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Lesley College

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Kindergarten: 'There Is No One Way'

Christine F. Branche: "We are not going to find a recipe that fits every child."

Working on the premise that methods for educating today's young people can be as numerous and varied as the educators themselves, nearly 1,400 school administrators and classroom teachers met in mid-November for the annual New England Kindergarten Conference, sponsored by Lesley College. The all-day series of meetings, based on the conference theme "There Is No One Way," was held at the Statler-Hilton Hotel in Boston.

According to conference chairman, Mrs. Mary Mindess, associate professor of early childhood education at Lesley, the conference "provides a setting each year in which educators can meet to discuss their own views and those of the conference's speakers." Mrs. Mindess called the conference "a kind of 'in-service education for both new and established teachers.'"

The conference schedule included 15 guest speakers from a variety of locations, including Oregon, Illinois, and Pennsylvania.

The keynote address was given by Christine F. Branche, director of the Division of Early Childhood Education, Cleveland Public Schools. Following the conference theme in her address, Mrs. Branche touched briefly on several of the presentation subjects covered by the speakers during the conference day.

Mrs. Branche has supervised pre-school programs, has been a teacher trainer, curriculum specialist and an assistant director of Project Head Start. She is currently a Head Start national consultant, a special consultant to the U.S. Office of Education in Early Childhood Education, and a member of HEW's Special Task Force for Project Follow Through.

Kindergarten conference heard presentations on such topics as value clarification in young children, the impact of Sesame Street on kindergarten programs, kindergarten reading, the Piaget theory for early childhood education, early admission into kindergarten, behavior modification in the kindergarten classroom, sex education in kindergarten, mathematics, language and science at the kindergarten level and a report of the M.A.C.E. Study on Early Childhood Education.

This year for the first time, three pre-conference workshops preceded the conference, with each workshop involving some 60 participants. Discussions revolved around the parent-teacher team as it relates to skill-building and value communication; kindergarten open education and the uses of various new teaching aids; and the kindergarten teacher's role in working with learning disabilities, detecting special needs, and planning flexible approaches to regular activities.

Mrs. Mindess said the conference was planned and organized this year with the help of a 48-member steering committee.

A pamphlet including condensed versions of the guest presentations will be issued by the Lesley College Public Relations Office in March, 1972.
"Many student teachers come into the classroom with the idea that there are a variety of methods of teaching, but because they have just completed four years of the lecture technique, they naturally begin with it themselves," said Marcia Hatch Fowler '52, recently named the Massachusetts Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Fowler believes that teachers throughout all levels of the educational system should stop the exclusive lecture-textbook method of teaching and provide an atmosphere which offers several methods of learning. Such an atmosphere exists in the four-teacher primary unit in Ipswich's Shatwell School, where Mrs. Fowler is lead teacher.

Mrs. Fowler, who developed and implemented this open classroom structure with individual instruction and an open curriculum, is also the school's administrative assistant. In addition, she created, directed and taught an innovative summer course in oral language development based on rhythm, intonation, melody, and new vocabulary. The course, which attracted statewide attention, was used as a foundation to improve reading comprehension.

The announcement of the Massachusetts Teacher of the Year was made in November by Massachusetts Commissioner of Education Neil L. Sullivan, who said, "Mrs. Fowler has devoted time, energy, and a wealth of creative ability to encourage each child to enhance his own self-esteem. . . She has endeavored to provide each child with a learning environment to achieve maximum growth at his own rate."

Mrs. Fowler is now entered in the National Teacher of the Year competition, sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers, Encyclopedia Britannica, and the Ladies Home Journal.

A transfer to Lesley in her junior year from Boston University, Mrs. Fowler said, "Lesley was where I first began to learn because of the personalized instruction." She received her masters from Lesley in 1964.

Before coming to Ipswich in 1970, Mrs. Fowler had thirteen years of teaching experience at schools in Winchester and Reading including remedial reading and special classes.

Mrs. Fowler's philosophy of education begins with the premise that there must be an atmosphere of satisfying human interaction. "I feel the most important objective a teacher can meet is for a child to belong, be wanted and be needed by other children," she said. "Then his mind is free to work on academic knowledge." Each child has a specialty which is needed by others; the teacher helps develop this specialty.

Once a learning atmosphere has been established, Mrs. Fowler feels that the key role of the teacher is to serve as a guidance person, "fitting the method of teaching to the individual's most efficient type of learning because no two people learn at the same time, rate or through the same channels."

"An open classroom frees the child from the desk and allows him to use any material the real world has to offer," asserts Mrs. Fowler. Following this practice, the teachers on Mrs. Fowler's team joke about being "junk teachers"; they never throw anything away that might someday be used for learning.

Mrs. Fowler and her husband, Dean, who is a vice president of the State Street Bank and Trust Co., live in Boxford with their two teenage sons.
How To Make A Million

On December 15 the Lesley College Building Fund reached its million dollar goal, thereby qualifying for a $550,000 matching grant from the Kresge Foundation in Detroit. As of December 31 the funds raised in this first capital campaign at Lesley totaled $1,083,939. The money is being used to help finance the $5 million first phase of Lesley’s “urban academic village,” scheduled for completion in March, 1973.

Much credit for the success of the campaign goes to F. Weston Prior, vice-president for development, and to David O. Tompkins, director of development. In the following interview with Mr. Prior, the Public Relations staff tried to find out just how you do raise $1 million.

You have just completed a successful campaign to raise $1 million. How do you organize such a campaign?

First, you determine from whom you can reasonably expect to receive gifts. We decided that our $1 million could be raised best from three general groupings: governing boards; parents and alumnae; and foundations, friends, bequests, and corporations. Each group was assigned a goal based on our assessment of its potential. This broke the million into manageable pieces.

You mentioned that you had specific goals for each group. When the campaign was over, did you find the goals were what you had anticipated?

It was close; however, you set your own goals, and that is what you go after. The initial goals were that the governing boards would raise $450,000 and, in actuality, they did raise nearly that. For the parents and alumnae, the goal was $250,000, and they raised $212,410. In the third category—friends, foundations, etc.—the original was $300,000, and they raised $444,103.

What was the time limit for raising the million dollars, and was your original timetable sufficient?

When we had our kick-off meeting in October 1969, the original timetable was one and a half years. Actually, it worked out to be about two years. We had to extend the time period because the building program was delayed over two years in getting started. That had a direct effect on the fund-raising activity. When people were asked for contributions, it got to the point that they would say, “When you get the buildings started, please come back.”

Why was there a delay in the building program?

The last delay was because the lowest bid we had was $1,100,000 more than we were willing to finance. We had to go back to the drawing boards and knock off $1 million. However, there were two other major obstacles aside from the fact that this was our first capital campaign. The first was the climate created by students and faculty in 1970, which was not conducive to raising money. One of the basic principles of fund-raising is that funds are raised in an atmosphere of confidence and optimism. The second obstacle was the delay in starting the building program.

Did you feel the effects of the country’s economic recession in trying to raise money at this time?

I think it’s ironic that in the last six weeks period of the campaign we were able to raise $234,000 to complete the campaign at a time when I think perhaps we had every excuse not to.

Do you feel the fact that our alumnae go into educational fields rather than more financially lucrative professions was detrimental to raising $1 million?

Of course we did not expect the major part of our goal to be contributed by alumnae, at least in this first campaign. In the case of the married alumnae, Lesley has a problem common to all women’s colleges that, in too many cases, the lion’s share of the educational contribution goes to the husband’s college. Perhaps the women’s liberation movement will add this cause to their platform.

Fund-raising seems to involve many people with whom you are in contact all the time. Is fund-raising something a development officer could do alone?

The best term to describe a fundraiser is “catalyst.” As any chemist knows, a catalytic agent adds nothing to the mix that is not already there; the agent causes the elements there to interact and do something. Likewise, the fundraiser takes the elements that are there and through his organizational ability enables them to interact to attain their goals.

What are the future fund-raising plans for Lesley?

The immediate task is to reorganize and establish what we might call the Lesley College Fund. We would like to increase our percentage of donors, particularly alumnae, in our annual giving programs. A high percentage of participation generates other gifts. In fact, certain foundations will not contribute to a college whose alumnae will not support it.

F. Weston Prior
A letter was sent to Development Director David Tompkins from Tom Bross, a photographer who has done work for Lesley. The letter read in part: “On my word of honor: Last week, while I was on a photo assignment in Madrid for one of my airline clients, I saw a terribly beat-up little Renault with Swiss license plates—AND A LESLEY COLLEGE STICKER ON THE REAR WINDOW. Although I had camera in hand at that time, I wasn't able to react fast enough to immortalize the car on film.”

Mark A. Spikell, assistant professor of mathematics, will address secondary and college teachers on “Graphing and Curve Sketching” at the Mid West Regional meeting of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics in Denver. This past fall Spikell conducted a workshop at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics New England Regional Meeting on “New Angles in Mathematics Laboratories.”

Dr. Norman E. Doe, assistant professor of education, conducted a mathematics workshop in December for teachers in the Sharon Public Schools. Sponsored by Title III, the workshop was designed to show teachers different approaches to elementary school science. It was also an educational opportunity for the following Lesley student participants: Laura Tinker ’73, Brenda Moskowitz ’73, Leslie Aitken ’73, and Charlene Constantine ’73.

Frank C. Eldridge, director of the Carroll-Hall School, will participate in a discussion, “Remediation of Specific Learning Disabilities and Emotionally Disturbed Symptoms” at the February 10 and 11 Boston conference of the Massachusetts Association for Children With Learning Disabilities.

On January 26 Dr. George L. Miller, vice president for academic affairs, is a featured speaker at a meeting of the Boston Association for Education of Young Children to be held at Wheelock College. He will lead a session on “Humanizing the Education of Children: Improving the Quality of Interpersonal Relationships.”

Eight new members were named to the Lesley College Corporation during the fall, including two new trustees.

The 72-member corporation which is the college’s legal governing body, delegates operational responsibility to the 25-member Lesley Board of Trustees.

The new trustees are Logan Clarke, Jr., president of The County Bank, National Association, Cambridge, and a resident of Lexington, and Dr. Charles D. Bonner, medical director of Youville Hospital and clinical professor and lecturer at Tufts University Medical School. Bonner is a resident of Newton Centre.

A member of the board of trustees is automatically a Lesley College incorporator, although incorporators are not members of the board unless so elected.

Other new members of the corporation are: Thomas M. Horan, president of Meredith & Grow Inc., a Weston resident; A. R. Gale, executive vice president and chief operating officer of American Export Industries Inc., a resident of Greenwich, Conn., and Mrs. Selma Freede Rudolph, ’42, past president of Lesley’s Alumnae Association, and a resident of Swampscott.

James E. Turner, group vice president of Texttron Inc., Providence, R.I., a resident of East Greenwich, R.I.; Mrs. Lorraine Shapiro, ’42, past president of Lesley’s Alumnae Association and a resident of Haverhill, and Mrs. C. Charles Marran of Waban, Mass.

James O. Welch of Chestnut Hill, a Lesley College trustee since 1952, was honored in the fall 1971 with an award in recognition of his service to Lesley as a trustee and benefactor.

The award was presented to Welch “in recognition of the esteem with which he is held by his colleagues and in acknowledgment of his invaluable service as trustee and benefactor. Through his outstanding leadership and personal commitment he has contributed vitally toward furthering the educational goals of Lesley College…”

Welch is currently the director and trustee of various corporations.

Welch attended the University of North Carolina. He is a former president of the Welch Realty Company and former director of the Harvard Trust Company, the H. A. Johnson Company, and the Felters Company. Welch served as vice president of the National Biscuit Company.
Nineteen hundred and seventy-one

Joyce H. Beldon and Edwin L. Turner were married in mid-August, 1971, in the home of Joyce’s parents. The couple lives in Pasadena, Cal., where Edwin is doing graduate work at the California Institute of Technology. § A note from Karen Bryck Bloom: she and husband William have moved to Framingham where Karen is now teaching second grade in the Roosevelt School. § Marjorie S. Burrows is teaching second grade at Bennett-Hemenway School, Natick, Mass. and § Wendy Cohen, who lives in Winthrop, Mass., teaches third grade at Highland School, Winthrop. § Temple Ohabei Shalom of Brookline, Mass. was the setting for the October wedding of Sharon Marvis Coyne and Charles Stephen Karp. They live in Cambridge. § Diana J. Gardner Young is working with mentally handicapped children in Hingham, Mass., and § Nancy L. Greenwood is teaching in Newport, R.I. § Marjorie Clare Kaufman became the bride of Norman Frederick Lazarus in a late summer wedding. Marjorie teaches in Chelsea while Norman is a student at Suffolk Law School. They live in Belmont. § Nancy Levison teaches at Pollard School in Needham, Mass. Last summer she worked as a camp director for mentally retarded children at Peabody Camp in Newton. § Mary Frances Murphy and John Henry Corcoran were married in Cambridge in August. She teaches in the Cambridge public school system, and he is with the Cambridge Electric Company. § It was a September wedding for Patricia Papa and Paul W. Sweeney, a student in the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Patricia teaches in Worcester. § Mrs. Nancy P. Swenson (M.Ed.) is a second grade teacher in Lisbon, N.H. § Mary Touliopoulos is teaching fourth grade in Fox Hill School in Burlington, Mass., and § S. L. Wilson is a first grade teacher at Brookside School in Bennington, Vt. § Vernon, Conn., is home to Myrna Fey Wyman Specter and husband Kenneth, who were married in October.

Nineteen hundred and seventy

Among new teachers named to the Hanscom Middle School in Sudbury, Mass., was Cheryl Ebenstein. § Mrs. Edwin H. Goranson, Jr. (M.Ed.) is a new board of directors member of the Pine Ridge School, Williston, Vt. She has been consultant in communication disorders and director of the summer school at Pine Ridge. § Diane Hunter and Bruce Bond were married in August and now live in Burlington where she teaches; Bruce is employed by Texaco Co. § The October wedding of Virginia Ruth King and Richard Alfred Cerulli took place in Norwood, Mass. Living in Stoughton, Virginia teaches in the Norwood Public Schools and Richard is with General Motors in Westwood. § Sally Levin Mayer is teaching mentally retarded children in the Pittsburg Public Schools while her husband David works on his doctorate at the University of Pittsburg. § Now residing in Elizabeth, N.J., are Michelle Donna Salisky Szimiga and husband Israel who were married in August. She teaches the neurologically impaired at Durban Avenue School, Lake Hopatcong, and he is a biology teacher at Thomas Jefferson High School, Elizabeth. § Linda Shafler became Mrs. Martin S. Rothstein October 24. The Rothsteins live in New York where Martin is finishing his medical residency. § Marjorie Silverman teaches remedial reading at the Central School in Scituate, Mass. After Lesley, she attended Columbia University and was awarded a masters degree.

Nineteen hundred and sixty-nine

The November wedding of Dale Aleta Clayton and Harley Robert Stark took place in New Jersey; the couple lives in Yarmouth. § Phyllis Gabowitz became Mrs. Stanley Kremen in August. She is currently a reading specialist in East Brunswick, N.J., Junior High School, and her husband is director of marketing of the Synergetics Research Corp., Princeton. § Janey Kuchinsky Frank is the proud mother of a daughter, Jamie, born in April, 1971; Janey and husband James live in Mattapan, Mass. §

Lesley College Alumnae Association presents a BERMUDA HOLIDAY February 23-27

Five days, four nights—only $199 per person. Available to alumnae, family and friends, with special children’s rates. Round trip jet Boston/Bermuda—deluxe accommodations at the Sonesta Hotel—gourmet dinners—complete recreational facilities. For applications, call Lesley College Alumnae Office. Travel arrangements by Ambassador Tours, 131A Belmont St., Belmont, Mass.

Ellen Frances Ruland and David Charles Buckwalter were married this past fall in Woodstock, Vt. The couple lives in Scituate.

Nineteen hundred and sixty-eight

Linda Leschner Revzan has a new son, Richard Elliot. § July 4, 1971, was the date of Nancy Hill’s marriage to Brian Matza; they live in Weymouth, Mass. Nancy is teaching first grade in Chelsea and Brian is an instructor of trades in Providence. § Vivian Vaccaro is teaching second grade in Burlington, Mass. She earned a master of education degree from Boston State College in August.
Nineteen hundred and sixty-seven

Elaine Eskesen Schuldenfrei teaches first grade at the Warren School, Wellesley. Husband Robert, to whom Elaine was married last May, works for Applied Decision Systems in Wellesley as senior consultant.

Nineteen hundred and sixty-six

Virginia Porter Atkins became the bride of Neville Alan Warnes in Johannesburg, South Africa, this past fall. Virginia received a masters degree from Boston University. Her husband, a graduate of the University of Australia at Perth is associated with the Bechtel Construction Company of San Francisco. § Barbara Zoukis and Stephen Halkiotis were married in August; they live in Chapel Hill, N.C., where Barbara teaches third grade and Stephen is a doctoral candidate at the University of North Carolina.

Nineteen hundred and sixty-five

Rachel Freedberg Hershenow announced the birth of her first child, Barry David, born September 9. The Hershenows live in Chestnut Hill. § From Linda Shamroth Lerner, news that she and husband Phil, and one and a half-year-old son Joshua, are spending a year in Anchorage, Alaska, where Phil is completing his surgical residency.

Nineteen hundred and sixty-four

Pamela Nevins Kirk, a Portsmouth resident, represented Lesley College at the inauguration of Thomas Reginald Peterson, president of Providence College, R.I., in October.

Nineteen hundred and sixty-three

Janet Whalen Winship represented Lesley at the inauguration of John Paul Schaefer, president of the University of Arizona, Tucson.

Nineteen hundred and sixty-two

Althea Jackson is one of thirteen teachers in Peabody elected to head up the Title I Early Childhood Program for 160 children (ages 4 and 5) in the Seeglitz Junior High School.

Nineteen hundred and sixty-one

Marjorie Davidson Dyer has been teaching first grade in Winchester since 1959 when her husband passed away. She remarried in 1969 and is now Mrs. Frederick A. Bloomquist.

Nineteen hundred and sixty

We record with sorrow the deaths of Mary B. Sullivan on June 29, 1971, and Mildred Walker Norsk, December 5.

Nineteen hundred and fifty

A recent note from Marian S. Durrell told of the death of Eleanor M. McPadden November 12. To her surviving family, our warmest sympathies.

Lesley Alumnae who would like to share news, please write to the Current (Class Notes), Lesley College, 29 Everett St., Cambridge, Mass. 02138.

Nineteen hundred and forty-nine

Lavina S. Dallahan Lawless is teaching first grade at the Dean S. Luce School in Canton, Mass.

Nineteen hundred and forty-eight

Lesley Melba Kyriacos Collins was Lesley's representative at the inauguration of Dr. Eleanor Tupper, president of Endicott Junior College in November.

Nineteen hundred and forty-seven

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Nineteen hundred and forty-six

After a teaching career of 25 years which began in the one-room Bishop School, Ella May Purinton Curtis retired this past fall from the Bowdoinham, Maine, school system. She told a Brunswick, Me., newspaper that teaching for her was a "privilege and a pleasure."

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Nineteen hundred and thirty-eight

The Continuing Education Committee is planning a human relations and other workshops in the spring. Chairmen Ellen Green Bloch '61 and Susan Wilcon Eitelman '63 will be mailing out details shortly.

Editor's note: Joyce Snyder was named alumni director in September, 1971.
Massachusetts representatives

Joaquina Malva '49, Arlington; Gail Roberts Dusseau '60, Belmont; Persis Gallon '56, Dorchester; Geri Bohn Gerson '64, Randolph; Dorothy Canty Sweeney '31, Cambridge; Patricia Sweeney, '63, Cambridge; Betty Corcoran Gehris '50, Falmouth; Sandy Wiles Marquis '61, West Acton; Francine Bradden Tenenbaum '64, Framingham; Anne-Marie O'Loughlin Chenette '69, Cohasset; Linda Spell Cooley '65, Brighton; Myrtle Pierce Aulenback '39, Lexington; Elizabeth Kliman '65, Malden; Clare Mahley LaRochelle '40, Andover; May E. Hogan '26, Quincy; Diane Sharp Hadelman '60, Needham; Sandra Rosenthal Schultz '62, Newton Centre; Melissa Kyriacos Collins '47, Marblehead; Sara Rubin Cohen '25 and Thelma Rubin Leshner '34, both of Swampscott; Gertrude Mansir Colton '23, Pittsfield; Edna Stephenson Wintle '32, Lenox; Sandra Stedman Moreland '64, Plymouth; Jane Worcester '50, Wilbraham; Trudy Vernon Magid '42, Waltham; Wendy Cole Klein '64, Amy Stellar Robinson '63, both of Sudbury; Jeanette Hobbs Valence '61, Wellesley; Irene Scimone Buonopane '62, Westwood; Pamela Hall '64, Winchester; Michele Allard DeGeorge '70, Burlington; Eileen Sheehan Creedon '49, and Andrea Nordin '69, both of Shrewsbury.

Out of state regional representatives


New Format For Current

Beginning with this issue the Current will be published every two months in a new format. It will continue to include articles designed to communicate the events, philosophy, and controversies of the Lesley Community. The Current aims to represent all of the Lesley Community—alumnae, parents, faculty, administration, students, corporators, and friends. Although these groups are varied, they share one concern: Lesley.

In September 1970 because of financial and personnel limitations, the Current replaced the Alumnae Review, the Parents Newsletter, and the Community Newsletter.

The editors welcome and encourage your comments and suggestions.