



**THE
ACADEMIC SENATE**
for California Community Colleges

Edith Conn
Archivist

44 Encinal Place
Ventura, CA 93001

June 7, 1991

*To: Great Teachers
Your History!*

To: Executive Committee
From: Edith Conn

Subject: History of the Great Teachers Seminar

Attached is a history of the Great Teachers Seminar that I wrote in 1986, but I had never spoken - until today (June 3) with Mr. Ray Leidlich, Dean of Instruction, Columbia College, to whom we all owe a debt of thanks. In 1978 he changed the course of staff development in California Community Colleges!

As the memo dated 12/22/78 states, Leidlich called the then CCJCA to find out whether that organization was interested in sponsoring a "Master Teachers Seminar" in California. Through reading he had heard about the Garrison seminar in Maine and the Gottshall seminar in the Mid-West, and he wondered why there wasn't an opportunity closer to California. He had, then, a meeting at the CCJCA office with Mary Lou Zoglin and Ernie Berg, both, then, staff members of CCJCA. At that meeting Mary Lou and Ernie agreed, with Leidlich, that the Academic Senate should also be involved.

Leidlich said he, himself, has never attended a Great Teachers Seminar - in its "purest form" (in August in Santa Barbara)-but he was pleased that there had been so many sons, daughters, grandchildren of the original GTS. Columbia has had mini Great Teachers and he has attended Educational Leadership Colloquia events, which, as you know, use GTS styles. He is also glad that Columbia College is part of the small college consortium which has had GTS-style meetings. He felt that his original goal in approaching CCJCA - that Great Teachers start in California and that a network spring up using that format - has in fact been realized.

At the time (1978) when Leidlich spoke with CCJCA he was (as the CCJCA memo states) Associate Dean of Instruction at Contra Costa College. He is now Dean of Instruction at Columbia College where he still teaches a course now and then in his major field of English and speech.

The story certainly shows that one person with one good idea can make a difference. Dean Leidlich is the unsung hero of the Great Teachers movement in California. Thank you, Ray!

THE CALIFORNIA GREAT TEACHERS SEMINAR SOME HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

by Edith Conn, Ventura College
CACC Conference - November 16, 1986

Attached are some documents relating to the history of the California Great Teachers Seminar. These documents include:

1. An agenda item for the Board of Directors' meeting of CCJCA (now CACC) for December 22, 1978. Then Executive Director Lloyd Messersmith's memo cites important individuals in the history of the Great Teachers Seminar: Roy Leidlich, Associate Dean of Instruction, Contra Costa College, who suggested that CCJCA sponsor the Seminar, and - Roger Garrison - and - David Gottshall.

2. Minutes of the CCJCA January 12-13, 1979 meeting indicating that the Board approved the concept of sponsoring the Seminar "with the possibility of cooperating with the Academic Senate..."

3. A brochure announcing the first annual Great Teachers Seminar. (It was green, but not quite as bright as the reprint attached.) Jonnah Laroche, now a faculty member on the Board of Governors, wrote the brochure and had it printed at her college, Allan Hancock.

Other events in the early history: January, 20, 1979, Ernie Berg, CCJCA staff, attended a Senate Executive Committee meeting and asked for Senate support of the Seminar. David Gottshall flew to California and met with the Senate staff development committee on February 20, 1979 at Santa Barbara City College in the midst of a terrible rain storm that prevented Ernie Berg from attending. Jonnah Laroche, Tony Gilleran, and Edith Conn, all from the Senate, met with David and showed him their choice for the Seminar location: La Casa de Maria retreat center in Montecito. I remember David trying to explain the Great Teachers Seminar to us, and I recall thinking - we don't really understand it - but it sounds wonderful! Subsequent events have shown we were right.

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGE ASSOCIATION

December 22, 1978

TO: Members of the CCJCA Board of Directors

FROM: Lloyd E. Messersmith, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Proposed Master Teachers Seminar

Members of the CCJCA staff met recently with Mr. Ray Leidlich, Associate Dean of Instruction, Contra Costa College, for the purpose of exploring his suggestion that the Association sponsor a Master Teachers Seminar in California, to be held in a location to be determined during the latter part of August.

Staff has corresponded at length with Dr. Roger Garrison, who has spearheaded the concept nationally, and with Dr. David Gottshall of the College of DuPage, who has conducted a number of Great Teachers Seminars in the Midwest and Canada. The seminars have been very well received, and participants are enthusiastic in their reports about them.

Such a seminar sponsored by the Association could be held at one of the California community colleges which have dormitory facilities. Dr. David Gottshall has indicated that he would be willing to act as the seminar leader, and would identify a sufficient number of facilitators. The seminars are entirely self-supporting.

At this point, staff is requesting support for the concept so that we may proceed with planning. If the Board approves, a planning committee will be formed and the feasibility of such a seminar will be studied. If it appears that the seminar could be conducted during August, it will be necessary to make a final decision before the next meeting of the Board. In any case, a report in this regard will be made relative to the project at the next meeting of the Board.

Recommendation

The Executive Director requests Board support for the concept of sponsorship of a Master Teachers Seminar.

LEM:sew

From CCTCA Meeting Jan. 17-13
1979

The Executive Director informed the Board that the following persons were nominated for appointment to the Task Force by the President of the Association:

Reed L. Buffington, Superintendent and President, Chabot College;
Chairperson

Robert J. Evans, History and Philosophy Instructor, Cuesta College

John E. Johnson, Superintendent and President, Santa Ana College

Mike Mauno, Associated Student Body President, El Camino College

Marilee Morgan, President, Board of Trustees, Rio Hondo Community College District

Dale Parnall, Superintendent and President, San Joaquin Delta College

Ida B. Pound, Business Instructor, College of Alameda

Shirley Shepard, Student Representative, Board of Trustees, Foothill-De Anza Community College District

Doris M. Ward, Member, Governing Board, San Francisco Community College District

 b. Master Teaching Seminar

President Jones presented for the Board's review the memorandum from staff regarding the sponsorship of a Master Teaching Seminar in California to be held in a location to be determined during the latter part of August. The Executive Director requested Board support for the concept of sponsorship of the seminar; if approved, a planning committee will be formed and the feasibility of such a seminar will be studied. The Executive Director informed the Board that it has been suggested to President Jones that perhaps this is an event which the Association could co-sponsor with the statewide academic senate.

It was:

MSC, that the Board of Directors approve the concept of sponsorship of a Master Teacher Seminar, with the possibility of cooperating with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges.

c. Report from Staff on the Definition of a Student

President Jones presented a staff report on the definition of a student, indicating that this matter was discussed at the September meeting of the Board. There had been a discussion concerning the need for a constitutional provision specifying the number of units a student must be enrolled in to be eligible to be a delegate, a member of the Board of Directors, or an officer of the Association. The Board passed a motion directing staff to initiate a study on a constitutional amendment concerning the definition of a student.

The Executive Director provided the background for the survey, and his recommendation for an amendment of the Constitution by the addition of Article XVI, Student Eligibility, was presented for the Board's review.

FIRST ANNUAL

GREAT TEACHERS SEMINAR

Details about registration will be sent to college presidents/superintendents, to deans of instruction and to senate presidents in early April. Enrollment is limited to fifty. The tuition fee of \$255 is due by May 20, 1979.

Districts are encouraged to assume the cost of sending instructors to the Great Teachers Seminar, and to ask participants to share the experience at formal or informal staff development activities on their return to campus.

For further information contact:

Ernest Berg
2017 "O" Street
Sacramento, California 95814
(915) 444-8641

STAFF DEVELOPMENT FOR
COMMUNITY COLLEGE INSTRUCTORS

Co-sponsored by
The Statewide Academic Senate
and
C.C.J.C.A.

"In all education the main cause
of failure is staleness."

Alfred North Whitehead

August 26-31, 1979
La Casa de Maria
Santa Barbara, California

GREAT TEACHERS

Staff Development for California Community College SEMINAR

Instructors

THE SEMINAR

The seminar brings together fifty community college educators representing a wide and random variety of subject matter areas for five days of intensive learning, teaching and reflecting. The focus for discussion and activity is: **PROBLEMS OF INSTRUCTION IN THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE.** The structure of the seminar evolves from an on-going needs analysis as the seminar progresses. Underlying all activities is the perpetual challenge to characterize and define the great teacher. California community college instructors are invited to take advantage of this unique professional development opportunity. The first California Great Teacher Seminar will be held from August 26-31 at La Casa de Maria near Santa Barbara.

THE STAFF

Nationally known as a consultant in community college staff development, David Gottshall is a member of the Staff Development Commission of the A.A.C.J.C.-affiliated National Council for Staff, Program and Organizational Development. Gottshall is founder-director of the Great Teachers Seminar which is modeled on Roger Garrison's Master Teacher Series. Gottshall has worked with Garrison who will be on staff at Gottshall's midwest seminar in 1979.

THE PURPOSE

To celebrate good teaching.
To stimulate educators to venture beyond the limits of their own specialization and environments in search of transferable ideas and the universals of teaching.

To practice rational analysis of instructional problems and to find realistic, creative approaches to their solution.

To promote an attitude of introspection and self-appraisal by providing a relaxed setting and an open, human climate in which participants can seriously review and contemplate their attitudes, methods and behaviors as teachers.

To stimulate the exchange of information and ideas within the community college movement by building an expanding network of communication among the faculty.

THE SITE

La Casa de Maria, just minutes from the Santa Barbara Airport in Monticito, is a rustic and peaceful setting ideally suited for the Great Teacher activities. Cottages and guest houses provide comfortable sleeping accommodations while the central meeting room and dining area host group events. Swimming, tennis and hiking are available on the grounds. The Casa acreage abounds with trees, shrubs and flowers and is isolated although but a short distance from Santa Barbara.

THE PARTICIPANTS

In the search for professional excellence, there is so much more beyond a teaching field or an educational specialization that a community college educator must know, understand, and believe in, yet there are so few professional development opportunities available for those who recognize the need for continuous inspiration and growth.

The Great Teacher Seminar was created to give emphasis to the community college movement and to the art of teaching and living within that movement. It provides an opportunity for faculty to live, share and grow for five days with peers from other disciplines and from other colleges. The Seminar is an assembly of dedicated educators in search of the qualities of the great teacher. We recommend that districts send representatives who will contribute to and benefit from the search.

THE SPONSORS

The statewide Academic Senate and C.C.J.C.A., in response to numerous requests for new approaches to staff development, join in sponsoring the Great Teachers Seminar as a non-profit endeavor to benefit community colleges.

The tuition of \$255 includes all meals, activities, materials and special events.