Lessons Learned in Coaching

From the Desk of the Issue Editor

This issue represents both a first and last for the International Journal of Coaching in Organizations (IJCO). It is a first in that we are introducing an extended case study for the first time in the short history of IJCO. David Surrenda and Linda Lubin Thompson have provided us with several rich case studies, accompanied by their own analysis and several documents that provide guidelines for effective and ethical executive coaching in organizational settings. We have followed David and Linda’s case studies with another IJCO first. Three of the IJCO editorial board members have prepared commentaries on David and Linda’s cases, offering their own perspectives on the lessons to be learned in the field of organizational coaching.

These commentaries were written by Suzi Pomerantz, Leslie Hilton and Eva Wong Wing Wah. Suzi Pomerantz has already been an active contributor to the journal (having co-authored “The Future of Executive Coaching: Analysis from a Market Life Cycle Approach” with Sheila Maher/ 2003: Issue 2). Leslie Hilton will be co-editing the first Open Forum issue of IJCO (2004: Issue 4) and Eva Wong Wing Wah will be co-editing the upcoming issue (2003: Issue 4) on “A Global Phenomenon: Coaching in Organizations throughout the World.” Even one of our two major authors, David Surrenda, was cited by John Lazar in his Issue Two (2003) review of the Newfield Network’s School of Coaching. We are indeed an intimate community and our shared interest in and commitment to the effective and ethical processes of coaching in organizations is fundamental to this community.

While this is a first, it is also a last for IJCO. This will be the last time either of the founding co-executive editors of IJCO (Bill Bergquist and John Lazar) will be assuming sole responsibility for production of the journal. Beginning with Issue Four (2003), the co-editing of each issue will be done by other members of the Editorial Board (with other members of the Editorial Board). John and Bill will continue to serve as co-executive editors and, in this capacity, will oversee work of the co-editors and IJCO production, marketing and finances. This transition suggests, rightfully, that IJCO is “growing up.” The training wheels have been removed, and the Editorial Board is now prepared to assume even greater responsibility for the content of this journal. Members of the IJCO Board have already offered wonderful support for this nascent publication—and they are about to assume even greater responsibility and provide even more support. It should be exciting for all of us.

William Bergquist

“Their souls were like the asphalt visages of city streets. Each day the violent colors of a thousand new sensations swept across them, and each day all sound and sight and fury were erased from their unyielding surfaces. Ten thousand furious days had passed about them, and they had no memory. They lived like creatures born full-grown into present time, shedding the whole accumulation of the past with every breath, and all their lives were written in the passing of each actual moment.”

-- Thomas Wolfe
You Can’t Go Home Again