The university of the future: a student-centred university

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Closing presentation, Univest'08, The student as the axis of change in university, Girona, Spain, 3 June, 2008
Students today

- smarter (James Flynn)
- better educated (Berliner & Biddle; Marable)
- more professionally-oriented, older, more female, more non-white, more non-English speaking
- get too little sleep (Mary Carskadon)
- use the Internet instead of print sources, but trust print more (Leigh Healy)
- focus too much on grades
A student-centred university

- Uses appropriate media
- Responds to diverse interests & backgrounds
- Encourages active learning
Focus on students by helping them not to focus on themselves
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Today</th>
<th>Tomorrow</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>distracted? materialistic?</td>
<td>engaged, responsible</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>needy, passive, non-intellectual?</td>
<td>intellectual space</td>
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<tr>
<td>University</td>
<td>separate from daily life?</td>
<td>connected</td>
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Questions

1) What is inquiry?

2) How can we connect learning and life?

3) How can we foster integrative learning in the university?
What is inquiry?

To feel the meaning of what one is doing, and to rejoice in that meaning; to unite in one concurrent fact the unfolding of the inner life and the ordered development of material conditions—that is art.

–John Dewey, “Culture and industry in education”
Inquiry cycle

Ask

Reflect

Discuss

Create

Investigate
Ask: Formulating your own question

teachers saw the enormous pedagogical difference between solving problems and formulating them, between answering someone else's question and generating your own –Olds, Schwartz, & Willie, 1980
Investigate

- Blogs
- Online video
- Web resources
- Digital libraries
- Social networking
- Second Life
- Internet radio
- Mobile devices
- Simulations
- E-learning
- Virtual reality
- Ubiquitous computing
Create: Café Teatro
Batey Urbano
Discuss: Water coolers

Social affordances:

- privacy
- propinquity
- social designation

–Anne-Laure Fayard & John Weeks, 2007
Reflect: Why use IM?

- email, IM
- away messages
- why different?
- social network
- survey, read
Inquiry learning

Ask: Formulate your own questions

Investigate: Learn about, through, & with multiple media

Create: Connect learning and life

Discuss: Learn with supportive others; help others to learn

Reflect: Spiral learning
How can we connect learning and life?

We always live at the time we live and not at some other time, and only by extracting at each present time the full meaning of each present experience are we prepared for doing the same thing in the future. –John Dewey, *Experience and Education*
Low-Cost Multi-touch Whiteboard using the Wiimote
Johnny Lee’s inquiry

- play, HCI
- specs, test
- build devices
- webpage, video
- procrast-engineering
Public spaces

it is not only a matter of admission & inclusion in predefined public spaces; it is...a matter of transformation of our institutions and public spaces --Greene, 1998
Self awareness

Our students don’t come here because they are consciously seeking a liberating education or because they support Puerto Rican independence. They come here because they know that this school will work hard not to neglect them and because they’ll find out who they are. –Iván, a teacher
This school is my sanctuary. I know this because once I step outside these doors my problems come back. They’re just waiting outside the doors to smack me in my face and start all over again. I stay at this school because I don’t have to worry about my problems. I got my mind set on other things. —Damien, a student
Dicen que el Coquí no puede cantar ni vivir fuera de la isla. Aquí, el Coquí canta a su isla con amor, sobreviviendo a la ciudad de los vientos aun en temperaturas bajo cero.
–Luis Padial Doble
Community is the curriculum

1) learn about the world in a connected way
2) learn how to act responsibly in the world
3) learn how to transform the world—to give back to the community
Community media

- La Voz community newspaper; Participatory Democracy Project
- Theater, e.g., The Spark / La Chispa, about the 1966 Division St. riots
- Community radio
- Sound studio
- Podcasts of oral histories
(my own) Inquiry
Learning course

- Puerto Rican Digital Archive
- Literacy across the curriculum
- Hydroponics garden
- Violence reduction
- Community wellness program
- Developing better communication practices
I’ve always been passionate about literacy and social justice. … I just didn’t know that those seemingly disparate interests could be joined. Growing up in inner-city Chicago as a child of immigrants, I spent most of my time at my neighborhood public library. Although my mother only made it to 6th grade in her native land of Mexico, she imbued us with a love for books. –Dali
Community-based learning

diabetes

urban agriculture

farmer’s market

hydroponic

diet exercise
Networked information systems

- Rehab donated computers
- Configure operating systems, software
- Local & distance networking
- Set up a community technology center
- Teach people in the site
Camara: Computers
Camara – National College of Ireland

[Ask] NCI: work experience, hardware, multimedia, networks, management ICT, marketing, ...

[Ask] Camara: skills, consistency, reflection
Border learning

- Students, age 11-14, develop audiovisual podcasts on topics of their choice
- Mexican-American families, low-income, low academic achievement, limited access to computers
- After school & Saturdays
- University students as mentors
UMS curriculum

- Storyboard
- Storytelling through symbols
- Critical literacy
- ©, Net safety, Podsafe music
- Image & sound
This page is about my interests, friends, family, cultural background. Please explain: I like outdoor activities, such as biking and hiking.

I want people to SEE...

In order to see the above pictures, I need to prepare and learn...

I want people to HEAR...

The most important or greatest funniest thing that has happened to me was: I came to the United States to study!

I like hiking and biking. I went mountain biking in Oregon last summer, and it was an amazing trip that I have ever had.

I want people to SEE...

I need to prepare and learn...

I want people to HEAR...
UMS student podcasts

**Mi vida**

- A mi me gusta el equipo cruz azul y también pachuca porque los dos equipos son de Hidalgo.

**My Culture, My Pride**

- I was born in Michoacan, Mexico.
- I love Mexican food and everything.
- I would love to go back to my country one day.
- Latin people to love to party.
Professional learning

Working with students ... was an inspiring journey for me to appreciate Hispanic culture and revisit my own cultural identity...

I tried to put myself in these students’ shoes, imagining how difficult may be for these immigrant young people to live and study in a new country.

I brought my own “away-from-home” experience into designing the sample storyboard...I came to understand that I was telling my own story to these students as a self exploration journey...

...the students and I were interchangeably engaging multiple forms of communication, including visual, gesture, and verbal modes.
How can we foster integrative learning?

[Integrate learning—over time, across courses, and between academic, personal, & community life]

When the child lives in varied but concrete and active relationship to this common world, his studies are naturally unified...Relate the school to life, and all studies are of necessity correlated. – John Dewey, School & Society
Past: Passive recipient

- another’s question
- judged
- isolation
- limited response
- fixed source
Today: Customer

enticing choices

judged

more isolation!

match style

vary response
Future: Engaged citizen

- real problems
- continual inquiry
- multiple sources
- collaborate
- innovate
Ways to integrate learning

Community ↔ University

service learning

funds of knowledge
Circle of knowledge

- Intellectual space
- Community
- University
- Survival
- Excellence
- Responsibility
the question of the integration of mind-body in action is the most practical of all questions we can ask of our civilization. –John Dewey
Thank you for listening!
References