TEACHING ECOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY

We plan a meeting, devoted to issues related to the teaching of psychology. As Ecological Psychology develops, and as the ISEP grows larger and more diverse, there is an increasing need for good teaching of psychology from the ecological approach, especially teaching at an undergraduate level to prepare students who intend to continue in Ecological Psychology. Often a standard Psychology curriculum does not prepare such students adequately for further work in the field. We have invited experienced teachers and researchers to share their ideas, frustrations, and questions.

The format will be informal. Most speakers will talk briefly about their own experience, and then kick off a discussion period. Discussants have been chosen to listen to the back-and-forth and then offer some closing remarks. Because of the informality, we encourage you to bring your ideas and questions, too. How does trying to teach ecological psychology help us to see the strengths and weaknesses of existing curricula? Can existing courses be modified adequately to reflect ecological approaches? How can we design an adequately interdisciplinary curriculum for teaching psychology from an ecological point of view? What are appropriate course sequences for students learning ecological psychology? How can we balance ecological and other approaches to psychology? What sort of texts can be used?

We also plan to have a "hands-on" session where people are invited to bring in-class and in-lab materials for display and discussion. We are looking for everything from syllabi and handouts to videotape displays and software for running labs. If you would like to participate in this session, please contact Edward Reed (717-399-4426) asap to make sure we have any equipment you might need. This "hands-on" session will run in parallel with a regular poster session, and poster-presenters are encouraged to contact us as well.
Tentative Schedule

Friday, October 16

1:00-1:15  Welcome and Introduction  Edward Reed
1:15-2:15  Teaching Introductory Psychology  Len Mark
          TBA
2:15-3:15  Teaching Social Psychology  Jack Heller
          TBA
3:15-3:30  Break
3:30-4:00  Business Meeting
4:15-5:15  Invited Address  Ulrich Neisser
5:45-7:00  Winetasting and Reception
7:00-9:00  Dinner

Saturday, October 17th

Poster Session Plus

In addition to a normal Poster Session, the morning will be devoted to
demonstrations of labs, computer programs, and videos
people have developed for teaching. We will divide the time up into
three "shifts" to allow presenters to "perform" in one or two of the
shifts, and to view others' material in the remaining time.

9:00-9:15  Coffee
9:15-10:15  Shift 1
10:15-11:15  Shift 2
11:15-12:15  Shift 3
12:30-1:30  Lunch

1:30-2:00  Interdisciplinary Teaching in Real
          Workshop Contexts: Lessons from
          Educational Research  P. Ihainen
          (Finland)
2:00-3:00  Philosophy for Psychology Students
          and Vice Versa: Who needs whom?  Edward Reed
          Stuart Shanker
3:00-3:15  Break
3:15-4:15  The Role of Mathematics in
          Undergraduate Psychology  Gerald Balzano
4:15-5:00  Summary and Discussion
          How can we learn more to teach
          better?  Tim Johnston
          Herb Pick