

The Iowa Council for the Social Studies Journal

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FORWARD

A few nights following the Fall ICSS Conference in October of 2006, I had a bad dream. It was a week or two before the conference and I had completely forgotten to organize the ICSS Journal. We were sunk. No authors, no articles, no theme. Nothing. But my dream wasn't just a nightmare. It also included an idea. We would identify some of the best articles from the previous 20 years and reprint them as a retrospective issue. It wouldn't take all that long because I had most of them saved on my computer. We would feature the themes of the past 20 years.... so I dreamed.

I recall awakening that morning relieved that it was only a bad dream. I told my wife Mary that I was so glad to wake up because of the bind my dreamy forgetfulness had placed me in. Then the thought came, maybe that wasn't such a bad dream after all. Maybe we should do a retrospective issue looking back at where we have been as a council over the course of the past 20 years.

When I arrived at my office that morning, I checked the issue number for 2007. Sure enough, it was the 20th edition year. So I can truthfully report that for this year's issue of the ICSS Journal, I "dreamed" up the idea of reprinting some of the best articles from the last 20 years.

In this issue you will find seven articles ranging in original publication date from 1990 through 2005. These articles were selected to represent the national and state perspective we have sought to infuse into each issue. They also reflect the tensions and the growth pains that social studies teachers have faced as education as become increasingly politicized over the past two decades.

1. THEME: Activity Based Teaching in Social Studies
Successful Field Trips: A Checklist, by Tom Morain, fall 1990
2. THEME: Integrated Curriculum
World Class Travelers, by Diane McCarty, fall 1992.
3. THEME: National Social Studies Standards
Using the Ten NCSS Thematic Strands/Standards in the K-12 Social Studies Classroom, by Craig M. Bancroft, fall 1995.
4. THEME: Social Studies as Essential
Essential Knowledge for Holding the Office of Citizen in a Democratic Republic, by Michael Hartoonian, fall 1998.
5. THEME: A Look Back at Social Studies
Swan Song of an Old School Teacher, by John H. Haefner, fall 2000.

6. THEME: The Future of Social Studies
Social Studies is the Future, by Susan Griffin, fall 2001.
7. THEME: History Education
Afraid of the Past? By James Loewen, fall 2005.

The ICSS Journal has been a professional benefit to members now for 20 years. We hope that the readership of the ICSS Journal will appreciate this issue and the leadership the Iowa Council for the Social Studies has been able to provide through the many activities it sponsors. This is a watershed year, a twenty-year marker. But we don't intend to stop here. We'll just keep dreaming.

Lynn E. Nielsen, Editor
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