

THE TAOS INSTITUTE

Taos Institute News

Creating Promising Futures through Social Construction

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An Exciting Year of Taos Institute Activities

A message from Kenneth Gergen,
President of the Taos Institute



It is a great pleasure for me to review the activities of the Taos Institute this past year, as the accomplishments inject such energy into our visions for the coming year. Two conferences were shining stars, the first, *Play with Purpose*, held on shipboard in the Gulf of Mexico; and the second a Summer Institute in Copenhagen with the consulting firm Ram-boll/Attractor. Workshops on constructionist topics were filled to capacity, as were a dozen others we sponsored with various Associates. The publishing wing brought forth two

new books: *Healing Conversations: Enhance Relations with Elders and Dying Loved Ones*, *Practicing Relational Ethics in Organizations*, and a third book coming soon, *Developing Relational Leadership*. The PhD program with Tilburg University had a banner year, with a full roster of new students, and a record number of 14 graduations. The completed dissertations represented a broad array of topics, many exploring new practices in therapy, organizational development, and education. Also in an educational vein, we joined the Houston-Galveston Institute to launch a Certificate in Collaborative Practices. This program is now offered in seven different countries around the world.

Finally, we are particularly proud of developing a small grant program to fund projects close to our interests, for example, a collaborative initiative in Bangladesh, websites that share resources for therapists and educators, and a book on mediation and medicine. Throughout all of this, we have been guided by the wisdom of a newly developed Associates Council. So, with these warm winds now billowing the sails, we enter the New Year with hope and promise for an array of upcoming activities and innovations. We hope we can share valuable resources with all our friends and associates.

"...rational thought, intentions, experience, memory, and creativity are not prior to relational life, but are born within relationships. They are not 'in the mind,' — separated from the world and from others — but embodied actions that are fashioned and sustained within relationship."

— Kenneth Gergen *Relational Being*, 2009