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6-1-1984

AERA-SIG Curriculum Newsletter

American Educational Research Association

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creation and utilization of curriculum knowledge

special interest group of the american educational research association

**AERA
SIG**

No. 26

June, 1984

SIG ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the SIG was held in New Orleans in April in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of AERA. New officers were elected, or re-elected:

Chair/Program Chair
Peter Pereira - DePaul University

Secretary/Treasurer
Jean King - Tulane University

Newsletter Editor
Naomi Hersom - Univ. of Saskatchewan

This year's innovation, "Critiques of Outstanding Articles in Curriculum", received considerable support, and it was agreed that these discussions should be continued at next year's Annual Meeting in Chicago. The possibility of the SIG sponsoring additional innovative formats in order to promote more interaction amongst participants was also discussed. Task oriented sessions ("sweat sessions"), presentations of work in progress, breakfast conversations or other social occasions, and roundtable discussions of current topics were among the ideas suggested. SIG members are being asked for their thoughts on these ideas. (See "Call for Proposals and Suggestions" later in this Newsletter.)

Dues for 1984-85 will remain at \$5. Although there is currently a surplus in the treasury, this will be used to distribute publications to SIG members during the up-coming membership year. To receive these publications, be sure your membership is renewed.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED

We need contributions from members for the Newsletter. Announcements, notices of meetings, calls for proposals, news about publications, descriptions of activities of members, and other information of interest to members can always be included. But we would also like a few pieces with more substance; "Mini-reviews" (a series started a several years ago), accounts of work in progress, bibliographies, for example. Better yet would be summaries of work in areas related to curriculum but not familiar to most members or accounts of what is going on in other countries. Our publication schedule this year calls for a Newsletter in September, December, and February of this year if we get enough copy. Send contributions to:

Alan Ryan, co-editor
Curriculum Studies
College of Education
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0W0
CANADA

ANNOUNCEMENT

SIG members, particularly those of you who attended Jean King's presentation in New Orleans, will be glad to know that Hannah Rose weighed in at seven pounds on May 1st. Mother and daughter will welcome congratulations, in the form of 1984-85 dues, from non-members as well.

Don't Forget
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
See last page of this Newsletter.

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ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Invited Symposium

One of the most stimulating sessions at the AERA Annual Meeting was "Computers in the Curriculum: Visions and Realities", the SIG invited symposium. Though many other sessions focused on computers and their impact on the classroom, this session was by far the most lively and the most directly related to curriculum inquiry. Bob Tinker, from Technical Education Research Centers, and Hugh Burkhardt, from the Shell Centre for Mathematical Education, University of Nottingham, not only showed us exciting samples of software, they demonstrated how this software gets used in the classroom. Bob has been active with Bank Street College in creating software for middle grade science. Hugh has participated with others in the U.K. to create software packages which mesh with teachers' objectives and practices. Both presenters exemplified characteristics of the master teacher: enthusiasm, charisma, expertise, and an organized presentation. They were particularly concerned that we think about the curricular implications of their presentations so they encouraged open discussion during the session, a procedure which fostered considerable interaction among participants and presenters.

The two presentations were followed by the thoughtful comments of Jan Hawkins, who has been active at Bank Street College in creating software which fosters higher order cognitive processes in children. Both the presenters and Jan argued that the computer could serve as a scaffolding to produce learnings which have not previously been possible with other media. They encouraged us to seek to use the computer in curriculum in creative ways that make the most of its capabilities.

Diana Buell Hiatt - Pepperdine University

Story of the SIG

A special roundtable session, organized by Bill Schubert, considered the origins, development and future directions of the SIG. An interesting picture of the SIG emerged. Ed Short's paper, in particular, gave an historical account of the concerns which resulted in the founding of the SIG: the research into practice problem; the need for diversified approaches to curriculum inquiry; and the concept of knowledge production and utilization as applied to curriculum studies. Since much of the material in this and the other papers may be unfamiliar to many members of the SIG, an edited version of the papers which were presented and of the discussions which ensued will be distributed to all paid-up members later in the year.

Symposia and Paper Sessions

In addition to the above, the SIG sponsored four symposia, two paper sessions, and the series of discussions of outstanding articles in curriculum. Three of the symposia emphasized the diversity of approaches which are being used in curriculum inquiry and were tri-sponsored with Division B and the SIG on Philosophical Studies in Education. It is gratifying to see that one of the originating concerns of the SIG was so well represented here and elsewhere in the program. The fourth symposium, an examination of curricular decision making in medical education, was co-sponsored with Division I. This new venture in collaboration was an attempt to open a dialogue with groups who have traditionally ignored curriculum theory. We plan to continue this sort of collaboration when possible.

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We are also asking members to send in suggestions and comments about the following:

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As mentioned earlier in the Newsletter, we plan to continue this series. Please send in your nominations for articles by the August 15th deadline. Any article published in 1983 or 1984 is eligible. Insofar as possible, we plan to get commitments from the authors to be present at these sessions.

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We shall continue the tradition of inviting one session (either a single paper or a symposium). You are invited to nominate specific presenters or to suggest topics for this session.

Innovative Formats

We would like to develop ways to promote more interaction among members at the Annual Meeting. Jim Dillon has proposed a "sweat session to produce something, rather than to discuss something already produced." He suggests, as just one example, that a group might try to produce a list of questions for curriculum research. Clearly, there are other possibilities. What do you think of this idea? If your schedule permitted, would you join such a group? What questions would encourage you to sweat? What other suggestions for promoting interaction could you recommend?

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Jean A. King, Secretary/Treasurer SIG
Department of Education
Tulane University
New Orleans, LA 70118

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*ADDRESS: (if this is a new address please check)

STREET: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIPCODE: _____

PROFESSIONAL POSITION: _____

DATE: _____

MEMBER OF AERA: yes no

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