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Volume 20, Number 1, March, 1998

Interdisciplinary High School Teaching, Strategies for Integrated Learning (Clarke, John H. and Agne, Russell M. (1977). *Interdisciplinary High School Teaching, Strategies for Integrated Learning*, Boston, MA: Allen & Bacon. 364 pages. Reviewed by Joseph G. Reish, Dean, Lee Honors College, Western Michigan University.

My colleagues at the college and university level will be pleased to find this text full of ideas, models, and successful case studies whose potential applications transcend the institutional demarcation of secondary and higher education. Here, we prepare future teachers who will eventually take their place among the ranks of middle and high school faculty. Strategies detailed in the Clarke/Agne book can offer these aspiring teachers ways to join in the national movements in secondary education pulling away from the atomization of subject-based, seven-single-hour blocks greater and greater fused curricula where student-centered learning and meaningful contact with the community at large occur.

Editorial: A Vision of K-16 Interdisciplinarity (William H. Newell, Editor). Why review, you might ask, a book on interdisciplinarity aimed at a K-12 audience in a newsletter aimed at a college and university audience? Is there even a commonality that spans K-16 underlying our separate conceptions of interdisciplinarity? I believe there is a compelling rationale for interdisciplinarians at different points in the educational process to learn from one another.

Nominations for Boulding Award

The Kenneth E. Boulding Award for lifetime service to interdisciplinary studies was created by AIS in 1990. Boulding himself received the inaugural award following his keynote address at the AIS annual conference held that year at St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire. The award celebrated his pioneering contributions to interdisciplinary fields, his development of techniques of interdisciplinary integration, and his many contributions to the profession. AIS members are invited to submit nominations for additional recipients of this highly selective award, to Dr. David Sebberson, Department of English, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN 56301.

Interdisciplinary Author Dies

Steven Kline, whose book on *Conceptual Foundations for Multi-Disciplinary Thinking* was recently reviewed in the AIS Newsletter, has died at the age of 75 on October 24, 1997 in Stanford, California. He was Professor Emeritus of Science, Technology and Values and of Mechanical Engineering at Stanford University. From his book, it was clear that he was compiling the work of a lifetime.

Publications

- *Transdisciplinarity: A Manifesto*. An English translation of Basarab Nicolescu's book, which calls for

a new mode of examining information in all areas of study: religious studies, education, science, culture, and the arts.

- *Organization & Environment*. A journal to provoke thought, and an international forum for discussion of the complex social causes and consequences of environmental damage, restoration, sustainability, and liberation. O&E is focused on connections between the natural environment and formal and informal patterns of organizing human production and consumption

Call for Papers.

- 20th Annual AIS Conference, October 8-11, 1998, Wayne State University, "integrative studies, Building Bridges across Disciplines and Cultures".
- "TwD98: Thinking with Diagrams: Is there a Science of Diagrams?", University of Wales, Aberystwyth, UK, August 21-22, 1998.

Conference Announcements.

- Inaugural Conference for the Society for the Multidisciplinary Study of Consciousness, August 17-18, 1998, Fort Mason Center for the Arts, San Francisco, California.
- 11th Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, "Breaking Boundaries", June 4-6, 1999, University of Rochester, New York.
- CogSci98, 20th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, August 1-4, 1998, Madison, Wisconsin, "Interdisciplinarity."

Volume 20, Number 2, May, 1998

Social Cartography: Mapping Ways of Seeing Social and Educational Change, edited by Rolland G. Paulston (Garland, 1996). Review by Julie Thompson Klein, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan. Anyone engaged in interdisciplinary work, and anyone who thinks in terms of spatial metaphors will find *Social Cartography* to be of interest. We are, editor Rolland Paulston declares, in a time of "cartographic transformation." The ground of our era is akin to "a space of shifting sites and boundaries." ... Social cartography, Paulston explains is "the art and science of mapping ways of seeing." Poststructuralist and postmodern approaches have opened the way to widespread exercises of social mapping that build on, while extending, prior postmodern notions of "place," "space," and "location" in geography and in feminist, literary, and postcolonialist studies.

Four-Legged Sermon on Sustainable Development. *Achieving Broad-Based Sustainable Development*, by James Weaver, Michael Rock, and Kenneth Kusterer, West Hartford, Connecticut: Kumarian Press, 1997. Review by Raymond C. Miller, Professor of International Relations and Social Science, San Francisco State University. The authors have set out to write a textbook on development which makes a moral argument for an interdisciplinary, people-centered approach. They contend that development strategies that focus exclusively on economic growth while overlooking human rights and ecological limits are "morally repugnant." ... The authors take a firm unambiguous position; they develop their argument in a clear, systematic fashion; they include non-economic elements on an equal basis; and they are explicitly "interdisciplinary" in their approach. The four legs in the review title refer primarily to their four components of broad-based sustainable development: healthy, growing economies; fair distribution; free and democratic societies; and ecological sustainability.

Workshop

- Partnerships: An Interdisciplinary Workshop for Faculty in the Arts, Humanities, and Mathematics, Dartmouth College, July 25-August 1, 1998. Sponsored by Mathematics Association of America.

New Journal

- *Consumption, Markets & Culture*. Editor: A Fuat Firat, Business Programs/Marketing, School of Management, Arizona State University West, Phoenix, Arizona. Gordona and Breach Publishers.

Conferences

- Thomas H. Murray, internationally renowned ethicist and past president of AIS, will present the keynote address for the 1998 AIS Conference, October 8-11, in Detroit, Michigan. The conference theme is "Building Bridges Across Disciplines and Cultures."
- "The Inspiration of Astronomical Phenomena," January 7-14, 1999, on the Mediterranean island of Malta, Sponsored by the OTS Foundation and the Vatican Observatory.

Volume 20, Number 3, October, 1998

Understanding Organizations: The Limits of Focusing on Individual Rationality. *Rational Choice Theory and Organizational Theory: A Critique*, by Mary Zey. Thousand Oaks, California: SAGE Publications, 1998. Review by Jack Meek, University of La Verne, California. According to Mary Zey, the borrowing of rational choice theory from economics to examine organizations and organizational behavior, while popular and attractive, is fraught with many difficulties. Zey's work is a must read for all of us examining organizations, not solely for the critique of rational choice theory, but for the diligent elaboration of the theory and its fundamental elements. ... The powerful message of Zey's work goes beyond philosophy of science epistemology and issues of theory building; ... In her words, "we do our students a disservice by teaching them that the rational choice models of decision making are the only acceptable models ... studying the rational choice models exclusively may have a negative normative effect on our students." (112).

Transdisciplinarity: Bridge to the Future, by Luca Zarrì, who was in charge of the International Colloquium on "Transdisciplinarity: Towards Integrative Process and Integrated Knowledge," May 25-29, 1998, Royaumont Abbey, Val-d'Oise, France. This article is about the meanings to be attributed to the term "transdisciplinarity": its purpose is to provide such a notion with a first, conceptual framework, on the basis of the reflections developed by the participants in the recent international symposium on the theme.

Volume 20, Number 4, December, 1998

Cultivating Humanity: A Classical Defense of Reform in Liberal Education, by Martha Nussbaum. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997. Review by Beth A. Casey, Bowling Green State University. Martha Nussbaum's classical defense of recent reforms in liberal education seeks to respond to the critics of political correctness, such as Allan Bloom, Roger Kimball, and George Will - critics who feared a new relativism and sought to keep ethnic studies, women studies, gay and lesbian studies and, occasionally non-western studies from entering the mainstream of liberal education. Most frequently these critics offered arguments on the perils of weakening western traditions, the need to avoid debilitating cultural relativism, and the inherent conflicts of "identity politics." None was able to foresee the extent to which the new interdisciplinary areas of study would transform scholarship across the disciplines of the humanities and social sciences and, ultimately, invite a new way of looking at the world. (Nussbaum) presents a valuable defense of the new curriculum as an attempt to "cultivate humanity" by that moral and critical inquiry that Seneca would have recognized as liberal education because of its power to produce free citizens, not just

acquaint those born into freedom with their traditions.

Boyer Commission Urges IDS. By Bill Newell. In "Reinventing Undergraduate Education: A Blueprint for America's Research Universities," the recently released report by the Boyer Commission on "Educating Undergraduates in the Research University" recognizes that one of the distinctive features of research universities is that they "offer an array of interdisciplinary programs"; but they must do more to overcome the fragmentation of intellectual pursuits that leaves students "ignorant of how diverse fields overlap and intermingle."

Faculty Positions.

- San Francisco State University, Assistant Professor, tenure-track, interdisciplinary artist/arts educator/scholar. Inter-Arts Center.
- Arizona State University, Lecturer (3 positions), Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies.
- North Carolina State University, Head, Division of Multidisciplinary Studies.

Conferences

- "Creating and Sustaining Learning Communities: Connections, Collaboration, and Crossing Borders," March 11-13, 1999, University of South Florida, Tampa.
- Tenth Anniversary Interdisciplinary Conference on Science and Culture, April 8-10, 1999, Kentucky State University Institute for Liberal Studies, Frankfort, Kentucky.
- Fifth International Interdisciplinary Conference on the Environment, June 23-26, 1999, Baltimore, Maryland.

Nominations for Boulding Award

The Kenneth E. Boulding Award for lifetime service to interdisciplinary studies was created by AIS in 1990. Boulding himself received the initial recipient of the award. AIS members are invited to submit nominations by contacting committee members, Steve Gottlieb, Nelson Bingham and Julie Thompson Klein.

Special Issue.

- NWSA (National Women's Studies Association) Journal will publish a special issue, *Appalachia and the South: Place, Gender and Pedagogy*, in the Fall of 1999.

New Books/New Book Series

- *Cultural Frames, Framing Cultures*, a new book series in cultural studies, edited by Robert Newman, University of Virginia Press.
- *The Innovative Campus: Nurturing the Distinctive Learning Environment*, by Joy Rosenzweig Kliewer, Oryx Press, Phoenix, Arizona.
- *Phenomenology and Education: Cosmology, Co-Being, and Core Curriculum*. by Michael M. Kazanjian, Rodopi.

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