



## The 2002 Conference at a Glance . . .

ACA's 2002 Conference in Philadelphia was a true journey into the creative universe. The opening network reception at the world renown Philadelphia Museum of Art provided a true catharsis of the visual and performing arts. We were mesmerized by the dazzling performances of three dance troupes, experienced the wonderful works of art and networked with fellow ACAers.

Our creative exploration started with the Quiet Riot Theatre team of Dave and Bill Mettler delivering an out of the box opening igniter session. A true banquet of performance art—they use storytelling, comedy, music and sound effects to provide the audience a model of types for working more effectively with others. Our second igniter, Joyce Juntune focused on the small wonders currently creating bright spots in the creative universe of education. Creativity igniters, Gifford Pinchot and Doug Hall took us on a journey into the universe of business.

The creative explorations continued into the evenings as we learned about the creative process through the tango and were thrilled by the piano virtuoso, William Carr and vocal performance by Mary Ann Smorra. Moe Stein, our ACA Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, delivered a humorous exposition on his achievements in the field of creative research. Joyce Juntune and Fredricka K. Reisman received the David Tanner Champion of Creativity Award for their extraordinary work in the field of education. ACA's own Ann Anderson received the ACA Special Service Award.

The panels provided a cosmic experience for participants. Of special interest was the panel featuring a multi-level perspective from the managers of McNeil Consumer and Specialty Pharmaceuticals on Leadership for Creativity and Innovation. Other panels explored creativity in education and a look at creativity internationally. For those of us explorers on the journey through the universe of creativity it was an exciting and rewarding experience.

### **Three attendees share their thoughts about the conference . . .**

The ACA conference gave NAVICP employees the chance to interact with the leading creativity professionals of the nation. These professionals are involved in a most optimistic endeavor: improving the quality of life by enhancing the thinking skills of the individual. We all emerged with enhanced knowledge after exploring this Universe of Creativity.

**Edward J. Maciocha, Naval ICP**

What a wonderful conference at an equally wonderful site. My wife Diane and I thoroughly enjoyed the entire conference and our visit to Philadelphia. The opening reception at the Philadelphia Museum of Art on Wednesday evening was so delightful and such a lovely idea for initiating the event. Diane and I were also quite impressed by the quality of the major speakers and the presenters in the concurrent sessions, as well as the creativity of those who led the evening activities. What a marvelous idea, also, to involve the high school technology group in providing immediate documentation of the conference sessions. We met wonderful, creative people and left feeling inspired. Our compliments to all involved in arranging all aspects of the event.

**William R. Nash, Texas A&M University**

The ACA conference afforded me the opportunity to discover and learn of the many different ways and methodologies used to understand creativity. To that end, the range of speakers and presentations far exceeded my expectations. I had previously attended a conference in the U.S. on creativity whose delegates came mostly from the business sector and thus the presentations concentrated primarily on how creativity worked within that sector. The most important aspect of the ACA conference was that it offered a broad range of presentations and speakers from not only the business sector but from the educational and arts sectors as well. The content of each presentation and session was insightful and stimulating. The combination of presenters from this wide variety of backgrounds and industries allowed me to reflect on how and in what way my own creative practice had developed and how it could be improved and expanded.

The international component of the conference gave me the opportunity to explore different cultures views of creativity and the importance of creative development. I gained fresh insight and understanding in this area. In particular, I was pleased to learn how well and how productive Australia had been with its long term commitment to creativity and innovation as part of our culture.

Most importantly though, a conference is only as good as the delegates attending. In this area, ACA excelled. I must thank ACA for its generous and warm hospitality and for introducing me to a network of creatives that I will be in touch with for years to come. Congratulations, ACA!!

**Ralph Kerle, Eventures (Australia) Pty. Limited**