18th Annual Conference Advance Program and Registration Materials

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18th Annual Conference
Advance Program & Registration Materials

UNVEILING INHERENT VALUES,
INVIGORATING VALUES INQUIRY
in classrooms, curricula, and campus life

October 14 - 17, 1993
Kahler Hotel
Rochester, Minnesota
Dear Colleagues,

We can now register for the 1993 POD Conference. Our plenary and concurrent sessions, pre-conference activities and our social and informal times together will provide us with many opportunities to explore higher education issues and address our faculty, instructional, organizational, and personal development needs. The Program Committee has been hard at work to prepare an exciting program for us.

The 1993 conference will be held at the Kahler Hotel in Rochester, Minnesota, located near Minneapolis/St. Paul. We shall have opportunities to enjoy fantastic fall scenery in a delightful small city with a remarkable number of things to explore.

The pre-conference workshops will begin at 8:30 on Thursday morning, and the conference itself begins formally at 4:30 Thursday afternoon with an orientation and welcome for newcomers. We will conclude at noon on Sunday. Please note that the deadline for Early Bird registration is September 1, 1993. Register early to take advantage of our discounted rates. And please use the POD travel agent to make your travel arrangements - everyone wins! If you are unable to join us, please take the time now to renew your membership for 1993-94. We look forward to seeing you in October.

Sincerely,

Kay Herr and Linda Hilsen

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**Exploring the Conference Theme**

In *Teaching Values in College* (1980), Richard Morrill defines values as "standards and patterns of choice that guide persons and groups toward satisfaction, fulfillment and meaning." The term *values* encompasses *ethics*, which refers to theory and standards of conduct and moral judgment, and *morality*, which is usually associated with personal or professional behavior. But *values* implies a broader range of preference and choice, including the political, economic, social, and aesthetic dimensions of human experience – indeed, any area of experience in which we assign greater value to one position, approach, or action than to others.

Although there are those who maintain that we cannot and should not *teach* values in our colleges and universities, this broad definition makes it clear that we cannot, in fact, avoid doing so. Objectivity, presumably the antidote to teaching values, is, itself, a value inherent in many academic disciplines and, some would argue, in the higher education enterprise as a whole. Hence, as Russell Edgerton has observed, values are both "taught and caught" on college campuses. Consciously or unconsciously, as faculty and administrators, we convey values; our institutions reflect myriad, often deeply-rooted values, and most college students, whatever their age, are deeply involved in absorbing, developing, refining, reformulating, and committing to values that will shape their futures.

**UNVEILING INHERENT VALUES** refers to the process of making explicit what too often remains implicit. Values are inherent in what we teach and how we teach. The campus environment conveys values. Each academic discipline and professional field is rich in values – and sometimes rent by conflicting values. Our institutional missions, policies, processes, and reward systems are value-laden. Only by unveiling these inherent values can we examine and evaluate what we are teaching – in the broadest sense of that term. Only by confronting these inherent values can we pave the way for change in our classrooms, curricula, and institutional cultures.

**INVIGORATING VALUES INQUIRY** is a call for more fully and frequently involving students in substantive discussions of values. If we are to prepare our students adequately for the plethora of personal choices they will have to make and the professional and societal issues they will have to address, we must prepare them to recognize, analyze, and evaluate the values at stake. *Values inquiry* is the application of critical thinking – and perhaps of "different voices" – to values issues. Like critical thinking and communication skills, the methods of values inquiry must be taught across-the-curriculum and modeled in collegial discourse across the campus.
Preliminary Conference Schedule

Thursday, October 14

8:30 - 11:30am  Preconference Workshops
12:15 - 4:15pm  Educational Expeditions
1:00 - 4:00pm  Preconference Workshops
4:30 - 5:30pm  Orientation/Welcome for conference newcomers
5:30 - 6:30pm  Opening Reception (cash bar)
6:30 - 8:00pm  Opening Dinner
8:00pm  Program

Friday, October 15

7:30 - 8:30am  Continental Breakfast with regional colleagues
8:30 - 10:00am  Concurrent Sessions
10:00 - 10:15am  Refreshment Break
10:15 - 11:15am  Plenary Session: Dr. William Bergquist

The Unconscious Life in Contemporary Colleges and Universities: Institutional Values and the Four Cultures

11:15 - noon  Concurrent Sessions
Noon  Lunch
1:30 - 3:00pm  Concurrent Sessions
3:00 - 3:30pm  Refreshment Break
3:30 - 4:45pm  Special Interest Groups
5:00 - 6:45pm  Materials and Resource Fair, Networking (cash bar)
7:00 - 8:30pm  Dinner
8:30pm  Program

Saturday, October 16

7:30 - 8:30am  Continental Breakfast
8:30 - 9:45am  Concurrent Sessions
9:45 - 10:00am  Refreshment Break
10:00 - 11:00am  Plenary Session: Dr. Johnella Butler

Pedagogy and Revolution: Unveiling the Values Inherent in Curriculum Transformation

11:15 - Noon  Concurrent Sessions
Noon  Lunch
1:30 - 3:00pm  Concurrent Sessions
3:00 - 3:30pm  Refreshment Break
3:30 - 5:00pm  Concurrent Sessions
6:00 - 7:00pm  Reception/Networking (cash bar)
7:00 - 8:45pm  Conference Banquet:
9:00 - 10:30pm  Film/Video Fest
9:00 - Midnight  Music and dancing

Sunday, October 17

7:30 - 8:30am  Continental Breakfast
8:00 - 8:45am  Annual POD Network Business Meeting (over breakfast)
9:00 - 10:00am  Plenary Session: Dr. Kathleen McGrory

An Outsider's View of POD Values – and of POD's Value to the Academy

10:00 - 10:30am  Refreshment Break
10:30 - 11:45am  Concurrent Sessions
11:45am  Lunch

Looking Forward to Portland in 1994!
About our speakers...

Bill Bergquist, an early leader of the POD Network, is a man of many accomplishments. Currently serving as President of The Professional School of Psychology, an independent graduate school for human service professionals in California, Dr. Bergquist has taught both psychology and business at a number of institutions including the University of Oregon, the University of Idaho, the University of San Francisco, and the NTL Institute. He has consulted with hundreds of organizations – corporations, human service agencies, and educational associations, as well as colleges and universities. And he has published sixteen books and many articles on a broad range of topics. His most recent book, which will provide the focus for his conference presentation, is *The Four Cultures of the Academy* (Jossey-Bass, 1992).

Johnnella Butler is among the pioneers in the important work of transforming the curriculum to include the contributions and points of view of women and people of color. Dr. Butler has taught at Towson State College, chaired the Department of Afro-American Studies at Smith College, and served as co-director of the first major grant-funded project to bring together scholarship on Black Studies and Women's Studies (1981-83). Currently, she chairs the American Ethnic Studies Department at the University of Washington and is the co-principal investigator for a statewide curriculum infusion project funded by the Ford Foundation. Her publications include *Black Studies: Pedagogy and Revolution, A Study of Afro-American Literature in the Liberal Arts Curriculum* (1981) and *Transforming the Curriculum: Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies* (1991).

Describing her as a "fund raiser, an impressive professional with a vision and integrity, and a warm and compassionate human being," the Society for Values in Higher Education selected Dr. Kathleen McGrory as its new Executive Director in the spring of 1992. A scholar in comparative literature, Dr. McGrory has taught at New York's City College and Western Connecticut State University. She has authored and edited works on medieval romance, on numerous modern Irish writers, and on contemporary educational and women's issues. Her administrative career includes positions of dean and academic vice president at Eastern Connecticut State University and the presidency of Hartford College for Women from 1985 to 1991, when the college merged with the University of Hartford.
Preconference Workshops

1. Getting Started in Faculty Development
   Facilitator: L. Dee Fink, University of Oklahoma and Larry Quinsland, National Institute for the Deaf, Rochester Institute of Technology, with additional resource persons.
   Thursday, October 14, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
   Cost: $40.00

   This workshop is for persons who are new to instructional, professional or faculty development—faculty on committees, consultants, administrators. The morning will provide participants an opportunity to learn about major approaches to faculty development and to discuss their interests with experienced practitioners in the field. In the afternoon, participants can choose two of the following hands-on sessions: conducting workshops, publishing newsletters, and offering individual teaching consultation. A copy of *Face to Face* (edited by Karron Lewis), a source book of individual consultation techniques for faculty/instructional developers, will be provided to participants.

2. Better Teaching, More Learning: A Workshop on Teaching Strategies
   Facilitator: James Davis, University of Denver
   Thursday, October 14, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
   Cost: $40.00

   This workshop is for professionals in faculty development and faculty, new or experienced, who want to reflect more deeply on what really takes place in classrooms where students are learning. The workshop is divided into sub-sessions to explore four teaching strategies, each based on a different paradigm of how people learn. The strategies are “Training & Coaching,” “Lecturing and Explaining,” “Inquiry & Discovery,” and “Groups & Teams.” Each strategy is modeled as well as explained as participants are actively engaged in experiencing the strategy. *Better Teaching, More Learning,* authored by the facilitator and recently published by the American Council on Education and the Oryx Press, will be provided to workshop participants for follow-up reading.

3. Beyond Tolerance: A “Welcoming Diversity” Model
   Facilitators: Judy Greene, University of Delaware and Judith Gibson, University of Delaware
   Thursday, October 14, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
   Cost: $40.00 (enrollment limited to 25)

   As we explore values, let’s take a look inside ourselves. This experiential workshop, suitable for all, shows us how to identify the misinformation we carry about ourselves and others, how to heal the emotional wounds resulting from mistreatment, and how to reclaim the power to challenge all forms of discrimination. Specific objectives include identifying some of the information we have learned about other groups, identifying and expressing pride in the groups to which we belong, learning how groups other than our own experience mistreatment, learning the personal impact of specific incidents of discrimination, and learning ways to interpret prejudicial jokes, remarks, and slurs. The model is one that can be transferred and adapted to any campus.

4. Active Learning: Cooperation in the College Classroom
   Facilitator: Karl Smith, University of Minnesota
   Thursday, October 14, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
   Cost: $40.00

   In this workshop, cooperative learning will be defined both conceptually and operationally. Its benefits and relevant research support will be reviewed. The basic elements of cooperative learning (positive interdependence, face-to-face interaction, individual accountability/personal responsibility, collaborative skills) will be presented through a combination of experiential exercises, discussion, and lecture. Cooperative learning strategies will be used to demonstrate informal, formal, and base cooperative groups. How to implement cooperative learning will be discussed, as well as considering how to overcome barriers to implementation. Teaching students cooperative skills will be examined, and participants will plan a cooperative lesson.

5. Cracks in the Ivory Tower: Conflict Management in Higher Education
   Facilitator: Susan Holton, Bridgewater State College
   Thursday, October 14, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.
   Cost: $20.00

   Conflict is a fact of life—even within the no-longer-ivy towers of academia. And yet it is something that is poorly understood and often desperately avoided, at the peril of the relationship, the department, or the institution. This workshop will focus on learning about conflict, how to detect it, how to deal with it head on when it happens, and how to use conflict in a positive way. After this session, participants will know some “early warning signs” of conflict, will know about conflict management styles, will determine their own style(s), and will understand levels of conflict and how to intervene at each level.

6. Course and Curriculum Development
   Facilitator: Bob Diamond, Syracuse University
   Thursday, October 14, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.
   Cost: $20.00

   This practical, interactive workshop will introduce a successful model for course, curriculum and program design. It will describe the role of the developer in design, implementation, and evaluation. The politics of implementation, successful change, the skills needed to be an effective developer, and how to increase impact with limited resources also will be discussed. Participants will receive a copy of the presenter’s “Designing and Improving Courses and Curricula in Higher Education.”

7. Life Goes On – And On – And On: Effective Skills and Strategies for New and Experienced Faculty Development Directors
   Facilitators: Marie Wunsch, University of Hawaii, Manoa and Marilla Svinicki, University of Texas, Austin
   Thursday, October 14, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
   Cost: $20.00

   Formal training in faculty development “directing” is rare. Most skills are learned on the job, often by individuals struggling in isolation. This workshop provides an opportunity for directors at all stages of their appointment to continue and enhance their skill development and networking in administering programs.

   Part 1 (2 hours) - Participants will choose one section:
   **Section A** (enrollment limited to 25)
   New directors (0-2 years) and chairs/members of faculty development committees. The emphasis will be on identifying and developing perspectives, skills, and strategies to administer a program.

   **Section B** (enrollment limited to 25)
   Experienced directors (3 years or more) with mature or changing programs. The focus will be on addressing changing programs, developing strategies to meet new situations, and giving attention to the lifestyle and career issues of experienced directors.

   Part 2 (1 hour) Sections A and B will meet together to summarize issues and problems and to develop ongoing working networks of directors engaged in like interests.

8. Faculty Consultant as Counselor: Issues and Techniques
   Facilitators: Larry Quinsland, National Technical Institute for the Deaf, Rochester Institute of Technology; Sally Atkins, Appalachian State University; Peter Frederick, Carleton College; Gary Long, National Technical Institute for the Deaf, Rochester Institute of Technology
   Thursday, October 14, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
   Cost: $20.00

   The purpose of this session is to share effective consultation techniques with colleagues who function as faculty development consultants. The focus will be on some of the non-classroom related issues that faculty bring to the conference table. Workshop presenters will demonstrate specific counseling techniques for assisting colleagues to deal with issues such as “mid-life” concerns, gender issues, family and relationship issues, career satisfaction issues, professional development decision-making, collegial conflict, and campus politics. The ethics of determining personal limits, boundaries, and appropriate referral will be considered.
The Concurrent Sessions:
An Array of Valuable and Value-Laden Topics

Along with some of the popular staples of POD conferences – faculty development strategies, evaluation of teaching, classroom strategies, and approaches to diversity – the sixty or so concurrent sessions include a number of new topics prompted by the conference theme. There will be sessions that analyze the values inherent in the work of faculty developers and sessions that explore the ways in which we (and students) value teaching, as well as the values conveyed by different teaching strategies. There will be sessions demonstrating techniques for invigorating values inquiry in the classroom and sessions outlining organizational development strategies for unveiling the values inherent in campus environments and for embedding the values of diversity. In short, there will be much of value for everyone! Please plan to stay through the last session on Sunday morning, as the later sessions will be every bit as valuable (and as carefully planned by their presenters) as the earlier ones.

Special Interest Sessions
Faculty working in committee-run teaching centers, veteran professional center directors, administrators involved with consortial or system-level faculty development programs, POD members with a special interest in diversity – these groups and others will have the opportunity to get better acquainted and share ideas pertaining to their particular responsibilities or interests during the Special Interest Sessions scheduled during the conference.

Materials and Resource Fair

The Materials and Resource Fair is scheduled for Friday afternoon in the Penthouse at the Kahler Hotel. This setting will enhance our educational and social networking. Always a highlight of the POD Conference, the Materials and Resource Fair provides the opportunity for members to share materials from their campus programs and to pick up new ideas from colleagues elsewhere. Books, pamphlets, flyers, brochures, newsletters, or research summaries – POD members haul boxes with multiple copies of materials across country annual in order to make the Materials and Resource Fair a success.

Space will be provided for those participants interested in sharing information on their programs and ideas. Persons who display materials are expected to remain at their tables to discuss their programs with others. Charges may be assessed to defray the cost of shared materials, but it is expected that such charges are "not for profit."

Tables will be provided and will vary in size and shape due to the unique Penthouse setting for this year’s Fair. Tables will have tablecloths. We cannot provide easels, electrical connections, computers, or VCRs. To request a table to display and share materials and resources, check the appropriate box on the conference registration form. Your request must be received not later than September 1st. Requests received after September 1st will not be honored.

Persons who display materials must be registered for the conference.
Educational Expeditions

Being the innovative organization that we are, we have decided to try something new in response to past conference participants’ suggestions that major outings not be scheduled in conflict with concurrent sessions. Two alternative educational expeditions have been scheduled for Thursday afternoon from 12:15 - 4:15pm. Book your flights early so you can get to Rochester in time to enjoy one of these educational sessions.

### Exploring the Mississippi

No river claims such an honored place in our country’s literature and lore as the mighty Mississippi, and there is good reason for this: you will find beauty in every bend. The river and the Mississippi Valley are majestic and alluring. If you want to experience the aura of the Mississippi in autumn, sign up for this tour!

You will leave the Kahler Hotel and travel northeast through rolling countryside, hardwood forest, and autumnal brilliance to Frontenac State Park, located above Lake Pepin, the Mississippi's broadest point. On the 450 foot bluffs, you will have an incredible view of the Mississippi. Turkey vultures, bald eagles, timber rattlers, squirrels, and grouse inhabit the area. Raptors, Tundra Swan, and geese migrate through this point. Bring your binoculars and cameras. Miles of self-guided trails cross the bluff and bend down to the river. In an hour, a healthy 80 year old can hike one third of the way down the bluff along an eleven-station trail and back.

If time permits, you will then be transported down to the river's edge, where you can explore more by hiking out into the river on Sand Point. On your relaxing ride back to the hotel you will view Minnesota country in a spectacular twilight.

The cost for this educational experience headed by a nature guide is $15.00. Twenty-five individuals must sign up for this trip to happen, so make your reservations now.

### Touring Amish Country

This educational expedition, touring the largest Amish Colony in the Midwest, will leave you with fond memories for years to come! Departing from the Kahler Hotel, you will travel along curving roads through rolling hills ablaze with incredible fall color until you arrive in Harmony, Minnesota, where a guide will join our group. At the Main Avenue Office, framed Amish photos, crafts, furniture, dolls, baskets, and other country art items will be available for purchase.

Touring this fascinating community, you will view Amish farms and stop now and then at one of the homes. You will see the first church built in Fillmore County, observe buggies tied to hitching posts in town, and watch the Amish working their fields with horses and machinery reminiscent of the late 1800’s.

The guide will explain the Amish life-style. This Amish community is "old order," meaning the people are private and have strong Christian convictions which bind their community, enabling them to live according to their inherited and cherished value system. Water is heated on woodburning stoves, and the homesteads are lighted by kerosene lamps. Children carry lunch baskets from their one room school-houses as they amble home.

Stops will be made at the Bake Lady's, the Woodworking Shop, and the Henrytown Country Store, which is filled with antiques, Amish crafts, and delicious ice cream.

After being transported back in time, you can relax on the return trip through the majestic Minnesota fall twilight as you contemplate or discuss what you have seen with other POD people.

The cost for this educational expedition is $15.00. Twenty-five people must reserve space for this trip to occur, so make your reservations now.

### There's a lot to do in Rochester

Rochester and the surrounding area have a wealth of educational and relaxing activities. Within the city, you can tour mansions (Mayowood and Plummer House), visit art galleries and museums, go antiquing, tour Quarry Hill Nature Center or visit the impressive medical facilities at the Mayo Clinic, Saint Mary’s Hospital or Methodist Hospital. Or you can relax by Silver Lake, where 28,000 Giant Canada Geese, many mallard ducks, and two swans make their home. Without going out of the skyway and subway system, you can shop ’til you drop or have a soothing massage at The Healing Touch. In Rochester’s 35 parks, you can hike, bird watch, play tennis, and fish. There are also 6 eighteen hold golf courses, swimming pools, and abundant picnic/contemplation areas within the city limits.

A plethora of fascinating trips within an hour's distance include: riding an authentic paddle wheeler on the Mississippi; touring Niagra Cave to see a 60 foot underground waterfall, stalactites, and fossils; visiting Mantorville, Minnesota's only boardwalk town and a nationally registered historic place; going gambling in a casino; watching wildlife in Oxbow Park and Zollman Zoo; or exploring Minnesota’s glorious fall displayed on rolling hills, in river valleys, and on massive bluffs.

You will not be at a loss for how to fill any free time you may have!
Hotel Arrangements

Kahler Hotel and Kahler Plaza Hotel
Make your rooming arrangements directly with the hotel using the enclosed envelope. Room costs are shown on the envelope. Note that the conference package cost includes breakfast, lunch, dinner and refreshment breaks each day. You must refer to the 1993 POD Conference when making your reservations. Room availability cannot be guaranteed after September 24, 1993.

The conference package price shown on the envelope applies to all conference participants arriving Wednesday or Thursday and extends through lunch on Sunday. Conference participants arriving on Tuesday will be billed for the hotel room only and will be responsible for their own meals until the conference package becomes effective.

Roommate Assistance
Anyone desiring assistance in finding a roommate may contact Judy Greene at the University of Delaware (302-831-2027). Judy's email address is JUDY.GREENE@MVS.UDEL.EDU. Please indicate your gender and preference for smoker or non-smoker roommate. Judy will take your name and telephone number and provide you with the names and telephone numbers of other persons who are looking for roommates. You are responsible for making your own arrangements and coordinating schedules with someone on the list provided by Judy.

Travel Arrangements

Airline Arrangements
We have made arrangements with a travel agency and Northwest Airlines for discounted airline tickets for travel to Rochester. POD Conference attendees are eligible for a 10% discount off discounted coach fares or 5% off the lowest applicable fare. Our Canadian travellers are also eligible for a 10% discount off discounted coach fares. These discounts are only available through the designated POD travel agent listed below.

Using the POD travel agent to make your arrangements will also benefit POD. For every 40 tickets sold through our travel agent, POD will receive one free ticket that we can use for administrative purposes.

To take advantage of the discounted airfares, call Travel & Transport at 1-800-747-8182. Ask for Sara or Tim and indicate that you are making arrangements for the POD Network Conference. Travel & Transport will make your airline reservations and issue your tickets.

Ground Transportation
The Kahler Hotel operates a shuttle service to and from the airport. The cost for a round trip ticket is $0.00. The shuttle operates on the hour and half-hour. Tickets may be purchased at the airport or the hotel. Additionally, taxi service is available for the short trip from the airport to the hotel.

If you are arriving at the Minneapolis/St. Paul airport, the Rochester Express operates a limousine service from the airport to the Kahler Hotel in Rochester. The cost for a round trip ticket is $41.00. Call 612-726-5501 or 507-288-4490 to verify departure times and make arrangements for the limo service.
**Name badge and mailing information** (use a separate form for each person)

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**Conference Registration**

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**Cancellation Policy**
Full refunds of conference registration fees, less a $20.00 processing fee, will be available until October 4, 1993. After October 4, 1993, a $50.00 cancellation fee will be assessed for any cancelled registrations. No cancellations will be accepted after October 9, 1993. Refunds will be made after the conference. Note: The POD Network is not responsible for room arrangements with the Kahler Hotel or Kahler Plaza Hotel.

**Pre-Conference Workshops** [see enclosed descriptions]

- Getting Started in Faculty Development @ $40.00
- Better Teaching, More Learning @ $40.00
- Beyond Tolerance @ $40.00
- Active Learning @ $40.00
- Cracks in the Ivory Tower @ $20.00
- Course and Curriculum Development @ $20.00
- Life Goes On - And On @ $20.00
- Faculty Consultant as Counselor @ $20.00

**Materials and Resource Fair**

- Yes, please reserve a table for me (no fee)

**Educational Expeditions**

- Exploring the Mississippi @ $15.00
- Touring Amish Country @ $15.00

**1993-1994 POD Membership Dues** (POD membership year, Sep 1 - Aug 31)

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*Institutional membership covers up to 3 individuals from the same institution. Please complete address information for all members on back side of this form. The individuals named here DO NOT have to attend the conference.

**Total enclosed** $________

Make checks payable to POD Network in U.S. currency and mail with this form to:
David Graf, 15B Exhibit Hall South, Iowa State University, Ames IA 50011
POD Network
INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP LIST

1. Name: __________________________
   Position: _________________________
   Department or Program: ____________
   Office Address: __________________
   Institution: ______________________
   City, State, Zip: _________________
   Country: _________________________
   Office Phone: ____________________
   Fax: ____________________________
   Electronic Mail Address: ____________

2. Name: __________________________
   Position: _________________________
   Department or Program: ____________
   Office Address: __________________
   Institution: ______________________
   City, State, Zip: _________________
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3. Name: __________________________
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   Department or Program: ____________
   Office Address: __________________
   Institution: ______________________
   City, State, Zip: _________________
   Country: _________________________
   Office Phone: ____________________
   Fax: ____________________________
   Electronic Mail Address: ____________
Conference Registration & Membership Renewal Materials Enclosed

Early Bird Registration Deadline: September 1, 1993

POD NETWORK
15B Exhibit Hall South
Iowa State University
Ames IA 50011

Delivee Wright
Dir, Teaching And Learning Center
University Of Nebraska-Lincoln
121 Benton Hall
Lincoln NE 68588-0623
Educational Expeditions

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Touring Amish Country

This educational expedition, touring the largest Amish Colony in the Midwest, will leave you with fond memories for years to come! Departing from the Kahler Hotel, you will travel along curving roads through rolling hills ablaze with incredible fall color until you arrive in Harmony, Minnesota, where a guide will join our group. At the Main Avenue Office, framed Amish photos, crafts, furniture, dolls, baskets, and other country art items will be available for purchase.

Touring this fascinating community, you will view Amish farms and stop now and then at one of the homes. You will see the first church built in Fillmore County, observe buggies tied to hitching posts in town, and watch the Amish working their fields with horses and machinery reminiscent of the late 1800's.

The guide will explain the Amish life-style. This Amish community is "old order," meaning the people are private and have strong Christian convictions which bind their community, enabling them to live according to their inherited and cherished value system. Water is heated on woodburning stoves, and the homesteads are lighted by kerosene lamps. Children carry lunch baskets from their one room schoolhouses as they amble home.

 Stops will be made at the Bake Lady's, the Woodworking Shop, and the Henrytown Country Store, which is filled with antiques, Amish crafts, and delicious ice cream.

After being transported back in time, you can relax on the return trip through the majestic Minnesota fall twilight as you contemplate or discuss what you have seen with other POD people.

The cost for this educational expedition is $15.00. Twenty-five people must reserve space for this trip to occur, so make your reservations now.

There's a lot to do in Rochester

Rochester and the surrounding area have a wealth of educational and relaxing activities. Within the city, you can tour mansions (Mayowood and Plummer House), visit art galleries and museums, go antiquing, tour Quarry Hill Nature Center or visit the impressive medical facilities at the Mayo Clinic, Saint Mary's Hospital or Methodist Hospital. Or you can relax by Silver Lake, where 28,000 Giant Canada Geese, many mallard ducks, and two swans make their home. Without going out of the skyway and subway system, you can shop 'til you drop or have a soothing massage at The Healing Touch. In Rochester's 35 parks, you can hike, bird watch, play tennis, and fish. There are also 6 eighteen hold golf courses, swimming pools, and abundant picnic/contemplation areas within the city limits.

A plethora of fascinating trips within an hour's distance include: riding an authentic paddle wheeler on the Mississippi; touring Niagra Cave to see a 60 foot underground waterfall, stalactites, and fossils; visiting Mantorville, Minnesota's only boardwalk town and a nationally registered historic place; going gambling in a casino; watching wildlife in Oxbow Park and Zollman Zoo; or exploring Minnesota's glorious fall displayed on rolling hills, in river valleys, and on massive bluffs.

You will not be at a loss for how to fill any free time you may have!