

News from

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR EDUCATIONAL BIOGRAPHY

May 1, 2023

Hi, I.S.E.B. colleagues! We have some exciting news to share with you!

- Join us for the **2023 Conference (in partnership with S.O.P.H.E.): October 5-7, 2023, Theme: Life Stories Across Times and Spaces**, at [Courtyard Oklahoma City Downtown](#). Submit your proposals by June 15! Here is [the CFP](#). Email Program Chair Sherry Mou (smou@depauw.edu) for questions.
- **I.S.E.B. has a brand new website!** This is what our webmaster Yacine Kout says about it: “Redesigning the website has been an adventure. I can’t thank Lora Helvie-Mason enough to get me on board and Penny Craig for the continued advice, support, and knowledge she provided me with during this lengthy and demanding process. I hope our members like our new site and that it contributes to the health of our organization.”
- **Our new treasurer** Prairie Endres-Parnell has been working to pass the baton from previous treasurer Lora Helvie-Mason. Updates from the office of treasurer include: 1) online membership dues in a new easy-flow format, 2) switching our EBSCO licenses to online payments, 3) continuing to make progress with renewing our nonprofit status, and 4) instituting the new member rates.

Recap of the 2022 San Antonio Conference

The **two-and-half day conference** took place from 9/29/22 to 10/1/22. It had **12 sessions** that featured **28 speakers**. Edward Janak delivered a presidential address called “A Different Kind of Hero: Dr. Helen Cooks at the University of Toledo” to I.S.E.B. and S.O.P.H.E. members. In the participatory tributes session, facilitators Roy Tamashiro and Jie Zhang paid tribute to Stanley D. Ivie and Jack Campbell. Participants also recognized Martha May Tevis’s decades’ long service to I.S.E.B. and wrote notes to her. Here is a little note we received from Martha afterwards: “The members’ letters touched my heart. I did miss being at the meeting. I do not think I have ever missed a meeting from the time we met with Glenn Smith to start our organization devoted to biography. The letters from the members and new members delight me in that the interest in biography means that I.S.E.B. will continue.” Participants of the session also reflected their past and present engagements with I.S.E.B. and shared their visions for the organization’s future. At the **I.S.E.B. Business Meeting**, Penny Craig announced our plans for a new logo and a new website. She also announced that the board recently approved new changes of membership and conference fees levels to ensure accessibility. Former Treasurer Lora Helvie-Mason shared a three-year membership review. *Vitae Scholasticae* journal editor Lucy Bailey could not attend the conference but reported that the journal has been getting high quality submissions and currently has one print run per year with the content of a double issue. Members also discussed future conference schedules. Everyone thanked outgoing treasurer Lora Helvie-Mason and outgoing board member Rebekah Miller-Levy for their dedicated service.

We Are I.S.E.B.

At the Menger Hotel, we spent some time interviewing two long-time members and learned about their favorite memories of I.S.E.B.'s past and their thoughts on I.S.E.B.'s future.



Gerald Gutek, Professor Emeritus of History and Philosophy and Dean of School of Education at Loyola University in Chicago, has been involved with I.S.E.B. since 1983. Gerald recalled that the organizational meeting was held in Iowa in 1982 and a number of his students attended it due to the active connection of Joan Smith and L. Glenn Smith. A trained historian who also taught philosophy and education, Gerald found his teaching had become more personalized and attractive to students by including real-life stories of great educators and philosophers. His dissertation also dealt with biographies. For decades, I.S.E.B. provides the networking that helped out with his own writing, thinking, and publication. He recalled the meetings were well-attended with

presenters from other countries. Before the journal, L. Glenn Smith edited a book called *Lives in Education: People and Ideas in the Development of Teaching* (1984, Educational Studies Press), to which Gerald was a contributor. He feels that I.S.E.B. supports his interests in making presentations, meeting with people with alike interests, and getting his work published. Gerald has seen the movement in the organization to shift from biographies of educators into the field of life writing. He thinks these changes are healthy but would like to see a linkage between biography and life writing, perhaps in autobiographies. He also encourages I.S.E.B. to continuously address education foundations such as history, philosophy, and comparative education.



Linda Morice, Professor Emerita of Educational Leadership at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, has been a member of I.S.E.B. since 2005. She served as the editor of *Vitae Scholasticae* for eight years. Linda found out about I.S.E.B. on the internet and attended her first conference after she submitted a paper to the journal. She was initially attracted by the peer-reviewed journal and its focus on history and education, two areas of her academic interests. At the conference, she was excited to find a cohort of scholars who shared her interests and welcomed new scholars. Over the years, Linda has had many happy collaborations with I.S.E.B. members, at the conferences and through her work for the journal. Linda thinks that I.S.E.B.

has a niche that is quite unusual for people interested in biography, autobiography, forms of life writing, and education. There is a unique opportunity to meet scholars whose interests combine history and biography and also to publish in these areas. Linda would like to remind us of the important roles Canadian colleagues (as officers, journal editors, and conference hosts) have played to help grow the organization and would like to encourage rekindling the relationship in a post-COVID time. Linda thinks the core of the organization's submissions will be biographical, but there would also be other forms of life writing that will find their way into the journal. Linda's presentation was "Educators in the Manhattan Project: Insights from a WWII Narrative."