

1-18-2012

Wednesday Communiqué, 1/18/2012

Chaouki Abdallah

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Recommended Citation

Abdallah, Chaouki. "Wednesday Communiqué, 1/18/2012." (2012). https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/provost_publications/29

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WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

January 18, 2012

Reminder of the Visit by Dr. Randel: Dr. Randel of the Mellon Foundation will speak at 4:00 PM on January 23, 2012, at UNM's George Pearl Hall as the first speaker associated with our UNM Main Campus academic planning initiative. Dr. Randel's talk is titled "*Disinvesting in Higher Education, Disinvesting in Ourselves*," and is open to the University public. Please come ready to listen and engage Dr. Randel. The full press release can be found at: <http://news.unm.edu/2012/01/unms-academic-affairs-hosts-a-lecture-on-higher-education-trends/>

RSAnimate: The RSA (Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce) is an organization that focuses on "researching, designing and testing new social models, to encourage a more inventive, resourceful and fulfilled society." RSAnimate presents videos of some interesting lectures (similar to TED talks) using animations. An interesting lecture titled "Changing Education Paradigms" by Ken Robinson is found at: <http://comment.rsablogs.org.uk/videos/>

Sankey diagrams: An effective way to present information is to use a Sankey diagram. The most popular such diagram depicts Napoleon's Russian campaign <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Minard.png>. Another well-known Sankey diagram that provides an interactive sobering depiction of US energy use is found at: <http://needtoknow.nas.edu/energy/interactive/energy-system.php>. In an effort to explain the flow of dollars at UNM, AVP Terry Babbitt and I have collaborated on the Sankey diagram at: <http://provost.unm.edu/communique/report-unm-revenue-flow.pdf>. A good reference and list of resources on Sankey diagrams is found at: <http://www.sankey-diagrams.com/>.

Britannica Online vs Wikipedia: As a follow up to last week's discussion, Dr. Wilcox, a UNM professor of Linguistics provided me with the following comparison of entries of sign language from Encyclopedia Britannica, then from Wikipedia. I am reproducing both here without comments.

Encyclopedia Britannica Online: *sign language 'inability to speak.' The Indian sign language was codified by use into an explicit vocabulary of gestures representing or depicting objects, actions, and ideas, but it made no attempt to "spell out" or otherwise represent words that could not be conveyed by gestures. Several forms of sign language were developed to enable signers to spell out words and sounds, however. Most of these are as complex and flexible as spoken languages.*

Wikipedia: *A sign language (also signed language) is a language which, instead of acoustically conveyed sound patterns, uses visually transmitted sign patterns (manual communication, body language) to convey meaning—simultaneously combining hand shapes, orientation and movement of the hands, arms or body, and facial expressions to fluidly express a speaker's thoughts.*

Google Scholars: Dr. Charnov, a UNM distinguished professor of Biology, called my attention to the opportunity of creating individual 'Google Scholar Profiles.' I agree with him that, "it is a good way to promote our faculty's and students' publication accomplishments in a prominent public place." I took his advice and created mine after checking out his at: <http://scholar.google.com/citations?user=HJOKZmUAAAAJ&hl=en>.

Congratulations to Dr. Washburne: Dr. Washburn, a UNM Regents Professor in the Biology department was appointed the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) advisory council.

A PDF version of this communiqué is available at: <http://provost.unm.edu/communique/index.html>. Your feedback and input is welcome at: provost@unm.edu.

Sincerely,

Chaouki Abdallah, Interim Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs