

Association for Constructivist Teaching

St. Louis, Missouri

October 15-16, 2004

a photo poem by Liala Strotman

With assistance from Shirley Bennett



Special thanks to

Alice Wakefield, ACT president and “Jill of all trades” for keeping ACT moving forward.

The ACT board members who continue to support each other and the organization across many miles.

Brenda Fyfe, Sherry Sajdak, Liz Van Cleef and their faithful assistants, for a great conference from start to finish.

Our Key note speakers and presenters for excellence and inspiration.

Participants for venturing near and far and for everyday contributions to the professional culture here and abroad

The St. Louis Reggio Collaborative for warmly welcoming our visits and queries. Let's continue to collaborate.

The new editorial board, including peer reviewers and writers for The constructivist, the ACT on line journal, for providing nourishment between conferences.



Left (our Aussie friend who we hope to see in Boston) Right (Julie Reiner Dangel, Georgia; Linda Kroll, California; Joanne Falinski, New York; and Teresa Harris, Virginia presented together and are 04-05 board members)

From Down under, Mexico,
And between coasts east and west
ACT members came together
To do what they do best.

Sharing practices and research
Along constructivist lines:
Provoking thinking
And documenting thoughts from children's minds.



Helping preservice teachers uncover
The importance of inquiry and play:
Offering invitations for reflection
For teachers already on their way.



United once again as a community
In spirit and heart;
Reflecting on big ideas in algebra or contemplating
Making community involvement an essential part.



Presenters, planners,
And participants too
Appreciating and respecting one another
And all the important work they do.



Delegation Day at St. Michael's

*Left Alice Wakefield, president; Lori Geismar-Ryan, Brenda Fyfe, conference co-chair;
Right St. Michael's principal and Carlina Rinaldi, consultant to Reggio Children and research/author
with Howard Gardner on 2001 book, Making learning visible: Children as individual and groups learners.*



Those who arrive early had a special treat.
St. Louis Reggio Collaborative allowed us to meet
With staff and tour one of three schools
Where beautiful projects and respect for children rules
Later, Carlina asked visitors to shared recollections
The conversation was filled with passion and reflections.
The teachers and students really impressed us
Thank goodness the bus came because all the great ideas started to stress us.

On Friday Virginia encouraged some reflection and mathematical thinking



Dr. Virginia Bastable (center) , director of Summer Math for teacher at Mount Holyoke College. She helped attendees construct an understanding of some of the big ideas in algebra. Insights abounded!

On Saturday Carlina encouraged building community support and linking.



Dr. Carla Rinaldi (center), energizes ACT members to build support for constructivist education.

Passion was high!

We had fabulous workshop leaders

*Top L to R (Marilyn Watson, Rheta DeVries)
Bottom L to R (Alice Wakefield, Yeh Hsuch)*



Who came from near and far



**from colleges, universities, and daycare centers,
and private and public schools**



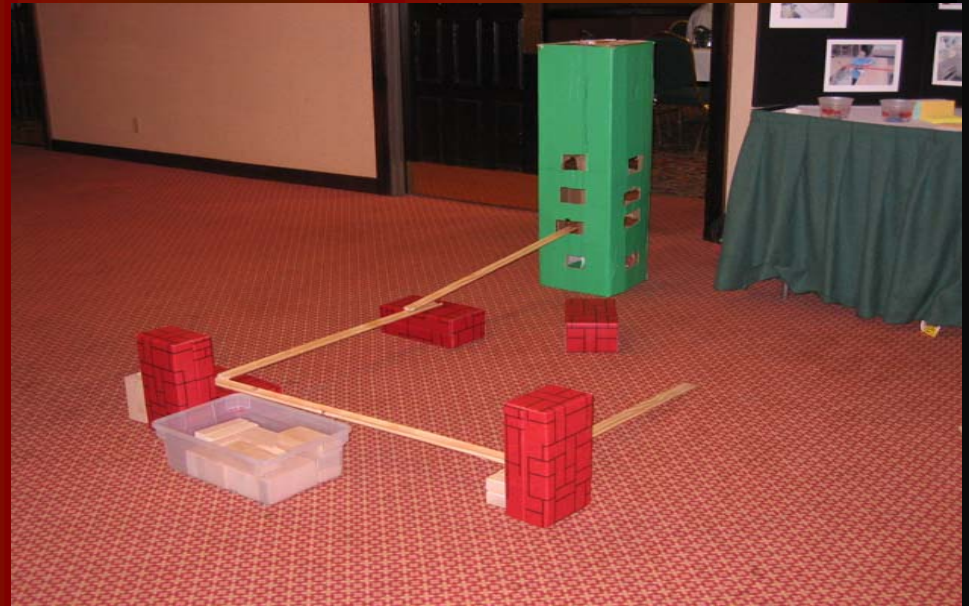
each challenged us in unique ways.



Open minds were requested



Provocations spurred us to be invested



There was engagement throughout the two days



When filled with joy: work becomes play



Nothing without joy !



Sheri Vasinda and Martha Foote present, *Reinventing Reggio: Finding a Place for Voice and Choice in an American Standards-Based Elementary Classroom*, which was Sheri's doctoral research. Standing in the audience is Carla Rinaldi telling her why this is an important piece of work.