

Chair's Report to the AGM, 2007-2008

This is the first of our new style Report to Members from the Chair. The Executive thought it would be helpful to put it on the website prior to the AGM to try and allow a little more time for discussion at the AGM. The intention is to keep it brief but to give a thorough accounting of our activities this year – and how your membership money is spent. Elected and co-opted members of the Executive do not receive payments for the work they do for TACTYC. The journal editors and the reviews editor receive a fee from the royalties from the sale of journals.

It's been a busy year. The Executive met four times, three in Birmingham and once with our journal editors in Oxford. In addition we held a full day TACTYC Development Day at Leeds Met where we did some serious forward planning. We agreed amongst other things to *review membership views* on forward movement – hence the questionnaire you have received from Anita Soni – do complete and return it or bring it along to the conference. We also agreed on a *new look conference* from next year which will focus more substantially on *research into practice* and will encourage our members to share some of their own research activities in informal ways in round table events. We agreed the success of the *new assistant editorship* and although sorry to lose one of these – Stephanie Harding – are pleased to retain the assistance from Jan Georgeson; Jan is a very welcome attendee at Executive meetings. Claire Mould retired from the Executive as an elected member for three years. She will be missed and our thanks go to her and we are looking out for a new executive member. Janet Moyles is retiring from editing the Newsletter (but not from maintaining the website) this year and many thanks to her – and to Maulfry Worthington for taking on the Newsletter. There are high standards to maintain here but Maulfry will bring her flair to it, as Janet did.

One key event this year was to host an *invited colloquium on playful learning in educational settings at Leeds Met*. This was funded by TACTYC, Leeds Met and BERA (British Educational Research Association). Nine UK play scholars met and four international delegates attended over two and half days. Papers were presented and discussed. Two outcomes from the colloquium are a commissioned

book by Sage on *Playful learning in early years settings* and an event to be hosted in the House of Commons in November. TACTYC Exec and BERA representatives have invited over 200 MPs and policy makers to come and hear more about why we need to DO more about the status and development of playful learning experiences in early years. The emphasis on play in the wider community is welcome but educational settings need more support also. This activity is gratefully supported by The Vicky Hurst Trust.

In brief:

- Executive members have responded to several consultations and we are now locating these on the website – they might inform your own responses and should make useful discussion documents for students at all levels in keeping abreast of policy development in the early years.
- Pat (Chair) and Wendy (President) have met TDA representatives to discuss ITE issues and links with EYPs. This was undertaken in conjunction with Early Education representatives and it was good to work together; we hope this will continue.
- TACTYC continues to be represented at PUG (Primary Umbrella Group) and ECF (Early Childhood Forum) to sustain our wider links with the active communities around children.
- TACTYC is looking for a new Chair as from next year when Pat retires from her six years in office.
- I've probably forgotten something but can bring it to your attention at the AGM.

See you there and do enjoy the year ahead.

Best wishes to all the membership from all on the Executive

Early Years: an international journal of research and development **Report for TACTYC AGM: Saturday November 8th 2008**

The journal has recently been added to Routledge's 'Manuscript Central' online centre for managing paper submissions and communications with authors and reviewers. The principal advantages of Manuscript Central are that it maintains a full record of all correspondence relating to each paper, including automated reminders to editors and reviewers, and that it enables authors, editors and reviewers to access papers online from wherever they may be (if they have internet access).

We were concerned to avoid compromising the personal relationships which we aim to maintain with authors and reviewers so we have done our best to go through all of the messages which are sent out to acknowledge receipt of papers, invite reviewers, etc. to make the wording a bit friendlier. Although MC will generate email messages, we can still 'tweak' these before they are sent. Over the coming months we will be monitoring how MC works and we will liaise with Lynsey Haire, from Taylor and Francis, who has been very helpful in supporting our entry into this brave new world.

Since November 2007 we have received 45 papers and, of the 37 which have been processed, 18 have been rejected, 2 were withdrawn, 7 have been accepted, and 10 have been returned for revisions. A further 8 papers are still being processed and of these, 4 have come in through Manuscript Central since we joined this system on October 1st.

The next issue of the journal, 28,3, is due in November and will be made up of independently submitted papers from Australia, America, Canada, Ireland, Switzerland and the UK. The first issue of 2009 will feature papers from Germany and we also plan to feature papers from the countries of 'New Europe' in the last issue of next year.

The i-First system enables subscribers to *Early Years*, including all members of TACTYC, to access papers before they actually appear in print. New papers can be found by visiting the journal website, <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/09575146.asp> and clicking on 'iFirst content' under the 'ejournal' heading on the right hand side of the page (just above the TACTYC logo). This opens the i-First page where a link to 'View new articles ahead of the print edition' can be found just below the journal details.

Book reviews can also be found on the TACTYC website before they appear in the journal and David Whitebread, our reviews editor is always keen to hear from anyone who would like to contribute a review. He has a list of books sent by publishers (email him on dgw1004@cam.ac.uk for a copy) or he can contact publishers to obtain a copy of a title if someone is keen to review it (reviewers keep the book). David's policy is to use the reviews to alert readers to books which are worth reading

Since February 2007 we have enjoyed the support of two assistant editors, Jan Georgeson and Steph Harding, both of whom have played an important role in helping to ensure the smooth running of our work. Both Jan and Steph kindly agreed to continue in their roles as assistant editors beyond the year which they originally signed up for but at the end of August increasing pressure on her time from work and family commitments meant that Steph felt she had to step down. On behalf of the executive and members of TACTYC we would like to offer Steph our heartfelt thanks for the valuable contribution she has made to the continuing development of the journal.