

SFEE THE FIRST SIX YEARS

FROM NEW COLLEGE TO NEW DIRECTIONS

A CHRONICLE OF THE
SOCIETY FOR FIELD EXPERIENCE EDUCATION
1972 TO 1978

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DEDICATED TO KENDALL IDE LINGLE
WHOSE SUPPORT HAS BEEN CRUCIAL
IN THE BEGINNING AND ALONG THE WAY

OCTOBER 1978

THE FIRST SIX YEARS:
FROM NEW COLLEGE TO NEW DIRECTIONS

1971 was a pivotal year in higher education, as both the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education's Less Time, More Options: Education Beyond the High School and the Newman Commission's Report on Higher Education advocated the expansion of opportunities for students to learn experientially in the world beyond the classroom.

That was the year Jim Feeney, Off Campus Studies Coordinator of New College, Sarasota (now New College of the University of South Florida) decided to do something about the information vacuum which existed among practitioners of experiential education and the lack of coordination among and between various colleges' and universities' field study activities. He submitted a grant proposal to the Bowman Lingle Trust Fund of Chicago. Supporting the needs described in the grant proposal was Mr. Kendall Lingle, a trustee of both New College and the Bowman Lingle Trust.

The Lingle Fund was responsive and funds were granted to New College to host a conference for some 40 educators and students February 2 through 5, 1972, in Sarasota, to consider ways to fill the information vacuum and respond to the needs for cooperation. In four days, under the direction of Jim Feeney, with a relatively unstructured agenda, the participants debated the issues, promulgated possible solutions, and participated in one monumental decision: to establish a national forum to consider issues in field experience education, to communicate about them, and to share methods being used and results obtained.

To follow up on the mandate of the New College Conference, a committee was appointed to recommend a means for implementation through a national conference later in 1972. The committee elected by the conferees was composed of James Feeney, New College; James Clatworthy, New College of Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan; John Duley, Justin Morrill College of Michigan State University; Edward Davidson, Smithsonian Institute; Michael Hart, Special Assistant to the Governor of Georgia; Robert Sigmon, North Carolina Internship Office, Raleigh; and students Nat Schwartz and Donald Richards, New College, Sarasota, Florida; and Allen Chamberlain, New College of Oakland University.

About the same time, another organization, the National Center for Public Service Internship Programs (NCPSIP) was being established. There was cooperation between SFEE and the NCPSIP from the start. Robert Sexton of the Kentucky Office of Academic Programs was its first elected head. He met with Jim Feeney and they agreed to share information and appoint each other to their respective 'creation' committees, to ensure that there wasn't too much overlap in organizational efforts. It was for this reason that the National Center decided not to proceed with a major national conference - primarily because SFEE was planning to do so - and, on the other hand, SFEE decided not to have a newsletter as part of its primary operation. As Bob Sexton writes, "The committees creating the two organizations consciously decided to eliminate unnecessary duplication and work cooperatively from the very beginning."

At the call of the Committee established at the New College Conference, a meeting, attended by 207 people, was held at Hofstra University, Hempstead, N.Y., November 10 to 12, 1972. It was there that THE SOCIETY FOR FIELD EXPERIENCE EDUCATION (SFEE), became a reality, with much discussion as to its primary purpose and appropriate activities. This was the first annual national conference, to be followed each year by another reflecting the state of the art of experiential education and increasingly reflecting the critical educational issues being addressed by its practitioners. These include people from all areas of experiential education - international, domestic, internships, cooperative education, self-designed programs, service-learning and others.

The SFEE Forum

In reminiscing about the original SFEE objectives, Jim Feeney (personal communication) states that SFEE was created mindful of "other proposed motifs that came up in 1971 - the professional society to advocate the career interests of educators, the lobby for special interest legislation, and so on. The Society very consciously placed these latter functions second to the open forum for anyone, not just 'professionals,' interested in education out of the classroom." It was to be, and still is, an organization incorporating all types of field experience education.

The first promotional flyer for SFEE, printed in 1972, expressed the objectives:

"To generally encourage the development of field experience education in society;

To facilitate open sharing of ideas and activities among persons and institutions concerned with off-campus, field experience as a significant component in education;

To develop and support exploration of issues in field education as identified by the membership; and

To be a source of information and expertise for those seeking assistance and counsel regarding development, management, expansion and revision of field experience programs or projects."

This flyer also emphasized the relationship of the Society to its members by stating that "it (SFEE) is a forum created and run by its members to help them broaden their horizons, share expertise, exchange information, identify resources, enrich each other's lives."

By 1978, the objectives reflect a sense that field experience education has matured:

"To assist in the creation, promotion and evaluation of programs in field experience education.

To help improve the content and structure of field experience programs.

To move for the acceptance of such programs as an integral aspect of American education."

And the "forum" role continued to be emphasized: "SFEE serves as a forum and resource for persons and institutions concerned with making off-campus, field-based learning a significant component in education."

Membership and Governance

Membership in SFEE has grown through the years from less than 100 at the time of the Hofstra founding conference in 1972 to over 500 in early 1978. Growth was steady in the intervening years.

The commitment to provide the maximum forum for membership participation in the affairs of the Society has been accomplished in three ways: (1) through a diversified Steering Committee; (2) through leadership in the national conference; and (3) through participation in Task Forces. The involvement of its members in national conferences is described elsewhere but it is important to note that leaders have increased from 14 at the First National Conference at Hofstra to 59 at the Sixth National Conference in Indianapolis. This is four-fold increase of men and women serving as presenters, workshop leaders, and panel members, in addition to those who have provided leadership through their participation in Conference Planning and Local Arrangement Committees.

Geographic diversity of the leadership affirms the national character of the organization. Steering Committee members have come from New York (8); Florida (4); Georgia (4); Washington, D.C. (4); California (4); and Indiana (4); Pennsylvania (3); Kentucky (2); and Massachusetts (2); and one each from New Jersey, Michigan, Texas, Maryland, Oregon, North Carolina, South Carolina, and West Virginia.

A complete list of the Steering Committees is appended. Of the six Presidents, four have been campus-based and two from agencies. There has been one female and one black. Five have changed jobs while on the Steering Committee.

As Jim Feeney notes, it is the nature of this leadership that has lent drama to the organization. "The officers are relatively young and obviously mobile. These aren't tenured biggies protecting the house they built; they are people still developing their careers, still moving and changing. The quality has its costs, of course. The officers do not have the power or authority to stifle conflict or screen out those who aspire to use the new organization for personal gain. They are often overcommitted, trying to do many things without the support (secretaries, assistants, etc.) that senior administrators and department chairpersons have. Mobility further undermines their ability to deliver, for they are so often settling into new jobs."

The membership categories of the Steering Committee have consistently assured a representation of divergent SFEE member interests in the formal leadership. The original Constitution and By-laws provided that the Steering Committee would be composed of people elected by the participants at each national conference in equal numbers representing (1) students, (2) campus-based personnel, and (3) agency-based personnel. In the beginning, there were three (3) members and one alternate from each category. With incorporation in 1975, this was changed to four (4) and one alternate in each category.

This chronicle is dedicated to Kendall Ide Lingle, a Trustee of the New College Foundation and the Bowman Lingle Trust Fund, who has been an active member of SFEE, has maintained regular communication with the officers of SFEE, and attended the National Conferences in 1972, 1973, and 1975. In addition, his involvement in a wide range of activities and his extensive reading has resulted in his providing helpful counsel and important suggestions about the life and affairs of SFEE. This interest and dedication resulted in the funding assistance provided by the Bowman Lingle Trust for the New College Conference in 1972. Residual funds remaining after that conference were sufficient to assist SFEE during the first two years, and in 1976 a grant directly to SFEE in the amount of \$15,000 provided additional assistance for the next two years.

In 1978, a Joint Merger Task Force was appointed by both SFEE and the National Center for Public Service Internship Programs to consider the possibility of a merger. There has long been an overlap of the leadership. Three of the 10-member task force are members of both boards. The counsel, Michael Goldstein, has served both organizations, and the NCPSIP staff, Rich Ungerer, has been on the SFEE

Steering Committee. The merger consideration is an outgrowth of the close working relationships through the years between the two organizations including the joint newsletter, Experiential Education, and co-sponsorship of the 1978 National Conference. The merger proposal will go before the two organizations at the Conference, November 1 - 4, 1978.

Publications

In 1973, the first SFEE newsletter, Field Forum, began publication three times annually. A four-page publication edited by Keith Lupton, Field Forum generally had one page of Society news, a one-page guest editorial, and two pages of information about what others were doing, exchange information, news about grants, and similar news items. It also featured photographs in most issues. Field Forum continued to be published through 1975.

In January, 1976, Field Forum merged with the newsletter of the National Center for Public Service Internships Programs (NCPSIP) to form a new publication, Experiential Education, with Richard Ungerer as editor. This merger resulted in the increase of issues from three to six annually and an increase in pages from four to eight, thereby serving both memberships better than the two separate newsletters did previously.

Papers presented at the 1973 national conference were edited by John Duley and published by Jossey-Bass Publishers, Inc. in 1974 as Implementing Field Experience Education. It has often been referred to in the literature of experiential education.

The 1977 Resource Directory, a 35-page summary of resource materials which were displayed in the RESOURCE AND COMMUNICATION CENTER at the 1976 national conference, was edited by Pam Tate. Indexed in various classifications, this directory describes the material available as well as the source so that practitioners in field experience education can know what is available and to whom they can write to get materials desired.

SFEE National Conferences

The conference held at Hofstra University, November 10 to 12, besides being the founding conference of SFEE, also became the First SFEE National Conference. Following a business meeting, the opening session featured Martin Kramer, Director of Higher Education Planning, HEW. This was followed by four workshop sessions on preparing for field experience, field experience objectives and their evaluation, field experience administration and financing, and post-field follow-up. Altogether, 14 people served as either presenters or responders. A resource workshop was also featured, the forerunner of what has become known as the RESOURCE AND COMMUNICATION CENTER at all subsequent conferences.

The Second National Conference, Oct. 26 and 27, 1973, at Michigan State University, was on the theme, THE STATE OF THE ART IN FIELD EXPERIENCE EDUCATION. Attended by 270 people, this conference featured sessions on the roles of the various participants in field experience education, practical matters such as funding, model programs, objectives, follow-up, and the politics of field experience education. The Conference Planning was done by John Duley, Chairperson, Roy Snyder, Frank van Aalst, William Thomas, and Robert Sigmon.

The Third National Conference was held October 11 to 13, 1974, in Atlanta, Georgia. Attended by 225, the theme was FIELD EXPERIENCE EDUCATION: STRATEGIES AND TACTICS. Four separate tracks resulted in a series of 20 sessions concerning (1) student development needs, (2) career exploration, (3) management, and (4) agency management concerns, all relating to the theme of strategies and tactics. The conference was opened with special interest groups working together to discuss strategies and tactics in their specialty areas and closed with sessions devoted to (1) policy, (2) assessment needs, (3) community/agency roles, (4) educational institution's role, and (5) the student's role. The Conference Planning Committee consisted of Mike Hart, chairman, Harlan Cooper, Keith Lupton, William O'Connell, Bob Sigmon and Pam Tate. Featured speakers were Jimmie Carter and Ralph Nader.

The Fourth National Conference was held in Denver, Colorado, October 16 to 18, 1975. This conference, attracting over 240 people, was on the theme CRITICAL ISSUES IN FIELD EXPERIENCE EDUCATION. Hosted by the Resources Development Internship Program of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), this conference focused on four major issues: (1) research in field experience education; (2) technical assistance in training; (3) grants and financial aid supporting field experience education; and (4) program acceptance. More than 28 sessions considered these issues and several sessions addressed the specific role of grants and funding from public and private sources. Special events include an address by Virginia Smith, Director of the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education and a debate between Denis Williams, Associate Dean, Graduate School, University of Colorado at Denver, and Michael Goldstein, Associate Vice Chancellor for Urban Affairs, University of Illinois at Chicago Circle on the resolution that: "Education field experiences be subject to the academic controls of traditional college and university programs." Coordinating the program planning was Mike Hart, President of SFEE, with Robert S. Hullinghurst and his staff at the Resources Development Internship Program of WICHE, Jane Permaul, Pam Tate, and others assisting.

The Fifth National Conference was hosted by UCLA's Office of Experimental Educational Programs, October 28 to 30, 1976, in Los Angeles, California. This year's theme, taken from Willard Wirtz's book Boundless Resources, was THE BOUNDLESS RESOURCE AND EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION. Three separate tracks included 32 different sessions. One track considered skills and program development; a second involved workshops on resolving critical issues in experiential education; and the third track was comprised of workshops on model programs and practices. Altogether 56 presenters considered the theme from many different perspectives. Featured speakers were Harry F. Silberman, co-editor of School-to-Work Transition and former Associate Commissioner of Educational Research for the National Institute of Education Planning, and Dennis Gallagher of the National Manpower Institute. The conference coordinating committee members were Dan Bakinowski, Nick Barnett, Paul Breen, Lee Cheaney, Christie Dodson, Evelyn Goldstein, Richard Hasbany, Mark Lipschutz, Linda Nigh, Diann Reingold, and Everett Wells, with Jane Permaul as chairperson. There were about 275 in attendance.

The Sixth National Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 27 to 29, 1977, attracted more than 322 persons to consider the theme - ADVANCING LIFE ALTERNATIVES THROUGH FIELD EXPERIENCE EDUCATION. More than 59 presenters considered the theme in 40 workshops. Major seminars addressed critical issues and 28 sessions presented model programs and practices. Featured sessions included Richard N. Bolles, author of What Color is Your Parachute, and Morris Keeton, Executive Director of the Advancement of Experiential Learning. The Conference Planning Committee was chaired by Frank van Aalst, assisted by James Althof, Dan Bakinowski, Stevens Brooks, John Duley, Barbara Hofer, Jane Permaul, E.R. Pettebone (who headed local arrangements), Charles Shafe, and Pamela Tate.

The Seventh National Conference in Washington, D.C., November 1 to 4, 1978, has the theme FUTURE DIRECTIONS: ISSUES OF QUALITY AND POLICY. It is co-sponsored by the National Center for Public Service Internship Programs. Assisting in the program are the Experiential Learning Programs of the University of Maryland, the Appalachia Educational Laboratory's Division of Experiential Education, and the National Student Volunteer Program of ACTION.

In concluding this section on SFEE national conferences, it should be noted that another important aspect of the life of the Society which has furthered its objectives has been the RESOURCE AND COMMUNICATION CENTER. These CENTERS, which have been set up at each national conference, have produced thousands of pages of materials to national conference participants through the years. A major SFEE goal of providing a forum for information exchange is accomplished in these CENTERS through the cooperation of organizations represented. From a humble beginning of about 18 exhibitors at the Hofstra conference in 1973, participation has expanded to over 100 organizations at the 1976 national conference in Los Angeles and the 1977 national conference in Indianapolis. The CENTER has had two directors since the beginning. Keith Lupton directed the centers at the Hofstra, Michigan State, Atlanta, Indianapolis, and Washington, D.C. conference and Pamela Tate the Centers in Denver and Los Angeles.

Conclusion

It seemed appropriate to title this history of the first six years of the Society for Field Experience Education "From New College to New Directions" because of the origins going back to the New College Conference in February, 1972, and because of the theme, "future directions," of the 1978 national conference in Washington, D.C., and the "new directions" which will develop if a merger of SFEE with the National Center for Public Service Internship Programs occurs then or thereafter.

The foundation has been laid in programs, policies and people, and field experience education is now an established part of the curriculum and student activity programs on a wide variety of undergraduate campuses. It has grown primarily in the liberal arts climate, but has also appeared in community colleges, high schools and graduate schools. Through the SFEE forum there is still an opportunity for creative and youthful leadership to shape the future in partnership with those who provided the leadership during the first six years.

APPENDIX A - SFEE Steering Committees 1972 - 1978

Please note that terms of office began at the national conference preceding the year indicated. Thus, the 1973 Steering Committee served from November, 1972, until October, 1973. In some years, alternates are also included in the listing.

- 1973 - Campus-based: James Feeney, New College, Sarasota, President
Bernard Charles, Livingston College of Rutgers Univ., V. President
Howard Lord, New College of Hofstra University
- Agency-based: Michael Hart, Georgia Intern Program
Edward Davidson, Smithsonian Institute
Robert Sexton, Kentucky Office of Academic Programs
- Students: Donald Richards, New College, Florida, Secretary-Treasurer
Rosalind Feinstein, Empire State College
Louisa Seller, Friends World College
- 1974 - Campus-based: Bernard Charles, Livingston College of Rutgers Univ., President
John Duley, Michigan State University
James Feeney, Empire State College, Past President
- Agency-based: Marty Abraham, U.S. Comm. for UNICEF
Sharlene Hirsch, Exec. High School Internships of America
Mike Hart, Georgia Intern Program, Vice President
- Students: Rosalind Feinstein, New College of Hofstra, Secretary
Pamela Tate, University of Illinois
- 1975 - Campus-based: Ed Angus, Johnston College of U. of Redlands
John Duley, Michigan State University
Bernard Charles, Livingston College of Rutgers University
Hortense Dixon, Texas Southern University
- Agency-based: Mike Hart, Georgia Intern Program, President
Sharlene Hirsch, Exec. High School Internships of America
Lonni Ann Fredman, Atlanta Urban Corps
Pamela Tate, SUNY at New Paltz
- Students: Jamie Hickey, St. Mary's College, Maryland
Clarence Smith, Morris Brown College
Michael Gaffney, Antioch School of Law
- 1976 - Campus-based: Nick Barnett, Lewis and Clark College
Barbara Hofer, University of Kentucky
Keith Lupton, University of South Florida, Secretary-Treasurer
Robert Sigmon, University of South Carolina
Pamela Tate, SUNY at New Paltz, Vice President
- Agency-based: Lee Cheaney, Midwestern Resource Development Project, Indiana, President
Dan Bakinowski, Massachusetts Internship Office, Boston
Stevens Brooks, Great Lakes College Association, Philadelphia
Lonni Ann Fredman, Atlanta Urban Corps
Rich Ungerer, National Manpower Institute
- Students: Denice Paonessa, University of South Florida
Paul Breen, San Francisco State University
Jamie Hickey, St. Mary's College, Maryland
Diana Holland, Colorado
Jody McCann, University of Indiana
- 1977 - Campus-based: Pamela Tate, SUNY at New Paltz, President
Frank van Aalst, College of Charleston, Vice President
Nick Barnett, City of Portland, Oregon
Jane Permaul, UCLA
Willie Smith, Northeastern University

- 1977 - Agency-based: Rich Ungerer, National Manpower Institute, Washington, D.C.
 Joe Bard, Pennsylvania Dept. of Education
 Stevens Brooks, Great Lakes College Association
 Anne Brotherton, Martin Luther King Center for Social Change
- Students: Paul Breen, San Francisco State University, Secretary-Treasurer
 Jamie Hickey, St. Mary's College
 Barbara Hofer, Harvard University
 Jan Richardson, Indiana University
- 1978 - Campus-based: Jim Althof, Appalachia Educational Laboratory, WV
 Frank van Aalst, College of Charleston, President
 Jane Permaul, UCLA, Vice President
 Willie Smith, Jr., Northeastern University
 Ken Wood, Davidson College
- Agency-based: Joe Bard, Pennsylvania Dept. of Education
 Stevens Brooks, Great Lakes College Association, Treasurer
 Anne Brotherton, The Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley
 William Burke, Washington Center for Learning Alternatives
 Carol Vento, Philadelphia Urban Semester
- Students: Ulysses "Deke" Clayborn, De Pauw University
 Ted Sachs, UCLA
 Lynn Schroeder, SUNY at New Paltz
 Patty Wagner, Earlham College
 Theda Win, Kalamazoo College
- Ex-officio: Pamela Tate, SUNY Central, Albany, Past President

Michael Goldstein, General Counsel, 1972 -
 Keith Lupton, Editor of Field Forum, 1972 - 1975
 Historian, 1977 -
 Richard Ungerer, Editor of Experiential Education, 1977 -

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