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FACULTY RESEARCH NOTE

Robert Fitzgibbons and Raymond ZuWallack

Professors Bob Fitzgibbons and Ray ZuWallack have proven to be an ideal publishing team. The combination of Bob Fitzgibbons' disciplined organizational skills and Ray ZuWallack's innovative approach to learning have led to a book that is certain to have an impact in the classroom and among students.

This fall the fruits of their collaboration, an edited volume entitled *Encounters in Education: A Book of Readings*,



Robert Fitzgibbons

will be published by Harcourt Brace. Their book is designed to be used in introductory education courses and is being marketed with the confidence that Fitzgibbons and ZuWallack have hit upon a teaching tool that is a "can't miss."

Encounters in Education is a twelve chapter book of readings which combines introductory essays written by Bob and Ray with the latest in articles and newspaper stories that tackle the key issues in the field of education. The readings range from bilingual and multicultural education to inclusion and tracking of students to gender, race and religion in the classroom.

Fitzgibbons and ZuWallack have made sure that the articles and stories chosen not only present all sides of these difficult and controversial issues of education, but also that they are written in a readable style. Bob and Ray are quick to criticize the traditional education texts for not presenting these key dilemmas of the discipline in a manner that is accessible to a wider audience. *Encounters in Education* seeks to put an end to that problem.

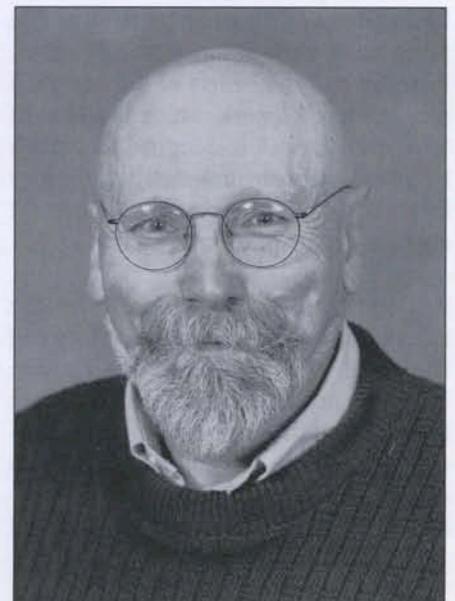
Developing a book of readings has been a labor of love for Fitzgibbons and ZuWallack but it has not been without its frustrations. Bob and Ray spent hundreds of hours debating how each chapter would be organized around a particular issue. Fairness and balance was a consideration, but there was always the underlying concern that the articles and stories be interesting, substantive, and where necessary provocative. Bob and Ray wanted to make sure that their readers would come away with a clear understanding of these critical issues in education, but at the same time never become bored or disappointed.

Once the articles were chosen the painstaking work of gaining permission from the scores of authors began. Bob Fitzgibbons spent the equivalent of weeks on the phone, at the fax machine and on the internet concluding negotiations for the rights to use the words and ideas of noted experts and commentators such as Diane Ravitch, Lynn Cheney, Albert

Shanker, George Will and Mike Barnicle. Most of the contacts were successful, but Bob Fitzgibbons admits that he faced numerous roadblocks and frustrating deadends as some authors never returned calls or made the permission negotiations difficult.

But those problems are now history as *Encounters in Education* is in the process of being published. The release date for the book is August of 1997. What is even more exciting for Fitzgibbons and ZuWallack is that they are now poised to begin a second book of readings tentatively called, *Encounters in Education Psychology*, which as the title suggests, will follow a similar format of highlighting the key issues in the area of educational psychology.

Bob and Ray have become so excited about the need to present the basic courses in education through a timely book of readings that they see the beginnings of a long series of "Encounter" books. Harcourt Brace joins them in their enthusiasm and so a great publishing partnership is in the making. It is safe to say that Fitzgibbons and ZuWallack will soon become household names in the field of educational publishing. □



Raymond ZuWallack