

BRIGHT SUN DISPATCH

February 16, 2019

Love is in the Air!
And we would love to see your beautiful face at the next meeting: February 22nd, 10am to noon. Redwood Campus, Room H-2



Professional Development Ideas: Ways to increase your CV's status!

By Marina Whitchurch

Looking for opportunities to build your CV up? To get the skinny on the newest buzz in your field? Or to show off your own research to colleagues from near and far? Well there are many opportunities to be had and funds to help get you there, all you have to do is...ask!

Let's list about a few that Dr. Hirner recently sent out:

TEDx Ashland will be holding its first event on May 20th . The theme is Life and Death and should be an enlightening seminar of talented speakers.

The PacificNorthWest Great Teachers Seminar in Portland is scheduled for June 16-20th in a beautiful setting at the Menucha Retreat Center. Worth every moment, I understand.

The 2nd Annual SOU Creativity Conference is happening in July and the call for proposals deadline is March 1st. This is in our own backyard and we ought to take advantage of at least attending.

Here are some links to find other conferences, conventions, and shin-digs in your interest(s) area(s):

https://www.insidehighered.com/events_people

<https://blog.bizzabo.com/education-events#March>

<https://schoolleadersnow.weareteachers.com/education-conferences-2019/>

All 3 of these calendars will give you some great options to find ways to spend weekends all over the country from now until the end of the year!

What do you want to learn next?



To Achieve the Dream... We Desire Better Communication

By Marina Whitchurch, M.A. Speech & Communication Studies, San Francisco State Univ.

It's true. We all desire better communication and ICAT proved it to us. I went to the World Cafe ICAT Results Assessment in the HEC building on and I was first shocked to find that I was one of 3 faculty members in a room of 30 or so people. So that is my first observation right out of the gate. If we want to have more of a voice, we need to have more of a presence.

According to the ICAT (Institutional Capacity Assessment Tool) Results Summary, it showed us that in the area of Engagement & Communication we scored 2.7 out of 4. Four being "Exemplary level of capacity in place." We've got some work to do!

Okay, so we get into small groups by topic, of which there are 7. If you took the ICAT online then you may remember what those 7 groups were. If not, let me list: Leadership & Vision scored 2.9/4, Data & Tech 2.4/4, Equity 2.7/4, Teaching & Learning 2.8/4, Engagement & Communication 2.7/4, Strategy & Planning 2.8/4, Policies & Practices 2.8/4.

So you can tell that we fell squarely in the middle of the pack which means that we are hovering just in the neighborhood of average, and, according to the Results Summary Introductory paragraph, "The results may be used for individual reflection and as a springboard for campus conversations on overarching themes, strengths to celebrate and build on, opportunities to improve and actions to build capacity."

Now with Communication at 2.7 and Teaching at 2.8, we have quite a bit of work to do, *in my opinion*, as if we didn't have a lot to do already, right? And if you're feeling overwhelmed, you aren't alone. Everyone is. So let's pause for a moment and think about this...what do we tell our students? **Get into study groups if you want to get more done. GROUPS!** We have to come together! Pull your department together for some social time if you

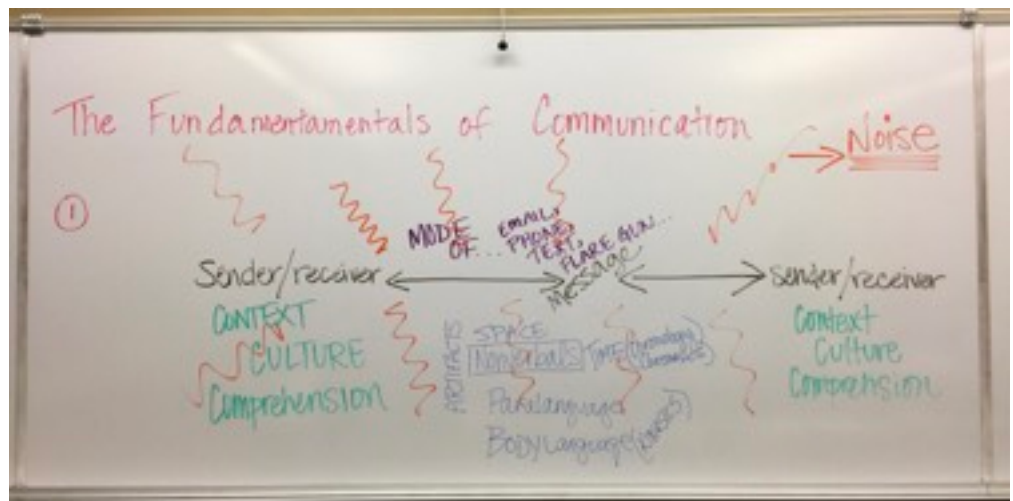
notice they don't even know each other's names or faces. Propose a Breakout Session for the next InService Day to highlight your Group's method of supporting student needs in a really unique way. Plan a fieldtrip (what?! Field trip?!?) to a talk by an author or scholar in the area and then have some tapas after!

And it's not just about within our own departments and groups. More importantly, it's interdepartmentally that we really need to step up our game.

Most of what I heard that afternoon were in regards to problems. "Here's the data, here's evidence of problems, we've been talking about the problems, let's talk about them some more." I, for one, don't want to talk about the problems or the causes anymore. I want to talk solutions.

What do you want to talk about?

*The views and opinions in the above article are only mine. Feel free to email if you'd like to talk more. mwhitchurch@roguecc.edu



Bullet Points from the Jan. 25th Faculty Senate Meeting

By Senate Member, Dorothy Swain

* The importance of communication was emphasized. This was the theme of the recent World Cafés. Leo observed that we don't always communicate broadly here at RCC. Marina had some nice blurbs about communication on the white board. *Never assume your message was received. Requesting confirmation and thanking people is a great thing. Gratitude goes miles. Follow-up is not nagging if you do it right.*

* Leo addressed the proposals in the air for community college state funding for the next biennium. \$640 million is probably overly optimistic. \$542 million is probably overly pessimistic. \$570 million is what the community colleges had in the last biennium and would not cover cost increases. There have been no formal RIF conversations yet. About RIF's, Leo said, "From my

perspective, that's the last alternative."

* We discussed Leo's proposed revisions to the professional development forms.

* We discussed the discrepancy between professional development funds available for full-time and adjunct faculty members. It would be nice to have profiles of who-uses-professional-development-money-for-what on our web site.

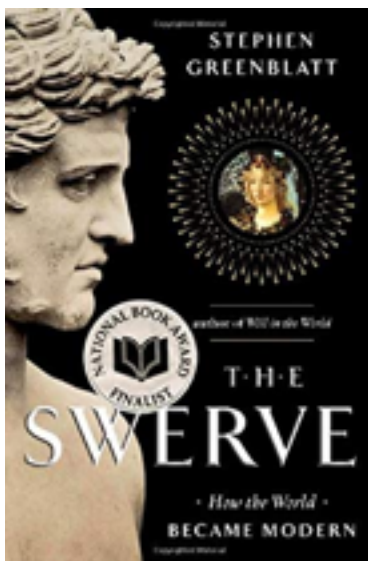
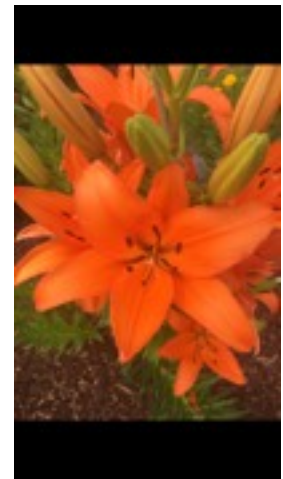
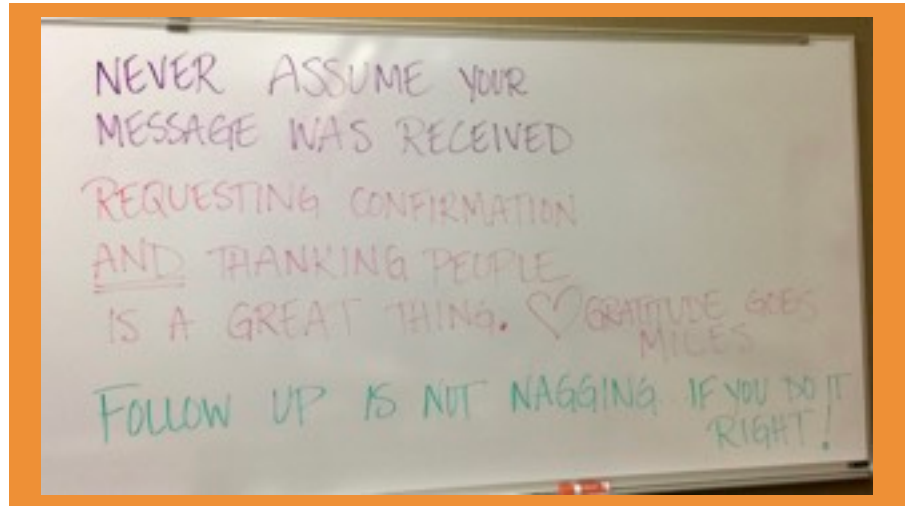
* We discussed at-large elections for adjunct faculty senators.

* We discussed that FAMAT and Faculty Senate don't always know what's going on with each

other. Our by-laws specify that we have one non-voting member of FAMAT on Faculty Senate, and we need to follow up on that.

For complete Meeting Minutes go to our website

[http://go.roguecc.edu/
department/faculty-senate](http://go.roguecc.edu/departments/faculty-senate)



Bright Sun Book Club!

Faculty
Recommendation:
Karl Brake

The Swerve, by Stephen Greenblatt. How an obscure scholar, finding an obscure Roman text in an out-of-the-way monastery, helped create the Renaissance and the modern world.

It's a fascinating account of how just a book shared among fellow scholars played a huge role in a complete paradigm shift in the western world.

For what it's worth...it's a thrilling read.

Thanks,
Karl Brake

To contribute your book email Marina mwhitchurch@roguecc.edu or Dorothy dswain@roguecc.edu