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## Section I: The Keynote Address to the 1983 Annual Conference

Lance C. Buhl

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# Section I

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## The Keynote Address to the 1983 Annual Conference

It is a special thing to introduce Gene Rice and the substance of remarks he made to POD'ers gathered last October at Arlie House. Gene is a special person. He models the best qualities of the academic humanist: the personal presence of a Friend, the sensibility of a Jeffersonian, the rigor of a Talmudic scholar, and the vision of an ethnicist. And all of this is a contemporary twentieth century person. He's been with and of POD since the network's first days. And across that span, Gene's wisdom, bred equally of careful research, hands-on professional development experience and a lively intelligence, has commanded respectful attention. As the article which follows clearly demonstrates, his unique contribution consists of helping us to understand that the context of professional development is the dynamic of human aspiration, momentum, frustration and accomplishment. Indeed, Gene's work has largely defined that context. Reread, if you will, his article in the 1982 POD resource book. Here, in "Being Professional Academically," Gene challenges us to consider what we must do to effect the shift from an older set of assumptions about academic professionalism, assumptions which may be inimical to human development, to a new, more facilitative set of assumptions. How we respond may well spell the difference between the ultimate success or failure of the contemporary professional development

movement. The editors hope that Gene will continue to provide guidance and that POD members will listen receptively.

*Lance C. Buhl*