LRDC to Celebrate 50th Anniversary in 2013

In 2013, LRDC will reach an unprecedented milestone. It will celebrate 50 years of research on learning and instruction. LRDC was established in 1963, when the late Robert Glaser and the late J. Steele Gow, co-founded LRDC at the University of Pittsburgh. At the time, the Center was one of the first institutions in the world to investigate learning, instruction, and schooling for the improvement of educational practice and one of the first universities in the country to receive federal funding for the study of educational methods in the nation’s schools.

LRDC’s first Board of Visitors was comprised of luminaries such as Benjamin Bloom, John B. Carroll, Robert M. Gagné, Paul F. Lazarsfeld, Arthur W. Melton, and Ralph W. Tyler. This stellar group of leading thinkers from psychology and sociology conferred a great degree of prestige on LRDC. One of the first major research endeavors undertaken by LRDC was work on math, reading, and adaptive instruction. A number of key journals in the cognitive science of instruction started at LRDC, reflecting its status in bringing that research area to life.

To commemorate the occasion, a number of events will occur during the calendar year, January 2013 – December 2013. A 50th Colloquium Series will be held in the Glaser Auditorium on six occasions throughout the year. The Colloquium Series will feature distinguished scholars from across the nation on topics as diverse as Cognitive Neuroscience and Education, Literacy and Education, Technology and Education, Higher Level Learning and Reasoning, Social Process and Motivation in Learning, and Educational Practice and Policy. In addition to the 50th Colloquium Series, a conference will be held at the University of Pittsburgh in the early summer of 2013. The 50th anniversary of LRDC provides an occasion to reflect on past work and prepare for future challenges. Please plan to take part in the celebration.

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