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Wednesday Communiqué, 4/25/2012

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WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUE

April 25, 2012

Will Online Education Replace College? In an earlier Communique, I referred to MITx, MIT's initiative that builds on their OpenCourseWare project to deliver complete college courses. Related efforts such as iTunesU may spell trouble for the traditional university model. However, the article <http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2012/03/will-online-education-replace-college/255166/> presents a case of why such offerings will actually help agile universities in building their "brand."

Map of Science: As the last of the 2012 distinguished lecture series talks, Dr. J.H. Brown, a UNM distinguished professor of Biology gave on April 18, 2012, a very interesting talk titled: *Human Macroecology: The Malthusian-Darwinian Dynamic and the Rise of Human Civilization*. In a follow-up exchange with Dr. Brown, he pointed me to the interesting research being done by members of his Human Macroecology group and SFI researchers. The group is studying the rise and fall of cities and companies (see last week's "Why Companies Fail?") as well as complex collaborative networks. In one of their papers, they display a "map of science," detailing research interactions: <http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0004803>.

The 100-year March of Technology: A picture is worth a thousand words, and sometime many more. The graph <http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2012/04/the-100-year-march-of-technology-in-1-graph/255573/> shows the adoption of various technologies over the last 100 years.

The Common Core: New Mexico is one of the 48 US States and territories that have adopted the Common Core for K-12 education. "The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers." <http://www.corestandards.org/>.

Tuition & Fees Reports: Washington State Higher Education Coordinating Board prepares a document that compares the cost of higher education by sector. The latest such document is from the 2010-2011 Academic year and may be found at: <http://www.hecb.wa.gov/PublicationsLibrary/PolicyResearch/Tuition>. Check how UNM's costs compare to similar institutions.

What is the right thing to do? I recently came across an overview of a Harvard course by Michael Sandel: <http://athome.harvard.edu/programs/jmr/>, then downloaded his book titled: *Justice: What is the Right Thing To Do?* It covers topics such as maximizing welfare, respecting freedom, and promoting virtue and is on my summer reading list. I highly recommend two of Sandel's Ted talks: http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/michael_sandel_what_s_the_right_thing_to_do.html, and http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/michael_sandel_the_lost_art_of_democratic_debate.html. His recent article in the Atlantic Magazine asks the very current question: do we want a market economy, or a market society? <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2012/04/what-isn-8217-t-for-sale/8902/>.

From the book *House of Stone*: "Slights become grievances and grievances become grudges." In Academic politics, grudges eventually become principled stands.

Bookstore Orders: As a reminder to faculty, if you or your department has not submitted your summer and/or fall course materials requisition to the UNM Bookstore, please do so as soon as possible. The Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) requires UNM to post on the UNM Bookstore's website all of your summer and fall course material requirements by the first day of registration April 23. Also, textbook buyback begins May 1 and with your requisition to re-use the same book we can give back the maximum amount of money to our students. The link to submit your course materials requisition for Main and North Campuses is <http://bookstore.unm.edu/t->

[UNM faculty.aspx](#). For Main Campus faculty, if you missed the letter from the UNM Bookstore addressing this information in detail you can find it at the above link under Faculty Resources titled April 12, 2012 Faculty Letter.

Sincerely,

Chaouki Abdallah

Provost & Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs

A PDF version of this communiqué is available at: <http://provost.unm.edu/communique/index.html>. Your feedback and input are welcome at: provost@unm.edu or at the electronic town hall: <http://connectu.unm.edu/>.