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Volume 18, Number 1, March, 1996

The Role of Transdisciplinary Inquiry in the Academy. "Academic life has been organized into disciplines only in the twentieth century. Disciplinarity has proven to be a powerful mode of intellectual production, particularly in uncovering the necessary conditions of causal and functional processes. Transdisciplinary inquiry has the power to disturb--on principle--this presumption within the academy in favor of quotidian means." Article by Peter C. Brown, Mercer University, Professor of Philosophy and Interdisciplinary Studies.

Remembering Leo Apostel. "Leo's life was one of philosophical conviction. As a student and a professor, he identified with the movement of freethinking. He once said, "You have to dare to take on all kinds of crazy speculations, and then you should not believe any of the;m. That schools don't teach you." A tribute by Julie Thompson Klein, Wayne State University, Interdisciplinary Studies Program (CLL).

Fruits, Salads, and Smoothies: A Working Definition of Interdisciplinarity "This brief note proposes a practical definition of interdisciplinarity which reduces some of the uncertainties surrounding this term and which focuses on its essential attributes. For interdisciplinarity, I propose this minimalist definition: bringing together in some fashion distinctive components of two or more disciplines." Article by Moti Nissani, Wayne State University, Associate Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies Program. A reprint from the *Journal of Educational Thought*, Vol. 29, No. 2, pp. 121-128, August 1995.

Call for Papers/Conference Announcements. Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Programs: A Directory. Reminder of questionnaires sent out for the revised and expanded second edition. Edited by Alan F. Edwards, Jr., College of William & Mary.

Volume 18, Number 2, May, 1996

The Role of Transdisciplinary Inquiry in the Academy. A review of *What's Behind the Research? Discovering Hidden Assumptions in the Behavioral Sciences*, Brent D. Slife and Richard N. Williams. Thousand Oaks: Sage, 1995, xii, 251 pp. \$38.00 (hc), \$17.95 (pb). Review by Xiuwu R. Liu, Interdisciplinary Studies, Miami University (Ohio). "Exceptional both in its content and in the lucidity of its presentation. Uncovering hidden assumptions and implications of an array of behavioral theories, Brent Slife and Richard Williams, two philosophically inclined psychologists at Brigham Young University, have rendered students of human behavior a rare service. As an interdisciplinary social scientist (though not a psychologist) interested in the philosophy of the social sciences, I find their call for heightening theoretical awareness congenial and their detective work in uncovering hidden ideas in behavioral theories penetrating."

Interdisciplinary Courses and Team Teaching. A review of James R. Davis' book, *Interdisciplinary Courses and Team Teaching: New Arrangements for Learning in American Council on Education*, Series on Education. Phoenix: Oryx Press, 1995. ISBN 0-89774-887-5. 271 pp. \$34.95. "James Davis provides a useful and practical tool for faculty involved in team teaching, or for curriculum committees and

administrators involved in their planning or implementation. The book is structured in two parts, with Part I discussing the structure of team taught interdisciplinary courses and showing how to design the ideal course. Part II gives a broader perspective of interdisciplinary team teaching by offering examples of nearly a hundred interdisciplinary, team-taught courses from a variety of institutions." Review by Marlene McCauley, Associate Professor; Geology and Environmental Studies Concentration, Guilford College, Greensboro, NC 27410.

Dr. Otto Feinstein, AIS Conference Keynote. The 18th Annual AIS Conference, October 3-6, 1996, at Eastern Michigan University, will have as its keynote speaker Dr. Otto Feinstein. A professor of political science at Wayne State University, Dr. Feinstein has, for most of his career, been familiar with and involved in ways to make the university available and accessible to under-represented populations, especially working adults.

A Book Conversation. Moderated by Peg Downes, University of North Carolina, at the 18th Annual AIS Conference, to be held at Eastern Michigan University, October 3-6, 1996. Book to be discussed: *Interdisciplinary Studies Today New Directions for Teaching and Learning*, editors, Julie Thompson Klein, professor of Humanities in the Interdisciplinary Studies program at Wayne State University and William G. Doty, professor of Humanities in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. This volume of *New Directions for Teaching and Learning* is a practical compendium of advice and information on the development, administration, and assessment of interdisciplinary studies programs and schools.

New Journals/Conferences.

Volume 18, Number 3, October, 1996

Pragmatism, Interdisciplinarity and Liberal Education: Essays by Bruce Kimball et al., *The Condition of American Liberal Education*. By George W. Shields, Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy and Chairperson, Division of Literature, Languages, and Philosophy, Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY 40601. "The College board is to be much commended for sponsoring this learned, thoughtful and provocative volume, which features a one hundred nineteen page monograph entitled, "Toward Pragmatic Liberal Education" authored by noted education historian Bruce Kimball and some twenty four responsive essays authored by selected scholars and university administrators."

Interdisciplinary Learning in Pre-K through Grade 4. Reprinted with permission from *STS Today*, Vol. 9, No. 1, October 1995. A publication of the National Association for Science, Technology and Society. Consortium for Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning.

In Memorium. Donald T. Campbell, 79, died May 6, 1996, of complications after surgery. Don retired in 1994 as professor of Psychology and Sociology and Anthropology at Lehigh University. he joined the faculty in 1982, taught in many departments; co-authored the proposal that created the Henry R. Luce Professorship in Cognitive Robotics and the Philosophy of Knowledge, and encouraged and inspired everyone with his intellectual energy and enormous interdisciplinary breadth and depth. Memoriam by Mark H. Bickhard, Department of Psychology, Lehigh University.

New Journals/Conferences.

Volume 18, Number 4, December, 1996

Are Interdisciplinary Studies Still Alive and Well? Summary Findings from the New Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Studies Program Directory, Alan F. Edwards, Jr. A previous version of this paper was presented at the 18th Annual Conference of the Association for Integrative Studies, October 3-6, 1996,

Ypsilanti, Michigan. In the March 1988 issue of this newsletter William H. Newell proclaimed interdisciplinary studies to be "alive and well" in American undergraduate education. His conclusion was based on analysis of the 1986 AIS publication *Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Programs: A Directory*. a new edition of that landmark directory is now complete. This article summarizes the contents of the second edition and compares data from the two volumes seeking to determine whether interdisciplinary studies are still "alive and well."

Graduate Level Interdisciplinary Study. This article is a report to the AIS Board of Directors from a committee consisting of Stanley Bailis, Chair (San Francisco State University), Julie Klein (Wayne State University), Sheila Lafountain (West Georgia College), Jack Meek (University of la Verne), and Pat Hovis (University of Missouri, Kansas City). The committee was charged with formulating a notion of interdisciplinary study at the graduate level that would distinguish it from interdisciplinary study at the undergraduate level and suggest criteria for describing and evaluating the Interdisciplinarity of actual graduate programs.

Faculty Positions.

Conferences/Symposiums.

For questions and comments, contact us at aisorg@muohio.edu