

The Iowa Council for the Social Studies Journal

EDITOR

Lynn E. Nielsen
Department of Curriculum and Instruction
University of Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls, Iowa



OFFICERS OF THE IOWA COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES

PRESIDENT

Dwight Herold
Ames, Iowa

VICE-PRESIDENT

Lynn Nielsen
Cedar Falls, Iowa

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/SECRETARY

Carol Brown
Des Moines, Iowa

TREASURER

Nancy Peterson
Gilbert, Iowa

CONFERENCE EXHIBITS CHAIR

Linda Vandeventer
Davenport, Iowa

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Greg Hamot
Iowa City, Iowa

DELEGATE AT LARGE

Don Peterson
Marshalltown, Iowa

PAST-PRESIDENT

Dan Long
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

The Iowa Council for the Social Studies Journal

Volume 13

Fall, 2000

Number 1

A Look Back at the Social Studies

Table of Contents

Swan Song of an Old School Teacher Dr. John Haefner	1
The Last Century: A Look Back at Social Studies Carol Brown	7
Social Studies and the Young Child: Past, Present and Future Dr. Judith Finkelstein	11
Observations on the Social Studies During a Lifetime of Teaching Dr. Clare Keller	19
Public History Dr. Tom Morain	27

FORWARD



The 2000 issue of the Iowa Council for the Social Studies Journal focuses on the theme, *A LOOK BACK AT THE SOCIAL STUDIES*. At this millennial juncture it seemed appropriate that we take a hard look at where the social studies has been in order to shape our perspectives for the future. Each author provides a perspective on the social studies that is unique, personal and reflective.

Dr. John Haefner, drawing upon a considerable wealth of wisdom collected over a lifetime of learning, sings "*Swan Song of an Old School Teacher*." As an exemplar of best teaching practices, Dr. Haefner offers a humble but convincing argument for the central role of citizenship in social studies education while presenting and prescribing a core of timeless teaching practices.

Carol Brown, Executive Secretary for the Iowa Council for the Social Studies, is no newcomer to leadership in the social studies. As a former teacher and administrator she brings to her role as ICSS Executive Director a sense of the past and a passion for the future. While her article, "*The Last Century: A Look Back at Social Studies*," provides a multigenerational view of social studies throughout the twentieth century, she cautions against the bureaucratic squeeze that relegates social studies to the margins of the curriculum.

Dr. Judith Finkelstein provides a fresh and hopeful perspective in her article "*Social Studies And The Young Child: Past, Present And Future*." Reviewing the ups and downs of social studies over the past fifty years, Finkelstein cites the many recent efforts to reinvent the social studies for the young child as we cross the threshold into the new millennium.

Dr. Clare Keller in his article "*Observations on the Social Studies During a Lifetime of Teaching*," offers a wide-lens perspective on social studies and history education across the twentieth century. Speaking from first-hand experience and from documented history, he cites the perspectives that shaped and changed the teaching of history and social studies as the twentieth century gives place to a new millennium.

Dr. Tom Morain's article "*Public History*," provides a fitting capstone to this edition of the ICSS Journal. Constructing public history as those elements of "good teaching" informed by best practices, he applies the timeless teaching practices cited by the other authors. He draws public history and social education from obscurity, from the margins of the curriculum and places them at the core of authentic learning as activated through hands-on experiences.

Lynn E. Nielsen
ICSS Journal Editor