


ISACS
Independent Schools Association of the Central States
e-bulletin
October 2003

Welcome to Harvest Time!

This month's e-Bulletin carries the fruits of a summer's work on the database, and coincides with delivery of the new 14th Edition of the Accreditation Guide, the 2004 ISACS Directory, and the printed program for the Annual Conference. Read on for details about a new, easy way to update your school data, exciting enhancements to member services, and our new Exceptional Program awards.

Program Set for Annual Heads Conference



Barbara Braham and Richard Rodriguez, keynote speakers at ISACS' 2003 Annual Conference for School Heads.

The Planning Committee has convened in three conference calls. Subcommittees are hard at work on the myriad details for the January 15-17 happenings! Featured keynote Richard Rodriguez, in last month's Chronicle of Higher Education, gives a taste of what is in store with "Blaxicans and Other Reinventions of American Culture," pointing out how rapidly we are becoming a "mestiso" culture. Executive training guru Barbara Braham will speak about the latest trends in assessment of leadership effectiveness. ISACS will be

offering a cut-rate deal on a 360-degree evaluation tool for Heads. They can complete the evaluation process prior to San Diego, then have private consultations with Braham to interpret the results.

[Click Here for Conference Details](#)

ISACS to Showcase Exceptional School Programs

Reward your faculty and students for their dedication and creativity! In an effort to celebrate innovation in our independent schools, ISACS is launching an Exceptional Programs section on our website. Has your school recently launched a school-wide initiative, community outreach program or an innovative new curriculum? We are looking for these categories:

- 1) Global Outreach
- 2) Expedition-based learning
- 3) Technology Innovations (especially if cost-effective)
- 4) Ethical Education and Religious Pluralism
- 5) Community Service
- 6) Youth Leadership
- 7) Curriculum Initiatives

Submit to ISACS a one-page description of your school's innovative program, including its purpose, method, and goals. ISACS will then contact you about showcasing your school program on our website - a great way to show your school community how much you care! E-mail questions and submissions to info@isacs.org.



The Latin School team on Mt. Kilimanjaro.

The October 2003 "Exceptional Program" Selection

Category: Global Outreach
School: The Latin School (IL)
Faculty Leader: Betty Lark Ross

In July, Latin School faculty member Betty Lark Ross (chair of the Art Department), several of her students, and a group of Chicago Public Schools students traveled to Tanzania with Climb For Kids foundation. This global outreach project is aimed at building friendships among public and private school students for the benefit of African schools. During their first week, the group brought donated laptop computers to a secondary school in Arusha, Tanzania. Then, they

helped villagers set them up and taught local students how to use them as part of a community service project. For the remainder of their trip, 8 members of the 24-person expedition climbed Mount Kilimanjaro (including the indomitable Ross!). Then, they spent a week on safari. The Latin School contingent is in the process of editing video footage to produce a documentary about the trip, which they hope to share with a wider audience at a special opening for Latin School at the famous Apple Computer outlet on Michigan Avenue. We also hope for a clip on the ISACS website. Interested in learning more? Contact Betty Lark Ross at bross@latinschool.org.

ISACS Goes Web-based To Serve You Better, But Your Help Is Needed!

Making major progress for member services, Lindsay Fisher, the Coordinator for Accreditation Services, spent the summer with experts engineering better ways to create "virtual communities." Now, we have six new listservs as well as full, web-based direct access to ISACS data for all member schools. All Heads of Schools will receive an e-mail next week notifying them of their school's ISACS website password. We ask that every school please "fill in the blanks" in our new database so that we can more directly communicate with the correct contacts from your school. Also, please pass on the word about our six new listservs:

isacs-heads@isacs.org: Heads Discussion Group (restricted to heads of schools ONLY)
assthead@isacs.org: Assistant Head Discussion List
isacsrep@isacs.org: ISACS Teacher Representative Discussion List
library@isacs.org: Librarian Discussion List
boardchairs@isacs.org: ISACS Board Chair Discussion Group
admission@isacs.org: Admission Discussion List

Only those faculty/staff members entered into our online database under the corresponding

categories will be registered for the appropriate listserv. Please [click here](#) for Listserv Etiquette 101 (very important!). For listserv-related inquiries, please e-mail info@isacs.org.

The New Technology Plan Approval Committee

ISACS has recently re-instituted its participation with the School and Library Division of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) as a certified technology plan approver. Submit your technology plan to the ISACS Technology Plan Approval Committee according to the guidelines set forth by the USAC, and receive up to 90% discounts on technology-related purchases for your school (discounts apply to Telecommunications Services, Internet Access and Internal Connections purchases).

This e-rate discount is one of four support mechanisms funded through a Universal Service fee charged to telecommunications companies. Discounts vary based on poverty level and urban/rural status of school. For detailed information on the e-rate program and how to apply, click on the link below. Any questions can be directed to Lindsay Fisher at lindsay@isacs.org.

[Click Here to Learn More about the E-Rate Discount](#)

With Very Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Braman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John C. Braman, Jr.