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POD Network News: Newsletter May 1988

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The end of the semester is rapidly approaching, and we all look forward to summer as a time to catch up from the past year and plan for the next. The content of this newsletter is a little bit of each.

CATCHING UP

POD Session at AAHE

I want to thank all the members who generously gave of their time to make our POD Sampler and reception at the AAHE conference a great success. For those of you who have never had an opportunity to attend the session, you would be proud of your organization, which steadfastly refuses to conduct a "stand-up lecture" session at this fairly traditional conference. Instead we run a mini-conference with three or four small groups on different topics going on simultaneously. As a result the people who attend have an opportunity to sample what PODers do and think on a comparatively intimate basis. They come away impressed with our quality, our convictions and our people, and many end up joining the organization as a result. And it would not be possible without the members who volunteer to lead the groups. This year's leaders were Bob Diamond, Susan Holton, Gene Rice, Tom Wilson, Marilyn Leach, Judy Bailey, Sher Hruska, Wini Anderson, and Marilla Svinicki. A special note of thanks goes to Joanne Kurfiss and Bette Erickson, who not only presented but organized the thing.

Core Meeting

As is traditional, the Core Committee met just prior to the AAHE conference. The business conducted centered on the usual and the unusual. At this meeting the Core Committee selected the next editor of To Improve the Academy from the names suggested by the nominating committee under our new procedures. The Committee unanimously concurred on the selection of Susan Kahn of Wisconsin as the next editor. She is currently working with Joanne on this year's edition and will assume her responsibilities as head editor with the next manuscript solicitation. Congratulations!

Along the same lines the Committee began the process of identifying potential candidates for the next Executive Director. As decided at the fall meeting, a nominating committee was appointed, and criteria were laid out. The only restrictions on nomination were that the person have been a member of the Core Committee at some point and have served more than one year. Letters have gone out to previous Core members who are still in the organization inviting them to nominate themselves or others for the job. You are also encouraged to contact Marilla Svinicki if there is someone you would like to nominate for the position. The Executive Director will assume the duties next spring and serve for two years.
Perhaps the most important task of the Core Committee was to review the recommendations of the grants committee and make this year's awards. I'll leave the results of that process for later, but the process itself is a most interesting and complex one as we grapple with new issues each time. The newness of this program means that we have not resolved all the procedural complexities yet, and things don't always run as smoothly as we would like; but rest assured, it's getting better.

Finally, the Core Committee continued the discussions which were begun last fall on new directions and outreach for the organization. During the interim we had completed a mailing to directors of programs of higher education at institutions across the country and to various higher education publications. An outreach committee is now exploring how we can communicate the goals and functions of faculty and instructional development to administrators and other interested individuals to drum up support for such activities on their campuses. In addition, the Core Committee wants to seek out new ways of serving the needs for personal and professional growth of the current membership. A second group (now known as the "new vehicles" committee) made suggestions about ways to accomplish this. We will continue to try to work these into the conference and other activities. If you have suggestions for either of these groups, please send them along to me, and I'll forward them to the appropriate committees.

I'd like to thank the Core members for their hard work and support at the meeting. They are a splendid group.

Grants Program
As mentioned above, the Core Committee determined this year's award recipients during the March meeting. Congratulations go the following grantees:

L. Dee Fink and Herb Hengst of the University of Oklahoma for a study of the effects of different instructional strategies on student out-of-class study time.

Diane vom Saal of the University of Missouri for the development and testing of a brochure on undergraduate/teaching assistant interactions.

Robert J. Falk of the University of Minnesota/Duluth for development of a program to use retired faculty/student teams to provide a variety of services to the institution and community as a way of keeping these valued members of the academic community active in its programs.

The Core Committee also recognized the work of the projects from last year's program. Two of the projects have been successfully completed and a third is nearing completion soon. All three of these plan to present their results at the fall conference, and you are urged to take advantage of all that they have learned in the process of completing their studies. If you are interested in the final reports of the completed project, please feel free to contact me for a copy.

Program Descriptions Book now available
You will remember that in the fall Glenn Erickson was collecting program descriptions from the membership for inclusion in a booklet and in the Handbook for New Practitioners. Those who submitted descriptions have now received a copy of the booklet. If you were not one of those conscientious individuals but would like a copy of this compilation of about 50 programs, you can write or call me. Copies are free to members and available to non-members for $4.00.

PLANNING AHEAD
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Conference 1988, Keystone, Colorado

As you can see, it's time to start thinking about the conference. Enclosed with this newsletter are the conference registration materials. This year we are experimenting with an effort to hold costs down, or at least put you in more control of your own costs by providing more alternatives. We are doing this by having meals together only for Friday and Saturday lunches and dinners. The costs of these group meals are included in the registration fee, which is why it appears greater than in previous years. The remaining meals (Thursday dinner and all breakfasts) are at your discretion, although you can arrange for a box lunch for Sunday's ride to the airport. Because Keystone is a real town with several eating places and stores near the lodge, you can choose your own poison outside the scheduled group meals.

Another "free will" choice this year deals with transportation. We have arranged a group rate with Resort Express (see the small green flyer) for the beginning and end of the conference, but you may feel free to ignore that and go your own way if you'd like to take some time to explore the mountains.

Conference registration (which includes Friday and Saturday meals), lunch for Sunday, preconference seminar registration and 1988/89 membership renewals can all be handled by filling out the yellow form and returning it to Marilla Svinicki. Transportation by Resort Express is taken care of by returning the small green sheet to Resort Express at the address indicated on the flyer. Room registration at the lodge is done by filling out the gray envelope and returning it directly to Keystone Resort. This last task needs to be completed by August 29 to ensure a spot. Don't wait until the last minute on that one!

In addition, we have arranged with American Airlines to be the official carrier for this year's conference. Check the blue flyer for the details on how to take advantage of the discounts they have offered us. You can get 40% off regular coach fare or an additional 5% of any already discounted fare for which you qualify. This may not be much, but every little bit helps. If this arrangement works well this year, we'll try to get a similar deal from appropriate carriers in the future.

Now, if this has served only to confuse you, you can call Laura Border (303-492-4902) about program details, Marilla Svinicki (512-471-1488) for registration details or Keystone Resort for housing information.

Other Conferences of Interest

June 1-2  Case Conference on Collaborative Learning. Cambridge, MA. Sponsored by Lesley College Project for Collaborative Learning. Contact Anita Landa or Jill Tarule at 617-868-9600 for information.


June 18-21 Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. Hamilton, Ontario. Sponsored by the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. Contact Instructional Development Centre, McMaster University, 416-525-9140 x4540.


October 6-8 International Society for Exploring Teaching Alternatives (ISETA) conference. Chicago, IL. Contact Kenneth Klopfenstein, 303-491-1303. This organization might also be of interest to you since their focus overlaps ours.
Publication Opportunities

Models
a publication of CUE (Collaboration in Undergraduate Education), a network to encourage collaborative approaches to learning and leadership, is soliciting descriptions of models of collaborative learning projects for publication in its next edition. For information, contact Karen T. Romer, Box 1840, Brown University, Providence, RI, 02912. CUE is another organization in which you might be interested.

Journal of Educational Psychology
a publication of Division J of AERA, is soliciting manuscripts for a special edition on "Instruction in Higher Education." Deadline for submission is June 30th. Manuscripts should be empirically-based and follow APA format. Topics of particular interest are:
- Evaluation and Improvement of College Teaching
- Models of Post-secondary Instruction
- Student Cognition and Instruction
- Teaching and Institutional Governance
- Instruction in Professional Schools
Submit manuscripts (25-35 doubled-spaced pages) to Raymond P. Perry, Psychology, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA, R3T 2N2.

Job Opportunities

SUNY Stony Brook, 1) Director and 2) Instructional Specialist for Faculty Instructional Support Office. Send letter of application and resume (stating position for which you are applying) to Office of the Provost, State University of New York at Stony Brook, Adm. 407, Stony Brook, NY, 11794-1401.

U. of Tennessee, Knoxville, 1) Director of Conferences and 2) two Conference Coordinators for the Division of Continuing Education. Send application to Dr. Joseph P. Goddard, Dean, Division of Continuing Education, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Knoxville, TN, 37996-0346.


So long for now
That about wraps up the news for now. Remember to get your conference materials in early to get those special rates (and keep Laura's blood pressure down). I hope you have a lovely summer. In the meantime, if you need me, just call.

Marilla Svinicki