1993 POD Conference in Rochester

Much current POD activity is centered on planning for the 1993 POD conference to be held October 14-17 at the Kahler Hotel in Rochester, Minnesota. Conference co-chairs, Kay Herr and Linda Hilsen, are working with David Graf on final details of the conference, including registration, housing, transportation, and entertainment.

Program Chair, Suzanne Brown, reports that the program committee has accepted a full-schedule of programs addressing the conference theme, “Unveiling Inherent Values, Invigorating Values Inquiry in Classrooms, Curricula, and Campus Life.” Keynote speakers for the conference will be William Hastings Bergquist, an early leader of the POD Network and President of the Professional School of Psychology in San Francisco; Johnella Butler, a pioneer in the work of transforming curriculum to include the contributions and perspectives of women and people of color and chair of the American Ethnic Studies Department at the University of Washington; and M. Kathleen McGrory, former president of Hartford College for Women and Executive Director of the Society for Values in Higher Education. In addition to the concurrent and plenary sessions, the conference will include preconference workshops, a materials fair, special interest sessions, great entertainment, and lots of opportunities for networking.

Preconference workshops will be held on Thursday morning, October 14. The conference will begin officially with the reception and dinner on Thursday evening and conclude at noon on Sunday, October 17. In June, you will receive registration materials, so make plans now to attend what is shaping up to be a truly affordable and high-quality conference.

If you have ideas for the conference or would like to assist in some way, contact Kay Herr at Colorado State University (Phone: 303-491-1325) or Linda Hilsen at the University of Minnesota-Duluth (Phone: 218-726-7515 or 218-728-2526).

CORE Meeting in Washington D.C.

Despite the "snowstorm of the century" that challenged all our best travel strategies, the CORE Committee met as scheduled on March 13 and 14 at the annual AAHE meeting in Washington, D.C. In the opening activities, the five newly-elected members were welcomed to the CORE.

During the meeting, the CORE adopted a budget for the 1993-1994 year, approved an updated version of the POD Bylaws, acted on sub-committee recommendations related to POD publications and special projects, and made decisions about upcoming conferences. The CORE Committee also changed the title of the executive director to president to reflect more accurately the responsibilities of the position.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the group expressed appreciation to CORE Committee members who had completed their terms. In addition, Dan Wheeler from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln was honored as outgoing Executive Director, Don Wulff from the University of Washington became the POD President for 1993-1994, and Karron Lewis from the University of Texas at Austin assumed the responsibilities of the President-Elect.

Thanks to Ron and Dan

We owe a special debt of gratitude to Ron Smith and Dan Wheeler for their leadership in POD. Ron has completed his year as Past Executive Director and now moves off the CORE and the Executive Committees. Thanks, Ron, for your many contributions.

We express our gratitude to Dan for his leadership as 1992-1993 Executive Director. As Past-Executive Director, Dan will remain on the Executive Committee for the next year, where we will all continue to benefit from his experience and expertise. Thanks, Dan.

Standing Committees

As President-Elect, Karron Lewis has taken over as chair of the Publications Committee and the Outreach Committee. An ongoing issue for the Publications Committee is how best to publicize and disseminate POD materials so that they are readily accessible to instructional, faculty and organizational developers. The Outreach Committee has been instituted to enhance POD's relationships with other professional organizations in higher education. If you have input or suggestions for either of these committees, contact Karron at the University of Texas at Austin (Phone: 512-471-1488).
POD Activities at AAHE

POD was again visible at the annual national conference of the American Association of Higher Education (AAHE) in Washington, D.C., March 14-17. In addition to the spring CORE Committee Meeting, POD sponsored a sampler of activities, a reception, and a booth in the exhibit area. A number of POD members also presented sessions at the conference.

Larry Quinsland, assisted by Charles Spuches, spearheaded plans for the POD sampler on the theme of "Building Community through Collaboration Between Faculty Developer and Administrators." Sessions during the sampler included Karron Lewis and Sarita Brown from the University of Texas at Austin presenting on "Faculty/TA Development Possibilities at a Large State University" and Martin Nemko from Nemko and Associates in Oakland, CA, with a session entitled "The Faculty Developer as 'Executive Coach.'"

Thanks go to Larry and Chuck for organizing the sampler, to Karron, Sarita, and Marty for presenting sessions, to David Graf for organizing the POD booth, and to all members who represented POD at the booth and throughout the conference.

1993 To Improve the Academy

Editors of the 1993 To Improve the Academy, DeLievere Wright and Joyce Povlacs Lunde, report that, with the help of the associate editors, they have selected a variety of high-quality articles for publication in the upcoming volume, including a feature article by Marilla Svinicki on "The Spirit of POD." The final revisions are now being completed, and the volume will be ready for distribution at the fall conference.

POD Grants

POD seeks to award grants for projects that will benefit the organization and the profession. The purpose of the grant program is to provide some financial support for POD members who want to play an active role in advancing the field of instructional, faculty and organizational development. Awards typically range from $1000.00 to $2000.00.

Start thinking now about projects for which you might be able to use the funds available through this program. The deadline for submission of proposals will be late September. All proposals will be sent through a blind review process with the choices for awards determined by the CORE Committee at the fall conference. Further details of the application process will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

Future POD Conferences

1994 Conference Chair Larry Quinsland is currently in the initial stages of planning for the 1994 POD Conference in Portland, Oregon. If you would like to volunteer to assist Larry, contact him at the Rochester Institute of Technology (Phone: 716-475-6237).

At the upcoming fall meeting, the CORE Committee will select the site for the 1995 conference, tentatively scheduled to be held in the northeast.

POD Memberships for 1993-1994

The membership year for POD ends on August 30th. Membership renewal information for the upcoming year will be included with the registration materials for the 1993 conference. For other information on POD membership, contact David Graf, POD Manager of Administrative Services, at (515) 294-3808 or use his E-Mail address: JIDLG@ISUVAX.IASTATE.EDU.

Enclosures

This issue of the POD Network News includes two enclosures. Our annual "Membership Directory Update" includes the names and addresses of those POD members who have joined the organization or renewed their membership or changed their addresses since the directory was printed in January.

We have made arrangements with Magna Publications to exchange inserts in our respective publications. The insert in this issue announces the availability of Mentor in a Manual: Climbing the Academic Ladder to Tenure, by A. Clay Shoenfeld and Robert Mangnan and Retirement 901: A Comprehensive Seminar for Senior Faculty and Staff, by A. Clay Shoenfeld. Later this fall, we will provide Magna an insert describing one of our publications.
POD Mailing List

For a nominal fee, we can provide members and non-members with printed mailing labels which can be used to announce regional conferences or new publications or to seek assistance with research projects. If you are interested in obtaining a set of POD Network mailing labels, contact David Graf for more information.

Announcements

This section of each newsletter is devoted to announcements of interest to the POD membership, including information about resources, conferences, job listings, changes in members' jobs, or special awards/recognition members have received. If you have submissions for this portion of the next newsletter, please submit them to Don Wulff at the addresses listed in the last portion of this newsletter.

Conferences: The Fourth National Conference on the Training and Employment of Graduate Teaching Assistants will be held at the Hyatt Regency Oakbrook, in Chicago, IL, November 10-13, 1993. The conference theme is "Teaching Graduate Students to Teach: Engaging the Disciplines." For information, contact Marne Helgesen at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Phone: 217-333-3370).


AAHE's Teaching Initiative and Pace University's Center for Case Studies in Education are sponsoring a conference on the use of cases to improve teaching and learning. The conference will be held on July 14-17, 1993, at Mills College in Oakland, CA. For information, contact Erin Anderson, Project Assistant, or Pat Hutchings, Director, Teaching Initiative, at AAHE (Phone: 202-293-6440).

Fullbright Applications: The Fullbright Teacher Exchange Program is accepting application requests from U.S. university and college faculty, secondary and elementary school educators, and educational administrators interested in teaching abroad during the 1994-95 academic year. The program, which administers exchanges between the U.S. and 34 countries, has as its goal to promote mutual understanding through educational and cultural exchanges between citizens of the United States and those of other countries. The application deadline for U.S. applicants is October 15, 1993. For information and application materials with specific country requirements, call 1-800-726-0479.

Job Opening: The Office of Human Resources at the University of Minnesota is accepting applications for a full-time Assistant Education Specialist in the Teaching Assistant Program. Applicants must have a Master's Degree and successful teaching experience at the college or university level. The application deadline is June 7, 1993. For information, contact Connie Tzenis (Phone 612-627-4328).

Resources on Diversity: Building a Diverse Faculty by POD members Joanne Gainen and Robert Boice is the most recent volume in the NEW DIRECTIONS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING SERIES (#53) published by Jossey-Bass. This collection of articles proceeds from an overview of the literature on faculty diversity to accounts of issues faced by specific faculty groups. To order, contact Jossey-Bass Publishers, 350 Sansome Street, San Francisco, CA 94104.

"Teaching in the Diverse Classroom" is a 37-minute videotape in which university faculty and students explain why recognizing diversity is so important on today's college campuses. The tape includes specific examples to demonstrate strategies instructors can use to be more effective in increasingly diverse classrooms. For information, contact the Center for Instructional Development and Research, University of Washington, 109 Parrington Hall, DC-07, Seattle, WA 98195 (Phone: 206-543-6588; FAX: 206-685-1213).
Thoughts from the New POD President

I begin my role as President of POD with great anticipation as I think about working with and learning from the many talented colleagues in a professional organization that is unique in its commitment to the needs of individuals. In addition to the many POD activities that will take place this year, there are a number of important issues that I would like us to continue to address, including:

Balance of the Natural Tension. I hope we will continue to seek an appropriate balance between the increasing structure/professionalism needed to conduct the business of the organization and the informal networking collegiality on which POD is founded. We can strive for such balance by valuing the tension as a natural part of organizational development and including it as an ongoing part of our discussions as the organization evolves.

Diversity of the Membership. It is important that we continue to monitor the make-up of our membership and encourage the openness and inclusiveness that will allow us to benefit from diverse perspectives. At the POD Conference in Saddlebrook the Diversity Interest Group prepared a list of recommendations for addressing issues of diversity in the organization. In response to these recommendations, I am forming a committee to develop specific strategies for implementation. The strategies will be discussed as part of the agenda at the CORE meeting in the fall.

Continuity in the Activities. A strength of the structure of POD is the annual built-in turnover in the CORE Committee, the Executive Committee, and leadership for various POD projects. However, such turnover requires significant efforts to maintain continuity in carrying out decisions and activities of the CORE Committee. To advance these efforts, I will be enlisting the assistance of past leaders and committee members in designing templates and compiling materials that can be included in notebooks, which will be updated yearly, and passed from person to person as leadership responsibilities change.

Renewal of Commitment to the POD Mission. Finally, at a time when institutions are strapped to provide appropriate resources, it is important that POD be seen as a place where we can come together to renew our commitment to the basic tenets of our organization: to provide support and services for each other, to offer services and resources to others interested in faculty development, and to fulfill advocacy roles in which we inform and persuade educational leaders of the value of faculty, instructional, and organizational development in higher education. In part, we can support these tenets by making suggestions to the Publications Committee about how best to disseminate resources. In addition, we can provide input to the Outreach Committee about ways to establish appropriate connections with other professional organizations in higher education. We can also continue to volunteer to participate directly in the many activities of our organization. POD is based on a strong volunteer system that requires that we all be involved. An important part of this involvement is a matter of standing ready to help each other.

If I or members of the CORE Committee can assist in any way as you attempt to carry out the mission of POD, do not hesitate to contact me: (Phone 206-543-6588; FAX: 206-685-1213; E-Mail: Donald_Wulf@cidr.washington.edu).

I look forward to serving as POD President for 1993-1994 and to seeing all of you at the 1993 conference in Rochester.

Donald H. Wulff