

ICASSI 1981, Winooski, USA

For second time, the Rudolf Dreikurs Summer Institute was held in North America. Twenty years previously it had been in Oregon on the Pacific coast, and this time it was in Vermont, almost on the Atlantic coast. Located in the centre of an area rich in historic, Early American tradition, St Michael's College, a small liberal arts college, situated in Winooski, near Burlington, provided the setting for this fourteenth Summer Institute.

The expansive campus had many facilities for recreational as well as for classroom and cultural activities. There were tennis courts; an Olympic sized indoor swimming pool and playing fields. There was a modern library on campus, and the new McCarthy Arts Center where morning and evening presentations and pleasant refreshment breaks were held. The modern Alliottt Student Union building provided excellent dining arrangements and special festive indoor Bar-B-Q dinners for ICASSI participants.



Fifteen countries were represented at this ICASSI and the multi-cultural morning greetings were in twelve languages – Spanish and Ethiopian being newly added. Bloc 1 lectures and demonstrations by the ICASSI faculty included: Family Counselling; Problems in the classroom; Life Style Assessment; Marriage Counselling; Discussion with Teens; Problems at Work; Problems of Parenting; the Double Interview; and Self-Help Education and Therapy.

Highlighting these Bloc 1 presentations was a lecture entitled "New light on the Adler-Freud Relationship" by Dr Heinz Ansbacher, Professor Emeritus of the University of Vermont, and a well-known writer, scholarly translator, and editor of Alfred Adler's works.

Dr Ansbacher with his wife and co-editor, Dr Rowena Ansbacher, attended a number of ICASSI functions.

It was through Dr Ansbacher that, in 1968, Dr Dreikurs Summer School classes at the University of Vermont were videotaped. This series of videos of Dr Dreikurs' was shown as part of ICASSI's daily Special Interest Sessions and was enthusiastically and well attended, as were films and video tapes of Dr Christensen and Dr Gold, as well as other presentations.

Blocs 11 and 111 presented a wide choice of classes, workshops, advanced seminars, and experiential and personal development groups encompassing all the main



aspects of Adlerian Psychology.

Evenings featured social and international exchanges planned by participants from the various countries, the traditional classical music concert, and the annual spirited and innovative Children and Youth program. A special recreational event was the folk-dance night of lively participation by young and old alike, under the leadership of professional folk-dance teachers. Also, a special evening lecture entitled "Religion and Adlerian Psychology" was given by Father Maurice Ouellet, Professor at St Michael's, Director of the

Counselling Center and a leader in the Adlerian movement in North America. There was an Open House with faculty and an Historical Slide Presentation with display charts of snapshots and a booklet of the previous thirteen Summer Institutes, from 1962 to 1980, compiled by Della Irwin.

The special program for 49 children and youth was again an opportunity for this age group to share in an inter-cultural program of sports, games, art, drama, songs, dance and play activities. The teenagers were able to participate in a growth group and discussion of personal problems. Children and Youth were always welcome to participate in the various evening activities. They also enjoyed a Field Trip across Lake Champlain by ferry to New York State and Ausable Chasm, with its beautiful steep sandstone cliffs, a walk, a boat trip, and a picnic lunch.

A special innovation was a School for Families offered by local parents who were interested in learning effective techniques for more cooperative family living – by learning to understand behavior, solve conflicts, and improve communications. Twenty families with 30 children registered for the week-long evening classes.

ICASSI offered planned excursions during the free weekend: one to experience Montreal, Canada, the site of Expo '67 and of the '76 Summer Olympics; and another through Vermont's green rolling hills, pastoral and alpine scenes, and white steeped villages to the famous ski resort of Stowe. Participants enjoyed a gondola ride to the Cliff House below the summit of Mt Mansfield and shopping in the "sound of Music" Trapp Family gift shop. There were opportunities, also, for visits to nearby Shelburne Museum with its fabulous exhibits of world famous collections and the best of Early America, with its unique arrangement of buildings in a beautiful outdoor park-like setting. Many also enjoyed the scenic hour-long ferry trip across Lake Champlain to New York State and to other destinations.

Once again, as part of ICASSI's living and learning experience, there were many problems to solve and difficulties to overcome. The accommodations left much to be desired, since the expected clean-up and renovations had fallen behind schedule. Also, the ICASSI daily Newsletter was not always a priority for early morning distribution, and the German translation was a mammoth task for the willing volunteers.

A further serious concern was the Air Controllers strike, which meant that flights to Europe were either cancelled or met with long delays. However with one of Dr Dreikurs' insightful quotes in mind: "No problem is too difficult once it is recognised as a common task", the accommodating at St Michael's College staff, the ICASSI office staff, Ombudsman and others worked towards solutions or acceptance of the difficulties.

ICASSI '81 closed with its sumptuous banquet, gala festivities and farewell party with much merriment, friendship and goodwill and many participants in their warmth and enthusiasm, signed up for ICASSI '82 in Badgastein, Austria.