



NEWS RELEASE

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TEACHER EDUCATION PROFESSOR IS CO-AUTHOR OF NEW BOOK, *THE MORAL LIFE OF SCHOOLS*

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"Rarely have I come across a book that so quickly provoked me to re-examine my own classroom behavior. There is no place to hide in this careful scrutiny of the teacher as crucial player in the daily morality tale that becomes the story of school life." -- Vivian Gussin Paley, teacher, University of Chicago Laboratory Schools

"Jackson, Boostrom, and Hansen guide the reader engagingly into largely uncharted territory. The moral impact of schooling has traditionally been tackled by philosophers, absent the rich descriptions of classroom life offered here. This well-justified departure from traditional empirical research brings essential new insights about the culture of schools and classrooms." -- Jeannie Oaks, professor, Graduate School of Education, University of California, Los Angeles

A new University of Southern Indiana teacher education professor was a co-researcher and co-author of *The Moral Life of Schools*, a book in the education series of Jossey-Bass, San Francisco publishers, which was released in November.

Robert Boostrom, USI assistant professor of education, and David Hansen, now on the faculty of the University of Illinois-Chicago, were graduate students at the University of Chicago in 1988 when they were selected by Philip W. Jackson, Shillinglaw Distinguished Service Professor of Education and Psychology at the school, to work with him in completing the project for which he'd already received funding.

The book attempts to delineate the ways teachers and the schools exert moral influences -- good and bad -- on children at each grade level, some overt, many so subtle as to be overlooked by all participants.

"We had a hunch the classroom environment was chockfull of moral stuff. The problem would be to find it and find a way to talk about it," Boostrom said, adding, "The depth and complexity of what we found was far more than we had guessed at the outset."

(more)

If there was a surprising element, Boostrom said "it was in some of the places in which we saw the moral influences."

The trio spent two and a half years observing and reflecting on activity in 18 classrooms in six schools -- two each public, parochial, and independent -- and another year writing the book. Their research also included meetings and interviews with the teachers, attending special events, and just roaming school halls, observing.

Boostrom said the only feedback he's had so far came from his son's first-grade teacher, who suggested *The Moral Life of Schools* would be beneficial reading for all teachers.

The book is priced at \$28.95 and will be available in the USI Bookstore in early January. Boostrom also is the author of *Developing Creative & Critical Thinking: An Integrated Approach*, which was published in 1992 by National Textbook Company.

Boostrom received his B.A. from Elmhurst College in 1971 and has taught high school in Connecticut, Illinois, and Texas. He received his Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction in 1991 and was a visiting scholar with the Benton Center for Curriculum and Instruction prior to joining the USI faculty in August 1993.

He previously was a staff editor for five years with the old Laidlow Brothers publishers in River Forest, Illinois, then was a freelance writer and editor for five years.

The Jossey-Bass series is basically designed for educators and includes among its titles: *Teaching for Understanding*, *Diversity in Teacher Education*, *The Home Environment and School Learning*, *What Teachers Need To Know*, *Tangled Hierarchies: Teachers as Professionals and the Management of Schools*, and three by Seymour B. Sarason, professor of psychology emeritus at Yale University:

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