

# Training Future Teachers: Pop. Ed. on Campus

by Pamela Wasserman, Director of Population Education

## ZPG on Campus

Several of ZPG's outreach efforts focus on university campuses—and for good reason. Not only are America's college students our future policymakers—they are also our future teachers, and the shapers of our children's and grandchildren's education.

Over the past decade, ZPG's Teachers' PET (Population Education Training) Project has placed an increasing emphasis on training future teachers, who are enrolled in college and university education methods courses, to include hands-on population activities in their future lesson plans for elementary through secondary grades. Long a favorite with veteran

teachers of science, social studies, math and environmental studies, ZPG's curricula is now finding its way into new teachers' portfolios, thanks to our ongoing "pre-service" campaign.

Of the 500 or so teacher-training workshops presented by ZPG staff and volunteer members of the Population Education Trainers Network (PETNet) in 2001, 66 percent were presented to future teachers—more than 6,800—on over 140 campuses throughout North America.

## Why Focus on Future Teachers?

Population growth and the "echo boom" created a teacher shortage in many parts of the country. In fact, the U.S. Department of Education says America will need more than a million new teachers by 2010, or almost half the number of teachers currently in America's elementary and secondary schools. An entire generation of veteran teachers, now in their late 40s and 50s, is expected to retire in the next decade. And the demand for smaller classes means more teachers will be needed per school.

ZPG training workshops run the gamut of educational venues, in all types of settings, from large state universities to small liberal arts colleges. Last fall, ZPG trainers facilitated workshops at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, OK (capital of the Cherokee Nation), Evangel University (a Christian campus in Missouri's Ozarks), College of Mount St. Vincent in the Bronx, University of Victoria in British Columbia, San Francisco State University, and the University of Texas at El Paso, to name a few.

In some cases, we are invited to return each semester to campuses, such as Indiana University in Bloomington, to insure that most of their graduating student teachers have participated in population education activities and have added ZPG's activity scripts to their first lesson plans.

*Future teachers demonstrate crowding in an elementary education workshop.*

