To: CPP Faculty

From: Victoria Bhavsar

Subject: Distraction in the classroom and lots of opportunities to talk

Date: Wed, Feb 19, 2025

Dear faculty,

Goodness knows there is plenty to distract both us and our students right now. You have company if your students are superglued to their phones and constantly use laptops in class for lots of extraneous activities, and your own eyes slide away from your Zoom meeting to news sites or cat videos. It's tiring. And it's because we want connection.

Human connection in the classroom depends upon emotion. Not touchy-feelies – but values, curiosity, purpose, enthusiasm, commitment.

Take a little class time and ask students to write or talk about why we're all here: What do they care about? How does your class, or their others, connect up with things they care about? What have they learned so far that is amazing, or just nifty? What did they go home and tell someone about recently, and why that thing? For yourself, take a few quiet minutes before class to remind yourself why your discipline fascinates you, what good and great things it has made possible. If you can, tell your students what you thought.

Credit where it's due: This idea came from the excellent book *Distracted*, by James Lang, in response to a faculty member's question.

Take care,

Victoria

PS: **Reminder for lecturer faculty!** If you need Interfolio help for your annual or cumulative evaluation, drop in on Zoom **Tuesday Feb. 25, 12:00 – 12:50pm and 5:00 – 6:00pm.**

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In this email:

- Career & Community: Parenting faculty lunch; the return of Faculty Zooms
- Teaching Nuts & Bolts: Let's talk about grading!
- Teacher-Scholar: Innovation Hub Tour; Digital Humanities Consortium toolbox
- Friends of CAFE: "Sanctuary Movement" seminar

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Career & Community:

- ***Faculty Zooms:*** Drop into this open Zoom Room to share ideas, questions, strategies, just talk, or maybe get a little tech help.
    - Every other Wednesday starting Feb. 26, 3:00 – 3:45pm (2/26, 3/12, 3/26, skipping 4/9, resume 4/23, 5/7, 5/21).
    - Every other Tuesday starting March 4, 12:00 – 12:45pm (3/4, 3/18, 4/1, skipping 4/15, resume 4/29, 5/13).
- ***Parenting Faculty lunch:*** **Tuesday March 11, 11:30am – 12:45pm** (but come as you can and leave when you need to). Centerpointe Dining Hall, Room 110. If you consider yourself a parent, you are one! Stephanie Perez Beaudion (KHP) will speak about her research on the effects of physical activity on quality of life of mothers in faculty roles. Children are welcome and paid for. Spouses are welcome but must pay at the door. Space is limited to 30. For questions, please contact Julie Shen. Please register.
- ***For lecturers: Interfolio drop-in office hours via Zoom:*** **Tuesday Feb. 25, 12:00 – 12:50pm and 5:00 – 6:00pm**, at https://cpp.zoom.us/j/89078380735. If you are submitting an evaluation packet and need help navigating the Interfolio system, drop on in!
- ***Save the date!***: **Faculty Day 2025 is Thursday April 17, 11:30am – 1:00pm!** Faculty Day is a long-standing tradition when all CPP faculty -- full-time, part-time, retired, new, and all in between -- are invited to enjoy lunch and time with colleagues. We're thankful to the Pace Setters group for helping to sponsor Faculty Day 2025! More info & rsvp link coming soon.

Teaching Nuts & Bolts:

- ***Let's talk about grading!:*** Tuesday March 11, 12:00 – 12:50pm. An informal discussion to share ideas and strategies about different grading approaches such as specifications grading, contract grading, ungrading, and anything else. Hopefully this can be the start of a loosely organized community of practice! Please register.
- ***Building Community in the Classroom:*** **Fridays March 14 & 21, 9:00am – 4:00pm**. Increase student engagement and foster "Learn By Doing" participation with strategies for decision-making, relationship management, self-awareness, social awareness, and self-management. Presented by Dr. Sharonda Bishop (CBA), Dr. Kristen Conway-Gomez (GEO/ANT), Dr. Andrea Metzer (KHP), and non-profit partner Calibrate©. Funded by SPICE, the first 20 faculty are eligible for a $300 stipend by attending both days. For more information contact Sharonda Bishop.

Teacher-Scholar:

- ***Innovation Hub Tour:*** **Friday Feb. 28, 10:00 – 11:00am, Community Innovation Hub in Downtown Pomona (101 W. Mission Blvd. STE 111, Pomona).** The Hub invites faculty to benefit from the space! Meet with community partners, display art and hold performances, conduct surveys and gather data, or bring students to a fresh location outside of the classroom. The Hub offers a wonderful opportunity for the CPP community to connect with our Pomona neighborhood. Rsvp by Feb. 24. For questions, contact Lauren Bernal.
- ***Digital Humanities Consortium Scicom Toolbox:*** This online learning community created by Denisse Vasquez-Guevara (Communication) offers research-based science communication tools for public engagement with non-expert audiences from diverse

cultures and backgrounds. 20 spots are available for the self-guided, 2-month workshop and YouTube channel. Please apply!

Friends of CAFE:

- ***The Sanctuary Movement: Historical/Legal/Theological Origins and Contemporary Struggle*. Thursday Feb. 27, 11:30am – 12:50pm,** Lyra Room in the BSC. Presented by Dr. Robert Chao Romero, UCLA Chavez Department of Chicana/o and Central American Studies; sponsored by Cru Faculty Commons. For questions, please contact Susan Siaw. Please rsvp.
- ***RSCA Conference*: Saturday, March 1, 2025.** Undergraduate and graduate students from every discipline showcase their original research, scholarly projects, or creative works. Put it on your calendar to go be inspired by our amazing CPP students!

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Get Canvas help from CAFE: Submit a Canvas ticket, email Canvas@cpp.edu, OR call 909-869-3099, M-F 8am – 5pm.