

PERFORMANCE OF A NEWSLETTER
The Online Monthly Newsletter of the East Side Institute
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Editors: Jan Wootten and Chris Helm.

Psychology News to Inspire and Use

TRAINING

*** "Developing Teachers" Improvise New Classroom Performances ***

Our inaugural class of 11 "Developing (public school) Teachers" had a busy and productive first semester. On alternate Saturdays, they attended workshops led by Carrie Lobman and Lois Holzman designed to enhance their group-building and performance skills. Their text is Holzman's "Schools for Growth".

Participants have learned dozens of classroom improv games (Carrie is the co-author with Matt Lundquist of the soon-to-be-published, "Unscripted Learning: Improv Activities for the K-8 Classroom," Teachers College Press), and they've invented their own. In one especially entertaining session, they were asked to conduct a classroom lesson - but to perform it in the voice and character of, for example, a Methodist minister, an auctioneer and an alien.

In addition to the Saturday workshops, Institute-trained mentors visit schools and observe trainees in their classrooms. Participants comment that they're already getting better at relating to teaching as one of the many performances they do each day. And they're becoming more skilled developers and directors of classroom performances throughout the school day.

INSTITUTE WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL COLLEAGUES

*** International Class Convenes in NYC ***

Members of the 2006/7 International Class convened in NYC for six days of training, conversation, performance and conviviality from February 10-15. Their program of activities has included observation of social therapy groups at the Manhattan and Brooklyn centers, classes and seminars on methodology and philosophy, and a sneak peek of the new Youth Onstage! project, "America (A Conversation)." For profiles and photos of this dynamic grouping of postmodern innovators, see Psych Out newsletter: www.eastsideinstitute.org/documents/Vol.6No.1.pdf

*** Taipei, Taiwan: Powpee Lee ***

Powpee Lee -- an adult educator and founder of the Lu- Di Community University in Taipei, Taiwan and a member of the 2006-7 International Class -- has extended his stay in NYC for five months to train with the Institute. In addition, he will complete translations that he began back home of Fred Newman's "The Myth of Psychology" and Lois Holzman's "Schools for Growth" into Chinese. Lee was introduced to the Institute's community building approach through colleague and mentor Lin Ching Hsia, who received a Fulbright Scholarship to study with the Institute in 2002. Powpee says that the Institute has helped him develop a theoretical basis that will allow him to reflect upon and reorganize his work in Taipei.

*** Bahia, Brazil: Nara Andrade ***

Nara Andrade, a psychologist from Brazil working with youth theatre, is participating in a three-month course of study through the end of March. Nara is from Salvador, Bahia and met Lois Holzman and Joyce Dattner, Director of Training at the West Coast Center for Social Therapy, in Brazil this past July.

*** Pretoria, South Africa: Annalie Pistorius ***

Annalie Pistorius, who completed studies with the 2005-6 International Class, was in NYC for a week in January to explore further training opportunities.

INDUSTRIOUS INTERNS

Three interns continue their projects into the new year and are joined by two more. Veterans are: Monika Slusarczyk (Jagiellonian University, Poland), Sunanda Mane (University of Poona, India) and Carolyn Lefeuvre (Sarah Lawrence College, New York).

Just starting are Tanzina Ahmad, a recent graduate in psychology from Hunter College / CUNY and Dori Cohen a graduate of Hampshire College who has relocated from Tel Aviv. All participate in a "Psychological Investigations" study group led by Lois.

BIG WORLD / SMALL WORLD

In the course of his research on the social contexts of learning, Dr. Mike Askew, a teacher educator and professor of Mathematics Education at King's College, the University of London, happened upon (and then devoured) "Lev Vygotsky Revolutionary Scientist" by Newman and Holzman. Last year, he left the UK and moved to NYC to participate in a multi-university math education project on behalf of the NYC public schools. Intrigued by theatre and performance, he found the Castillo Theatre and signed up to volunteer. At a performance of Newman's philosophical farce, "Outing

Wittgenstein," he asked if by any chance the playwright was the same Newman who, with Lois Holzman, had revolutionized Vygotsky. "Yes," was the answer. Since then, Mike has been observing / participating with the Developing Teachers Fellowship Program and is exploring further collaboration.

SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS / CLASSES

*** Community Development Workshop Attracts Students from 7 Countries ***

Institute faculty Esther Farmer led an online class: "Building Community: A Social Change Activity" (January 3- 31) with 17 community builders from seven countries. In addition to the 11 members of The International Class, her online classroom included students from Argentina, California, Canada, Liberia and NYC. Esther serves on the board of the Community Development Society and her articles on a social therapeutic approach to community building appear in journals such as the "Progressive Planning Magazine" and the "Journal of the Community Development Society."

RESEARCH

Institute faculty member Carrie Lobman received a \$40,000 grant from the Spencer Foundation through Rutgers University, where she is an assistant professor at the Rutgers Graduate School of Education. This grant will support her research on an innovative, improvisational team-building approach to test preparation, "Team Play for Test Stress." The program was developed by Institute staff member Gwen Lowenheim and introduced into NYC public schools by Gwen Lowenheim, Stuart Sears & Associates.

FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT

*** Psych Out Benefit Raises \$140,000 ***

The Institute hosted its Sixth Annual Psych Out Awards benefit on February 12 at the festive TriBeCa Rooftop with 220 dinner guests in attendance. Co-Chairs Joan Mahon-Powell and Michele Senbertrand announced that \$140,000 had been raised to underwrite the Institute's training and research programs. Proceeds included dozens of gifts from generous, first-time supporters.

The five award recipients were Dr. Stephen Appea, Elizabeth Creel, LCSW, Dr. Ana Marjanovic-Shane, Michelle McCleary and Rachelle Moore, LCSW. Special guests of Dr. Appea included Region 5, (Brooklyn) school superintendents Dr. Walter Kyte and Stephen Mittman, Appea's colleagues at PS/IS 327 and PS/IS 165 principal Fran Ellers.

*** Bronx Postmodernist Reports from SUNY Binghamton ***

One of the many first-time donors to Psych Out is Brian Martinez, a former Bronx Community College student of Dr. Rafael Mendez (co-author with Holzman of

"Psychological Investigations" and a therapist at the Brooklyn Social Therapy Group). Mendez had introduced Brian to postmodern approaches to psychology, and pointed him to Holzman and Newman's "Unscientific Psychology".

Now at SUNY Binghamton, Brian is taking a course in the history of psychology, and is insisting that the department include the postmodernists, who view psychology as a cultural / historical / performatory - unscientific - activity.

*** Corporate Fundraising Campaign***

With newly minted marketing materials in hand, the Institute has launched a fundraising effort to target corporations and foundations for contributions to help underwrite the Performing the World 4 conference, planned for October. If you have suggestions of companies and contacts that should be reached by our team, please contact development director Mary Fridley at mfridley@eastsideinstitute.org.

PUBLICATIONS / READ IT HERE

The Good News Network has published a piece on Developing Teachers Fellow, Rachel Farmer. Read it here: www.eastsideinstitute.org/press.htm.

Fred Newman's talk on "The Pursuit of Happiness" is now available on CD. To order contact Melissa Meyer (MMeyer@eastsideinstitute.org.)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FEBRUARY

February 19-March 19

Online Seminar: Philosophy for Activists

Chris Helm

MARCH

March 26-April 23

Online Seminar: Groups and Group Building

Barbara Silverman

APRIL

April 30-May 28

Online Seminar: Marx and A New Approach to Human Development and Social Transformation

Lois Holzman

MAY

Saturday-Sunday, May 5 & 6

Intensive Weekend Training

ESI Faculty
East Side Institute

JUNE

Tuesday-Sunday, June 5-17
International Class Residency 3
Lois Holzman and ESI Faculty East Side Institute

Sunday, June 17
Graduation/Completion
TTP & International Class
East Side Institute

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Melissa Meyer at mmeyer@eastsideinstitute.org. Thank you.

East Side Institute