



# Conversations in a Changing World

## An Educational Conference at the Sant Bani School



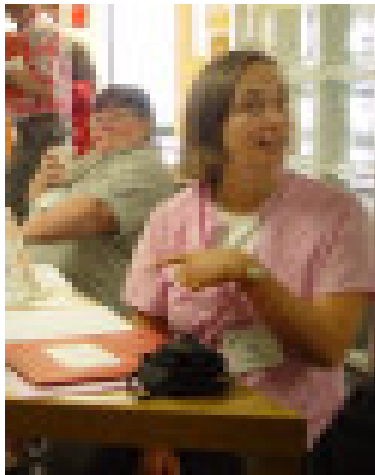
On October 5, 2007, as we embarked on our 35<sup>th</sup> year, Sant Bani School hosted its first educational conference. Our aim was to bring together a community of people who believe passionately in the power of ideas to change attitudes, lives, and ultimately the world. Moving our children toward a new education and preparing them for the transforming world has been our goal for over three decades. Now we were ready to extend our reach even further to many who were similarly engaged in this essential work.

“Conversations in a Changing World” was an opportunity for people from varied backgrounds to share what they were doing through workshops and discussions. It was a time to be inspired by each other’s work as we were energized by imagining together.

In the two sessions there were many interesting offerings from a variety of presenters: local, national, and global. From the opening thoughts of Ambassador Carol Moseley Braun to workshops to a tasty vegetarian lunch and through the World Café and then the closing remarks of Dr. William New, we were stimulated and had fun.

After lunch we set up a World Café for everyone. Sant Bani is built on the premise that we all have something to learn from everyone. The World Café format allowed small groups to engage in meaningful discussions, learning from each other. Each person had a chance to participate in three different groups; this allowed for an abundance of lively exchanges. There was much give and take during these “conversations in a changing world.”

At right, conference committee member Heidi Freeman is assisted by JoAnn Malinowski at the registration table.



Below, conference goes Karen Bicknell, Hanz Busch and Susan Dymont listen to the Ambassador’s opening talk.



Here’s a sampling of workshop presenters and titles:

**Meg Petersen**  
Teaching Writing  
for a Better World

**Karen Ulmer Dorsch**  
Who We Are and  
Where We’re From

**Jonathan Powell**  
IMP—A New Direction  
in High School Math

**Allan Dibiase**  
Just What is  
Education

**Monica de Dios**  
How One Guatemalan School  
Broke the Mold  
for Bilingual Education

**Deborah  
Bogart**  
Opening the Walls

**Dan Huston**  
Speak Your Mind:  
Mindfulness Meditation  
in Communications Courses

**Todd Lewis**  
Comparative Religions

**Torrey McMillan, Sam Conkling, Zach Baron, Dave Coulter**  
Sustainability in Schools: The View from Two Schools—

A joint presentation by The White Mountain School (Bethlehem, NH) and the Sant Bani School

## Ambassador Carol Moseley Braun

Ambassador Braun was elected to serve in the United States Senate in 1992, where she was the only black member and the first and only woman to be elected to the Senate from Illinois. She served as Ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa. She is the founder and CEO of a biodynamic organic food company, Good Food Organics, with a biodynamic organic line of teas, coffees and spices named Ambassador Organics. She calls herself a recovering politician. The Ambassador's opening talk reminded us of "the power of one" and was an inspiring start to the conference. The entire text of the talk is published on the following pages.



## William New, M.D., Ph.D.

A physician, engineer, inventor and successful serial entrepreneur, Dr. William New received his BS and MS degrees in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University, his MD from Duke University, a PhD in Physiology from UCLA, and his MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business. He recently retired from the Stanford University School of Medicine faculty after 25 years of service. A strong advocate for independent education, he serves on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Independent Schools. His visionary advice has been valuable as Sant Bani looks ahead to the next generation.



The seventy conference participants represented nearly twenty schools and colleges, and came from as far away as California and Guatemala. They had an array of workshops from which to choose. Conference evaluations indicated that the only drawback was that there wasn't time for even more. Everyone urged Sant Bani to host more conferences in the future.

**Kent Bicknell, Ed.D.** pictured above left presenting his workshop titled "Nineteenth and Twenty-First Century Education: Parallel Perspectives." Kent is known to Trumpet readers as the teaching principal of Sant Bani School. The conference brochure introduced another side of Kent in this way.

"As a Scholar of the House at Yale, Kent spent his senior year writing a thesis comparing two 14<sup>th</sup> century English mystics through the lens of the writings of the 16<sup>th</sup> century Spaniard, Saint John of the Cross. Kent has a master's degree from Goddard College and a doctorate from Boston University. An independent scholar whose work has been published in a variety of journals, his main interests are the New England Transcendentalists, in relation to their interest in the Eastern Wisdom Traditions."

An excerpt of Kent's presentation will be available next fall as an article in the journal of the National Association of Independent Schools. Look for other publications to emerge from this workshop which used rare books and manuscripts to travel through 19<sup>th</sup> century educational ventures that were influenced by the Transcendentalists, particularly Bronson Alcott, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Henry Thoreau.