



March 2008

Advancing deliberative democracy in and through higher education

Greetings from the Democracy Imperative! In this issue, you can learn about ways for you to get involved and TDI projects, announcements, calls for applications, and more. We try not to bombard you with emails, so this one is pretty full. Remember, this is *your* organization!

TDI Call for Proposals for Catalyst Papers

How do students learn the arts of democracy — inclusive dialogue, public reasoning, conflict transformation, and social and political efficacy? We invite you to submit a one-page proposal for a concept paper on DD in a particular discipline, interdisciplinary program, or other high impact learning structure. This will be step one in a larger initiative to study the role of deliberative democracy in student learning. If you are interested, visit our [website](#).

Mark your calendars and join us!

Beyond the Academy: Engaging Public Life, June 9-10, George Mason University Arlington Campus. Join public scholars from across the country to discuss how scholarship helps strengthen democratic institutions and public life. Send a 450-550 word abstract by April 28th to [Noelle McAfee](#). For more information, see our [website](#).

Everyday Democracy's (formerly Study Circles Resource Center) national conference, *Making Every Voice Matter*, June 12-14 in Denver, CO. Several TDI members will be there, so plan on a TDI informal gathering. For more information, click [here](#).

The National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation (NCDD) national meeting, October 2-5 in Austin, TX. TDI will be running a day-long, pre-conference workshop on teaching and learning for democracy and democratic leadership in higher education (two strands) — For more information, click [here](#).

AACU's Diversity and Learning conference, entitled *Diversity, Learning, and Inclusive Excellence: Accelerating and Assessing Progress*, October 16-18 in Long Beach, CA. Members Nancy Thomas, David Schoem, and Ande Diaz are running pre-conference workshops (two separate workshops). For more information, click [here](#).

Three Calls for Applications

- [Faculty for the Engaged Campus](#)
- [Society for Values Institute on Religious Literacy](#)
- [The Aspen Institute and AACU's Wye Seminars](#)

Other TDI Initiatives

The **Repository** is up and ready for submissions! Please pass this on to your colleagues. We're looking for syllabi for courses and programs that advance learning in the arts of democracy. All disciplines and interdisciplinary programs matter. We're eager to see what our members and colleagues are teaching and how. Learn more about the repository [here](#).

The Public Reasoning Community of Practice is starting fresh. Join by sending an email to [Nancy Thomas](#).

Member Publications

Where is Democracy Headed?, a new report by **Peter Levine** and Lars Hasselblad Torres, summarizes the DDC's work to bridge the divide between researchers and practitioners in the field of deliberation and democratic governance, and summarizes the main lessons that have been learned through five years of joint research between academics and non-academics. Commissioned by the Kettering Foundation, the report describes 20 major findings that emerged from the research. To read and comment on the report, click [here](#).

Barnet Pearce published *Making social worlds: A communication perspective*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers (2007). Barnett writes: The point is – as I deeply believe – that our government has reached a point where “more of the same” patterns of communication will have increasingly disappointing and dangerous effects. What is needed includes a transformation of the patterns of communication in which we do the business of government. Including more people – civic engagement – is great, but not if those who are engaged are forced into the same old patterns. This book should be seen as a toolkit to help in the efforts of those who want to achieve the next form of government.

Also about communication, *Political Communication and Deliberation* by **John Gastil** (Sage), hot off the presses in 2008.

The Future of Democracy: Developing the Next Generation of American Citizens, by **Peter Levine** (Tufts University Press, 2007), is loaded with data, examples of reforms, course descriptions, community-youth development after-school initiatives, and next steps. We've mentioned it before, but it's worth mentioning again, in case you've forgotten...

Speaking of Politics: Preparing College Students for Democratic Citizenship through Deliberative Dialogue, by **Katy Harriger** and Jill McMillan. This is a case study of the learning experiences of thirty Wake Forest University students, called “Democracy Fellows,” over a four-year period. This book contains practical suggestions about classroom learning, deliberative forums on campus, and organizing political dialogues.

What else is new...

TDI members **John Saltmarsh** (NERCHE) and **Derek Barker** (Kettering) brought together about 35 educators in the national civic engagement movement to talk about “The Future of Engagement.” They created a blog for participants and anyone else who wants to participate, and we're talking about the scope of this work, its' challenges, barriers on campuses, silos and tenure, and how to reinvigorate the civic engagement movement. Your views are welcome, so join this online conversation at [Virtual Forum](#).

Barbara Jones reports that the American Library Association Civic Engagement Group will be sponsoring a one-day workshop at the ALA summer conference, Chicago, 2009. Participants can learn how to lead discussions, organize forums, get grants, and more. Watch the TDI web site for more information or visit www.ala.org in a few months.

John Stephens invites everyone to attend a meeting of the University Network for Collaborative Governance, a working group of the Policy Consensus Initiative. The group promotes university centers (e.g., for public administration or civic life) as neutral forums and centers for collaborative governance and public policy making. The first gathering is March 30 to April 1 in Atlanta, GE. To learn more, click [here](#).

AASCU's American Democracy Project will be hosting its annual conference in Snowbird, Utah, June 12-14, 2008. Yes, it runs opposite Everyday Democracy's national conference, but we'd like to be sure some TDI members attend. If you are planning to go, please let us [know](#). For more information, click [here](#).

Sandy Heirbacher reminds us that NCDD's higher education group has access to many NCDD resources: a “facebook” for members, resources, a blog, a bulletin board. For more information, click [here](#).