdirector@figt.org  
 Website: www.figt.org

Become an FIGT Member  
 Today!

In March 2012, FIGT launched a new membership program, [click here](#) to learn more or join today!

Connect with FIGT



2014 Conference Sponsors

Gold Sponsors



Issue: 21

April 15, 2014

Families in Global Transition leads the worldwide community in empowering families and those who serve them in global transition. FIGT is the premier advocate and educational resource for families, organizations and service providers.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Families in Global Transition

It has been almost one month since the FIGT annual conference and most of us are still basking in the results as we begin to gear up for 2015! First I would like to thank the FIGT Board of Directors and CGG, our management company, for all of their hard work and tireless commitment to the organization. Without their vision, creativity, energy and support there would be no conference and there would be no FIGT in general. By their side were the dedicated volunteers and committee members who round out the amazing numbers of individuals who make everything possible. And of course our sponsors and exhibitors who contribute resources so we can hold the event at a great venue. A huge thank you to all!!!

The board worked hard, behind the scenes, all year, to bring you the best possible conference they could. The sessions were fantastic and the three keynote speakers - Ray Leki, Dr. Fanta Aw, and Lisa Liang with her unforgettable closing play - were inspirational! The hotel, thanks to Maureen Gelwicks and CGG, was just perfect for our group in every way. We look forward to bringing you an even better conference in 2015...we are on a roll.

Please support FIGT by becoming a member if you are not already, and by spreading the word to your colleagues and friends. Our goal each year is to increase the number of attendees and sponsors so we can provide you with the programs, research, support and visibility you need to support global families in whatever you do, both professionally and personally. Thanks again to everyone who had anything to do with the conference and the organization.

Peggy Love  
 President, Board of Directors

[Click here](#) for Sponsor Opportunities

## READ ALL ABOUT IT!

We are overwhelmed at the encouraging feedback we've been receiving in the form of blog posts:

[Alice Wu](#):

"Some of the conference highlights for me were the amazing plenary sessions, including one given by Fanta Aw, who introduced us to the concept of Ubuntu (humanity) and reminded us that 'it takes a village' to raise a child, as she shared stories about her life growing up with her family in Mali and many other countries. For the closing plenary, Lisa Liang performed her amazing new one woman show -- '[Alien Citizen: An Earth Odyssey](#)' -- which took us on her international journey from Guatemala to Egypt to Connecticut and more.

During the very brief but informative ignite sessions, Kristine Racina spoke about the [Expatriate Archive Centre](#) she directs in The Hague, which preserves history and memorabilia from international families. We also heard from Ellen Mahoney, founder of [Sea Change Mentoring](#), about this on-line mentoring organization that helps support mobile young people."

[Dounia Bertucelli](#):

"The Families in Global Transition conference held many surprises for me. I was surprised at how kind and generous everyone was. I was also surprised how we all truly connected to each other and how we all wanted to share our stories. As much as I hoped to find that sense of community, family and home, I didn't expect it to be so present and strong."

[Sue Mannering](#):

"I'm in Singapore now but I remember raising my kids in Dubai, driving them to school along Sheik Zayed Road, my hands clenched on the wheel, teeth clenched sometimes too. Then, at the end of the day, pulling into our driveway and watching a huge red circle sink into the sand, or disappear behind skyscrapers topped with cranes. Sitting in the car admiring sunset in Arabia.

"Back to the present and the conference and I find myself crying suddenly, in the shower, or in the lift (sorry, elevator).

"I'm looking forward to discussing the things I learnt at the conference with my husband, children and my Dad. And to writing about them. For me, the conference was relevant, emotional and educational. I'm coming back."

[Terry Ann Wilson](#):

"It occurred to me last weekend at the #FIGT conference, that I had never referred to my three sons as TCK's or third culture kids. Listening to the varied educators, authors and specialists at the conference, I came to understand why I hadn't done this. I wanted them to be 'normal'.

"So despite having lived in seven different countries, having had different experiences AND losing their friends every three, four or six years, they were supposed to be like any other kid. What I realized this weekend is the excellent support and care that exists for expat families who live overseas and that there is often a need for this. I'm thankful that for the most part, my three coped fairly well. However, partly what FIGT is concerned with and facilitates, is that for many children and their parents this global life can be challenging, confusing and leave kids without a sense of belonging to any country."

[Jo Parfitt](#):

"The impact of all this learning was that yesterday, as we all said goodbye, 140 or so people, at least half of whom had never met before, were hugging like old friends and promising not only to be back but also to stay in touch. We had become one family, one village. Yes, there were tears, many of them mine."

[Cate Brubaker](#):

"You know that feeling when you attend a conference for the first time and you want to jump up and down

because you've found people who get you? I wasn't expecting that reaction at FIGT because I'm not currently living abroad, I didn't grow up abroad, and I'm surrounded by global people every single day. I assumed I'd have things in common with FIGT attendees, but I also assumed I'd feel a bit on the outside of their shared experiences.

"I was wrong. In fact, I felt like the FIGT crowd understood aspects of my global experiences that very few people get. What I felt at FIGT was an unspoken bond with other participants created from an understanding of both the excitement and the pain of living abroad. From choosing a different path than family and friends. From not regretting your choices but from recognizing what you've gained, as well as what you've lost, from choosing that path."

[Becky Matchullis:](#)

"Saying goodbye was challenging, as it always is for a TCK/ATCK. Knowing I had added more members to my family made it significant. As I returned to Calgary, snow was falling and winter was hanging on. However, spring had emerged within me at FIGT. My passion has been rejuvenated in working with individuals and families who choose this life called 'global'. Thanks presenters, planners, and all those who participated."

[Lisa Liang:](#)

"To my relief given my initial trepidations, the response was overwhelmingly positive. I also felt, and continue to feel, gratified that people have continued discussing their impressions on blogs, Twitter, Facebook, and email. This confirmed what I've learned since the world premiere and through the show's international tour: the story is relatable and interesting; it's a testament to TCKs' strength; and if a story is told with humor, people will listen to the darker side of it, and empathize."

[Cristina Bertarelli:](#)

"When I started dancing this expat life, I was more inclined to think that it was a sort of ballroom dance. Since my return from the FIGT Conference, I find myself following the rhythm of a high tech kind of dance."

## SHARE YOUR IMPRESSIONS/MEMORIES!

If you've written something about the FIGT 2014 Conference or have photos, please share them on our [Facebook page](#).

Here are some of ours:



FIGT Board Of Directors



FIGT Treasurer Norman Viss





Michael V. Pollock



Fanta Aw

## REMEMBERING DAVID C. POLLOCK

While we celebrate all the new connections we made at FIGT 2014, let's also celebrate David C. Pollock and all he did for our community!

FIGT founder Ruth Van Reken recently wrote a fitting memorial to mark the tenth anniversary of his passing:

In Memory of David C. Pollock  
A Man Ahead of His Time  
June 9, 1939 - April 11, 2004

"For many, many adult TCKs, our 'aha!' moment when we realized we had a name came as we sat in Dave Pollock's lecture on The TCK Profile or read one of his early articles about this topic. Although Ruth Useem, sociologist from Michigan State University, coined the term Third Culture Kids in 1960, Dave was the person who translated it from an academic idea to making a difference in the lives of those who were living it.

While living in Kenya near an international school in the 1970s, Dave heard many common themes from the students he interacted with from that school. In time Dave, a master synthesizer of distilling these recurring themes into easily accessible models, created his landmark TCK Profile and one of the first models of transition which he simply called The Transition Experience. When he returned to the States, Dave resumed leadership of an organization called Interaction, Inc. whose purpose was to help organizations sending families overseas to care for them well. He and Paul Nelson chaired the first international conference on matters related to TCKs in October, 1984 in Manila, Philippines."

[Read more here.](#)