

## Brief Encounters from the Taos Institute

April 2011

As a way of sharing constructionist ideas, the Executive Board of the Taos Institute shares each month an idea or experience that might be an inspiration for you and others. This month we share with you two new web pages on our website featuring the following resources:

### *Visual Resources*

## Resources for Teaching, Exploring, and Enjoying Social Construction

We offer you here a collection of visual resources to explore and enjoy social constructionist thinking. A number of these resources are used by our associates and colleagues in social constructionist training context. Many of the resources are compiled from what is available on the worldwide web and we ask you to appropriately acknowledge the original sources if you use any of these for educational purposes.

The resources are organized into [cartoons](#), [interactive visuals](#), [mini-movies](#), [photographs/images](#) and [presentation slides](#). Click on any resource title to view them. We invite you to post your comments in the space provided on each resource page. You can also narrow the search for resources by using the above categories or by selecting the tags on the right margin. We are interested in your resources too.

Click here to view the many visual resources.

<http://www.taosinstitute.net/visual-resources>

Enjoy!

### *Relational Learning Practices in Education Resources*

## What is Relational Learning?

A new section of our website is now dedicate to sharing stories and examples of Relational Learning Practices in Educational settings. We invite you to take a look at our first few feature stories.

Relational learning is a way of being with students from a social constructionist perspective where those involved in education--students, mentors, and professors--learn from each other through the sharing of ideas and together create the learning/teaching world. Relational learning practices invite both students and teachers/professors to enter into a dialogue about learning. The involvement of multiple parties in the task of learning deconstructs the hierarchy within the traditional teaching relationship and opens space for more collaborative experiences. Most students come to the classroom or university with the traditional model in mind, as this is the way in which they have been taught to interact within a classroom their entire lives. While there may be a place and time for a teacher-centered model, the relational approach lends itself to the active process of co-constructing knowledge not only in the classroom but outside in the world. If you have an example you would like to share with us for the website, please email [info@taosinstitute.net](mailto:info@taosinstitute.net).

<http://www.taosinstitute.net/relational-learning-in-education>

[Click here to see our current feature stories of relational learning in action!](#)

