

A Portrait of Bill Doll

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Bill Doll spent his childhood in Swampscott, Massachusetts, near Boston. After high school graduation, Bill went to college, to Cornell University, where his father had gone before him and where his son Will would also take his degree. Following the degree, there were jobs in private schools: Bill served as headmaster of one in Colorado and another in Baltimore. There he met Mary Aswell Doll, and there, at the Johns Hopkins University, he completed requirements for the Ph.D. with John Steven Mann, at that time one of the most important and promising young scholars in Curriculum Studies.

From Baltimore, Bill and Mary moved to upstate New York, where he taught for thirteen years at the State University of New York's College of Arts and Sciences at Oswego, a campus on the shore of Lake Ontario. In 1985 Bill moved to southern California to teach at the University of Redlands; in 1988 he arrived in southern Louisiana, where I have been privileged to enjoy his friendship since.

Some fifteen years ago Bill started teaching each summer at the University of Victoria in British Columbia. There he met Donna Trueit in a curriculum class. My partner Jeff Turner and I were privileged to attend their wedding in Victoria on August 2nd, 1997. Other guests included Dwayne Huebner and wife Ellen Davis (a professor of theology at Duke University), University of Washington curriculum professor Francis Hunkins, LSU's Professor Petra Munro, and, of course, a large

group from Victoria, including Professor Antoinette Oberg (retired in August 2005). Donna completed requirements for the Ph.D. in curriculum theory in 2005.

Bill's importance to the field - not just to U.S. curriculum studies but to the field worldwide - is legendary. His 1993 *A Postmodern View* has been translated into several languages, among them Chinese (by Hongyu Wang, the author of *The Call from the Stranger on a Journey Home*), Spanish, Portuguese, and Hebrew, among others. Not only intellectually, but in terms of service, Bill's contribution has been enormous, mentoring not only LSU students but colleagues nationwide. He played a key role in the Bergamo conference, most memorably in his famous Saturday morning seminars he held for many years at the conference. I am very pleased that his accomplishment was recognized in 2004 by the American Educational Research Association, which awarded him a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Bill Doll has played important roles in several scholarly organizations and significant scholarly conferences, among them the Bergamo conference, most memorably in his famous Saturday morning seminars he held for many years at the conference. In addition to playing a key role in the Bergamo conference, Bill served as Co-Director of the 1999 LSU Conference on Internationalization of Curriculum Studies (which, that year, featured links between philosophy of education and curriculum theory) and the 2000 LSU Conference on the Internationalization of Curriculum Studies, attended by scholars from all continents and 27 nations. An organizational meeting held the last day of the conference led to the formation of the International Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies (www.iaacs.org <http://www.iaacs.org>), of which he serves as Chair of the Nominations Committee. Bill Doll has also supported IAACS's American affiliate, the American Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies.

Bill co-directs LSU's Curriculum Theory Project, a privately endowed effort to contribute to internationalization of American curriculum studies and bring the "world" (through distinguished speakers) to LSU students in Baton Rouge. Speakers have included the famous French philosopher Michel Serres, legendary curriculum theorist Dwayne Huebner and philosopher of education Maxine Greene, as well as the important Chinese curriculum theorist Zhang Hua of East China Normal

University in Shanghai.

Bill has traversed the discursive terrain of our complicated field, moving brilliantly back and forth between the theoretical and the practical. His astonishing ability to make intellectually demanding work pedagogically accessible, combined with his devotion to individuals, is, in my thirty-five years of higher education experience, unprecedented. Testifying to Bill's accomplishment as an educator was the response of present and former students to LSU's celebration of Bill's seventieth birthday party. A day-long conference ("In Praise of the Postmodern"), followed by dinner at the LSU Faculty Club – chaired by College of Education Dean Barbara Fuhrmann and Department of Curriculum and Instruction Chair Robert Lafayette – brought 150 former students, colleagues and friends from all over North America, as well as another 100 telegrams and letters from admirers worldwide.

Finally, I must testify to Bill's importance to me. I am among those he has mentored, and those who know his engaged and committed interest in careers and ideas not his share with me that profound sense of gratitude I feel to Bill. From often frigid walks in upstate New York (I taught at the University of Rochester 1972-1985 and visited Bill, his wife Mary and son Will in Fulton, north of Syracuse) to the sultry evening walks in Destrehan, Louisiana, Bill has always demonstrated a profound concern for me as person, a keen and enduring interest in my career, and a passionate commitment to our common cause: a sophisticated field of curriculum studies through which the practice of education might become more complex, more nuanced, more sophisticated. That commitment has been a reflection and expression of his extraordinarily exciting pedagogical practice, a practice not confined to the classroom, but extended in highly individuated ways to those of us he so generously befriended and mentored. Not only my life has been immeasurably enriched because Bill Doll befriended me, and I am not alone in wanting him to be acknowledged for his astonishing generosity and conspicuous achievement.