

## **Jacob B. Chacko - College of Education Research Dissemination Travel Award**

Recently, I was awarded the College of Education Research Dissemination Travel Award to attend and present at the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Pacific Rim Conference on Education in Gyeongju, South Korea. This is an annual conference held in conjunction with partnering universities to include: Burapha University, Thailand; Busan National University of Education, South Korea; Hokkaido University of Education, Japan; Illinois State University, USA; and University of Taipei, Taiwan.

### **Contribution to the Conference**

This year's theme was *Policies in Teacher Education: Issues and Trends*. Starting from the key-note speech by Dr. Kenji Homma, president of the Hokkaido University of Education, it was clear that globalizing teacher preparation programs was a key element of this conference. I co-presented a paper: *A Call for Change: Teacher Preparation for the Global Stage*, with my thesis chair Dr. Miranda Lin. Our paper focused on a review of literature on international student teaching (IST) experiences and recommendations for fostering successful such experiences at our universities. The review of literature consisted of the background of IST, benefits and challenges of IST, current status of IST, and IST at Illinois state university.

The discussion of the presentation focused primarily on the funding aspect of the program. Representatives from other universities were interested in finding out about the current program of IST at Illinois State University and how it was funded. I was able to discuss funding alternatives through my experience in IST at my undergraduate university, as well as ways in which professors and administrators can enable teacher candidates to fund themselves. Further discussions led to the topic of the new edTPA requirements for teacher candidates at ISU and its implications on IST.

### **How it contributed to my research**

I was able to learn a great deal from this conference about teacher preparation in different countries. The piece that stood out most was the panel discussion on Teacher Evaluation in the participating nations. Dr. Andrew Effrat used Russian nesting dolls as a representative model of explaining how each component is loosely fitted yet all tied together. It seemed that other nations were having similar discussions about teacher evaluations being tied to student performance on standardized testing. These discussions, models of education, frameworks for teaching and learning, and the like are very important to my current research and master's thesis study. I was able to come away from this conference with a more in-depth grasp of what it means to be a scholar of teaching and learning.

I am thankful to the college for funding my trip and allotting me this experience to gain so much perspective on teacher education around the world. I look forward to attending the conference again in future years as I develop as a scholar in the field of teaching and learning.