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For the Vancouver Conference Daily Newsletter:

November 6, 2000

From Peter Frederick, for the POD Oral History and Archives Committee

Please use the Joan North story in the Friday edition of the newsletter, and the others as you wish and as many as you can. Let's title the section: **POD STORIES**

POD STORIES: JOAN NORTH (Univ. of Wisconsin, Stevens Point)

(from interview by Peter Frederick, Dec. 16, 1999)

On the formation of POD (March 1976)

"Pod was formed because people were lonely –and Bill [Bergquist] was the loneliest of all. . . . I said, 'so what's so hard about organizing a group. It's easy.' They said: 'would you do it?' I said, 'sure, I can do that.' No name yet, no function. Nothing. . . For the first year my little [metal] box [with list of names] was POD."

"I remember Bill [Bergquist] and Jack [Lindquist] arguing vociferously that the organization had to have an OD focus –that's where [Airlee House, 1976] the name was solidified."

"Sher [Reichman Hruska] brought up questions of process. . .there was an almost Buddhist agreement to operate with consensus, and Sher was the most influential person among lots of influential people. She had a beatific aura. Her power was visible and she used it almost never. She listened. If Sher hadn't been on that committee, POD wouldn't have developed the way it did. . . . More than anyone she embodied the spirit of POD."

POD STORIES: VIRLEEN CARLSON (Cornell Univ) (email to PF, October 3, 2000)

"My very first POD memory involves Laura Border. It was 1993 and we were on the same shuttle bus from the airport to the Kahler Hotel in Rochester, MN. She introduced herself, and I was in awe. Here was someone whose work I had been reading for my dissertation. Now she was introducing herself to me and being very friendly. Little did I know that we would do a conference together in 1999. . . .She has always been extremely supportive; such is the nature of POD friendships and how they grow."

POD STORIES: LINC FISCH (letter to PF, October 31, 2000)

"At Montebello [Quebec, 1982], Steve Scholl bugged me to write an article for the book of readings, and when I unexpectedly had 45 minutes after a relaxing swim and sauna, I wrote the infamous 'Coaching Mathematics and Other Academic Sports.' I spent another 45 minutes typing it at the registration desk. . .and it was accepted by the publications committee on Sunday. . . .I've never since written anything so quickly or anything that received the attention that the article received (20 some reprints). On the way to the Asilomar conference [1984], LuAnn Wilkerson and I were joking about my having become known as a Math Coach. We parked the car, got out and were greeted by Bobbi Helling, getting out of the car next to us and who, almost as if on cue, introduced me to her husband: 'George, this is Linc Fisch; he's a math coach.'"

POD STORIES: CATHERINE FRERICHS (Grand Valley State Univ., Michigan)
(Interview with PF, 18 February 2000)

“At a special session for new members [Poconos, 1999] I won a t-shirt for having the most grandchildren –14! . . .I was impressed by people’s willingness to share and the high caliber of most presentations – people practicing what they believed. [She also won the bright idea award for a mentoring program she designed at Grand Valley State University in Michigan.]. . .I am looking forward to Vancouver. I will propose something and I think I might apply for the core committee.”

POD STORIES: BRENDA SMITH (Nottingham Trent University, United Kingdom)
(Interview with PF, May 8, 2000)

“I did a paper at Snowbird [which became an article] on managing change for To Improve the Academy. Matt Kaplan gave me the most wonderful feedback on my paper. . . .POD has put me in contact with a wider international audience. . . . POD is not hierarchical, non-elitist, not about power. It’s about people and . . . being the member of a team.”

POD STORIES: DEAN DUNHAM (William Jewell College) Interview with PF, October 17, 1999)

*“I’ve been a member for a long time but I’ve only been to two meetings.” [“Why?”]
“I don’t know. POD’s the only organization I still have. I’ve dropped all the others. It anchors me in some way. . . .It was a long time between PODs because I came away [from Lakeview, West Virginia, 1991] with a feeling of being a little inadequate. All those people doing big strut stuff. . . .Here I had a feeling like I didn’t belong. But when I saw you here I felt comfortable. . . .I had to use two year’s travel money to come here – are there a lot of us like that?”*

POD STORIES: JOYCE LUNDE (Univ. of Nebraska, Lincoln)
(Interview with PF, 17 Nov. 1999)

“A group of 21 of us got together at AAHE in March 1976, and POD grew out of that. . . . I was still the humble apprentice, and came out of that knowing I wanted to be a faculty developer. I felt academic about English [her field], but passion for faculty development –the people. I found how I could connect to people.”

POD STORIES: KEN ZAHORSKI (Saint Norbert’s College)
(Interview with PF, 16 December 1999)

“At my first POD meeting [Lake Lawn, Wisconsin, 1985] I was welcomed, and felt the warmth. I was awed by the way colleagues used overhead projectors...etc. I was not an A-V person. I was impressed and surprised by the interactive sessions. . . .I remember the reception and how lively it was. I was like a [farm] kid in a city for the first time.”