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Front Matter

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J A E P L

The Journal of the Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning

**Mind, Body, Spirit:
Teachers Making Connections**

Volume 4 • Winter 1998–1999

The Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning

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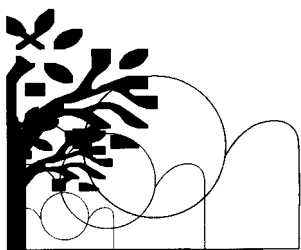
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J A E P L

The Journal of the Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning

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J A E P L

The Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning (AEPL), an official assembly of the National Council of Teachers of English, is open to all those interested in extending the frontiers of teaching and learning beyond traditional disciplines and methodologies.

The purposes of AEPL, therefore, are to provide a common ground for theorists, researchers, and practitioners to explore ideas on the subject; to participate in programs and projects on it; to integrate these efforts with others in related disciplines; to keep abreast of activities along these lines of inquiry; and to promote scholarship on and publication of these activities.

The *Journal of the Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning, JAEPL*, meets this need. It provides a forum to encourage research, theory, and classroom practices involving expanded concepts of language. It contributes to a sense of community in which scholars and educators from pre-school through the university exchange points of view and cutting-edge approaches to teaching and learning. *JAEPL* is especially interested in helping those teachers who experiment with new strategies for learning to share their practices and confirm their validity through publication in professional journals.

Topics of interest include but are not limited to: intuition, inspiration, insight, imagery, meditation, silence, archetypes, emotion, attitudes, values, spirituality, motivation, body wisdom and felt sense, and healing. Articles may be practical, research-oriented, theoretical, bibliographic, professional, and/or exploratory/personal.

Membership in AEPL is \$15. Contact Bruce Ardinger, Columbus State Community College, 550 E. Spring St., Columbus, OH 43215. e-mail: bardinger@compuserve.com. Membership includes that year's issue of *JAEPL*.

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Editors' Message

We live in a culture dominated by boundaries of all sorts. Personal space is precious to us, and we become uneasy when others do not honor those invisible borders, ignoring, perhaps, the ways in which those borders shift with age, class, gender, and ethnicity. We have office doors, house doors, and bedroom doors that we close and lock. Many of us demarcate a sharp separation between private life and public work, arguing, as does Michael Bèrubé that the life lived has nothing to do with the work written. And so we exist, being careful not to overstep our "boundaries," communicating in body language and in words the necessity of distance between me and thee, spirit and school, body and mind.

Much that we do in AEPL is designed to disrupt those boundaries, to resist the ways in which arbitrary separations lock us into damaging patterns of living, thinking, and feeling. We believe, as Gregory Bateson says, that severing mind from body will result in an epistemological error that will surely hurt us. Thus, in our workshops at professional sites, in our annual conference in the Colorado Rockies, and in our interactions throughout the year—many of which are carried on in cyberspace—we celebrate the necessary unity of mind, spirit, and body.

This issue of our first jointly edited *JAEPL* continues that celebration by featuring articles addressing in varied fashion our necessary unity. Laurence E. Musgrove in "Attitudes Toward Writing" focuses on ways in which teachers must attend to the importance of students' attitudes while writing. Mark McBeth in "Body Oddities" blurs the boundaries between exposition and fiction, as well as between flesh and word, as he plumbs the ways in which differences in body encode differences in being, underlining the organizing and disruptive nature of bodies. Focusing on the needs of the spirit, Hildy Miller argues from a feminist perspective for the importance of a goddess religion for the development of women in our patriarchal culture. Keith Rhodes blurs the boundaries that separate imagination and rationality that have become solidified in Western culture. Using the Jungian archetype of the trickster, he re-reads Plato and Gorgias as philosopher-rhetoricians imbued with a subtle resistance to absolute rationality that marks the trickster. Judy Halden-Sullivan in "Reflection and an Appetite for Experience" taps the work of Hans-Georg Gadamer to argue that the synthesis of experience and reflection is essential for our composition classrooms. Finally, in "The Healing Power of Words" Dave Waddell highlights the reciprocity of language, body, and spirit, illustrating how each mutually infuses the other. Each article, separately and jointly, offers unique insight on the necessary unity of mind, spirit, and body.

We also wish to acknowledge the work of our Book Review Editor, Anne Mullin, who, after a three-year tenure in office, will be turning her efforts to new projects. We welcome Susan Blau as the incoming Book Review Editor, and eagerly anticipate the upcoming array of reviews. We also wish to welcome Jane Tompkins to the Executive Committee as ex officio member, Alice G. Brand to the Advisory Board, and Tom Dean to the editorship of the *AEPL Newsletter*. Judy Arnold, outgoing *Newsletter* editor, will be pursuing other writing projects.

Breaking with tradition, we have chosen to issue an open call for the fifth issue of *JAEPL*. Rather than focusing on a specific topic or theme, we invite submissions on any topic or approach that offers insight into AEPL interests. We also begin a new tradition in that we will be using MLA (4th edition), rather than APA, citation style.

Please visit our website at <http://ctr.umkc.edu/org/jaepl> and e-mail us all your comments and suggestions. We look forward to introducing new discourse and new topics to the world of cyberspace. ☺

Dedication to Alice G. Brand

In the contingent realm of human affairs, Aristotle argues, the process by which we arrive at ethical decisions regarding our actions results from the balancing of *logos*—narrowly defined as rationality—and of *pathos*—appetite, desire, emotions. Much of the work in our field has concentrated on *logos*—on the rationality of the word separate from the necessary leveling of emotion, thereby imperiling the ethicality of our endeavors as teachers and researchers. Alice Brand—poet, teacher, scholar—has dedicated her professional life to redressing that inequity by continually seeking ways to “heat up cognition” and unite the “cognitively blind but arousing system of emotion with the subtle intellectual apparatus” (*Psychology of Writing* 1). Her efforts to bring a field’s erring attention back to emotion include *The Psychology of Writing: The Affective Experience* (1989), *Therapy in Writing* (1980), and the co-edited collection (with Richard L. Graves) *Presence of Mind: Writing and the Domain Beyond the Cognitive* (1994), as well as innumerable articles and presentations. Her efforts to keep her own attention on emotion include her work as a published poet: *studies on ZONE* (1989) and *Court of Common Pleas* (1996)

Heated by her own *pathos*, Alice has gone beyond these traditional venues and avenues of scholarship. With Richard L. Graves and Charles Suhor, she created the Assembly for the Expanded Perspectives on Learning—a community where like-minded teachers from a variety of disciplines could meet to discuss and exchanges views on matters that, like emotion, remain on the margins of scholarly interest and respectability. Then, she stepped down as co-chair of the assembly to serve as the first editor of the newly established journal: *Journal of the Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning (JAEPL)*. Teachers needed a journal, she believed, which would provide an outlet for writing about topics and in genres devalORIZED in the field at large. And so, under her three-year editorship, *JAEPL* became that journal. Those of us who published under Alice learned how powerful the combination of *logos* and *pathos* could be. Her editorial vigilance was exacting, and her gift and sincere wish for excellence inspiring.

We wish to acknowledge and honor that passion, diligence, and exactitude by dedicating this fourth issue of *JAEPL* to Alice Glarden Brand: groundbreaker, mentor, caster of long shadows. ☺

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