

Ed.



REFORMING REFORM
THE POSSIBLE DREAM

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QUESTIONS
FOR THE NEXT PRESIDENT

THE WORLD IN A CLASSROOM

George Richmond, Ed.D. '73, and Carolynn King Richmond, Ed.M. '82

If you want to know how children would run the world, look no farther than the classroom. In schools from New York City to Las Vegas, a program called MicroSociety has students drafting laws, operating banks, running postal systems, and serving as CEOs of their own successful businesses.

The radical idea that society can exist in a classroom can be traced back to the travails of one overwhelmed rookie teacher. In 1967, as a conscientious objector to the Vietnam War, George Richmond took a job as a fifth-grade teacher in Brooklyn. Despite his best efforts, the students in his class preferred fighting and napping to learning. Setting aside his idealistic notions about teaching, Richmond did something that might seem antithetical to the very spirit of education: He paid students—with pretend money—to study and behave. If money motivated adults to work, Richmond thought, the same principle might spur children to learn.

He was right. What started out as a game, much like Monopoly, eventually blossomed into a groundbreaking educational program that allowed students to create their own society from scratch. School suddenly came alive for students as they opened in-class businesses and held civic elections. Today, students across the country are choosing to create their own ideal societies—from a corporate democracy where business rules, to a constitutional monarchy complete with royalty. None has decided to become communist, though the option always exists.

"There was a revolution in my classroom," says Richmond, whose 1973 book, *The Micro-Society School: A Real World in Miniature*, documented his experience. In 1981, an elementary school in Lowell, Massachusetts, based its entire curriculum around MicroSociety, and watched its students' test scores soar. Reporters seized on the news, and throughout the 1980s, the program spread to classrooms across the nation.

By 1992, MicroSociety had become a thriving national organization, thanks in large part to the efforts of Richmond's wife, Carolynn King Richmond, the nonprofit's executive director. A 1999 independent study of 45,000 K-8 students engaged in MicroSociety revealed a significant increase in test scores: 25 percent in math, 11 percent in language arts, and 7 percent in reading skills. Critics may worry that the program's "monetary" rewards place too much emphasis on capitalism, but Carolynn believes MicroSociety helps prepare children for the real world: "The program is really about allowing students to build and manage their own societies, to create entirely new visions of what society can and should be."



1979

Alton F. Downer, Ed.M., writes, "I'm in my 20th year with the Bagaduce Music Lending Library, holding 185,000 titles of printed music."

Ruth Nemzoff, Ed.D., is currently a resident scholar at the Brandeis Women's Studies Research Center, where she is studying second-stage parenting. She is also an adjunct assistant professor at Bentley College.

1980

Shirley Bloom, C.A.S., has retired from her role as art department head for the Winthrop (MA) Public Schools. She continues as membership chair for the Massachusetts Art Education Assn. and as an advisory board member for the *Boston Globe* Scholastic Art Awards.

Pat Stewart, M.A.T. '61, Ed.D., reports that "it was a big year for the Stewarts on the literary front." She published her second book, *Mollycokett* (Twin Lights Publishers, 2003), which she describes as "the fictionalized reconstruction of a remarkable Abenaki woman who traveled the woodlands and waterways of New England from about 1738 to 1816." Her youngest daughter, a playwright, saw her first production, *Live Girls!*, play to sold-out audiences at the Wellfleet Harbor (MA) Actors Theater. **Jean Lewellyn**, M.A.T. '61, joined Pat at a performance.

Lily J. Driskill, Ed.M., the preK-12 principal at the American International School in Cyprus, is also completing an Ed.D. at Lehigh Univ. in international school leadership.

Robert M. Goodson, Ed.D., has returned to full-time teaching at Notre Dame de Namur Univ. in Belmont, CA, after serving as dean of the university's School of Business and Management.

Marguerite McLellan, Ed.M., is a visiting professor of psychology at Salem State College. She is also a doctoral candidate at University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Sara A. Whitcomb, C.A.S., writes, "I am currently teaching kindergarten part-time and caring for my son. I am hoping to begin a ph.D. program in school psychology in the fall."

1981

Susan Marcotte-Jenkins, Ed.M., is executive director of the Birchtree Center for Children in Portsmouth, NH, which provides educational services to children with autism.

Linda Martin, Ed.D., is practicing massage therapy, after teaching for 30 years. "I am still concerned with issues in education, and my husband is still a teacher!" she writes.

1982

Regina P. Bursten, Ed.M., is a professor of management, strategy, and business ethics at Regis Univ. in Denver.

Laura R. Telles, Ed.M., is attending the School of Public Health and Social Research at UCLA.

1983

Sharon Stamper Thompson, Ed.M., is now a realtor with Coldwell Banker in Wayland, MA.

Lynn Zoll, Ed.M. '73, Ed.D., continues practicing as a psychologist full-time, and serves as an adjunct faculty member at Old Dominion Univ. Her daughter is a freshman in college.

1984

Nikolay Hersey, Ed.M., has founded the *Ute BockWohn-und Integrations Projekt* in Vienna, Austria. He remains on the faculty of the American International School, Vienna.

Jean C. Lawler, Ed.M., recently joined Heinemann Publishers in Portsmouth, NH, as a product developer for its new imprint *Firsthand*, a series of classroom materials by well-known authors.

Alice L. Manafó, Ed.M., has moved with her family to Ciudad Ojeda, Venezuela. She writes, "I continue to work on my writing of children's books and care for our two-year-old son." Her husband, **Michael Manafó**, Ed.M. '88, Ed.M. '89, Ed.D. '98, is director of Escuela Las Morochas.