

46<sup>th</sup> Annual Improving University Teaching Conference

# THE HUMAN SIDE OF TEACHING

## Menu of Delights: Pandemic Portions

Virtual but not remote: substantive, enjoyable, authentic, complementary content morsels

Roundtable # 15 USCAN 14:30 – 15:15, Friday, January 23, 2021

By: Michael J. Lenaghan, Endowed Chair of Teaching Excellence Professor

\* Miami Dade College Miami, Florida USA

Peer Lecturer, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences

\* Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya, East Java, INDONESIA

External PhD Adjudicator, Indian Academy of Social Sciences, Uttar Pradesh

\* Avinishilingam, Bharathiar, and Madras Universities, Tamil Nadu, INDIA

### Introduction

During the Covid19 Pandemic higher education has absorbed many constrictions in favor of efforts to promote health, prevent disease, and facilitate health care and recovery in pursuit of the public good, safety and welfare. Scholars, faculty, administrators, and trustees have accepted, absorbed, endured, and suffered the outcomes of the “New Normal” to an impatient, exhausting degree. Yet within the confines required for public health and wellbeing there have been and are many positive emerging outcomes from which educators have learned, been inspired, motivated to innovate, and to reimagine strategies to reach agreed upon goals with a reconfiguration of attitude, fortitude, and old and new resources.

Reading and reflecting upon Ross Gay’s BOOK OF DELIGHTS, a delicious array of 103 short, pithy, sometimes provocative, and celebrative of novel delights all around us, I realized I created my own Menu of Delights as an educator, researcher, communicator, synergist, and networker aspiring to improve higher education under my auspices in the pandemic pandemic times I was co-creating with my scholars, colleagues, and administration. Now I attempt to coherently organize, arrange, articulate, and share my MENU OF DELIGHTS of PANDEMIC PORTIONS for sharing and daring with my fellow higher education educators.

### Organizing Purpose, Principles, and Best Practices

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Affirmative | Scholar centered: each infusion focused on engagement and enrichment      |
| Empathetic  | Scholar nuanced: each infusion related to scholar perspective, experience |
| Trustworthy | Mutual candor, confidence, refinements, rooted in legitimate sources      |
| Excellent   | Personification, Exemplary, Role Models, Value, Vision, Vitality - live   |

Authentic, Legitimate, Ethical, and Complementary to Curricula: Experimental/  
Innovative

### **Internal Resourceful INFUSIONS into Curricula**

- 1) MDC International Book Fair annually in November [www.mdc.edu/bookfair](http://www.mdc.edu/bookfair)  
Maria Hinajosa, NPR and Media Journalist?: I WAS YOU ONCE  
Paul Farmer, MD, Partners in Health, Harvard: FEVERS, FEUDS&DIAMONDS  
Ross Gay, Poet Essayist, and Indiana University: THE BOOK OF DELIGHTS  
Hope Jahren, PhD, Botanist, University of Oslo, Norway: LAB GIRL
- 2) MDC Institute of Civic Engagement and Democracy (iCED) [www.mdc.edu/iced](http://www.mdc.edu/iced)  
Miami Dade County Public Schools VIRTUAL Model UN Simulations Delivery facilitated by Foundation For Leadership (NYC), MDCPS, and hosted by MDC, managed and led by MDC and FIU scholars.  
Pandemic Food Distribution in numerous locations  
Women’s Breast and Heart Health Initiative F2F and Virtual  
iCED Civic Scorecards: Individualized and group civic awareness, activities, programs, and projects that are tallied for civic engagement recognition.  
Engage Miami: Non-partisan voter education, registration, and motivation,
- 3) MDC Earth Ethics Institute (EEI) – UNSDG-related workshops, environmental projects, and leadership development via the Earth Charter [www.mdc.edu/eei](http://www.mdc.edu/eei)
- 4) MDC Jaffer Institute for Interreligious Dialogue & Education: [www.mdc.edu/jaffer](http://www.mdc.edu/jaffer)

### **External Resourceful INFUSIONS into Curricula**

- 1) Mellon Foundation Humanities Edge Undergraduate Research Program [www.cmf.org](http://www.cmf.org)
- 2) MIT and Me – Biochemistry Professor (MIT) and MDC Ronsard Mondesir Scholar
- 3) Americas Society/Council on the Americas: 5 webinars and continuous news feeds and cultural presentations. [www.counciloftheamericas.org](http://www.counciloftheamericas.org)
- 4) Council on Foreign Relations: 7 live webinar sessions per semester + simulations [www.cfr.org](http://www.cfr.org)
- 5) WAUCD webinar on Role of Higher Education in Covid19 Pandemic

- 6) THE HILL – Capital Hill News Service [www.thehill.com](http://www.thehill.com)
- 7) United Nations Association of the USA [www.una-usa.org](http://www.una-usa.org)
- 8) United States Global Leadership Council [www.usglc.org](http://www.usglc.org)

### **Formative/Summative/Evaluation**

Academic	Content and competency-based evaluation of purpose and meaning
Experiential	Practical ascertainment, response, improvements, and advocacy measures
Simulation	Performance of applied knowledge, best practices, and judgement
Service	Implications for personal initiatives for scholars in campus or community
Internships	Implications for added value to those aspiring to competitive internships
Employment	Implications for hard and soft skills in civic and professional settings

### **Self-competence/Self-confidence/Self-propelling**

### **Discipline-centered/Inter-disciplinary-activated/Multidisciplinary synergies**

HEURP	Humanities Edge Undergraduate Research Programs for MDC scholar and MDC faculty mentor
NCUR	National Conference on Undergraduate Research: MDC scholar and faculty sessions
Sigma Xi	National Science Honors Society – MDC scholar and faculty sessions
AGE	Flattening the Covid19 Curve – Video Competition by UNAIR for MDC scholars, one of whom one a global award.
AMERTA	Undergraduate credit courses, competency certification, geographic exploration by UNAIR (Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya Indonesia for MDC scholars
DECOTA	MDC Faculty Peer lecturer: 2021 US Presidential Election: Trauma, Turmoil. Transformation? With virtual MDC scholars at UNAIR
LINGUA	Bahassan Indonesian Language undergraduate courses by UNAIR for MDC scholars
WAUCD	Roles of Higher Education in the Covid19 Pandemic Era: 17 country-based universities and MDC webinar with MDC faculty presentation and MDC scholar participation. (Airlangga – MDC – Wuhan – others)

## **Post-MDC connectivity – Added INFUSIONS = Added Value to scholar**

AA and AS transfer admissions and scholarships

Employment

Internships

Award recognition: publication, performance, promotion

**Menu of Delights convert into Success in personal portable knowledge content, professional competencies, and agile soft skills for success.**

**Conclusion: Modest course content magnification and intensification through virtual resource development may deliver significant scholar enrichment! And a Book of Delights for the faculty originator.**

### Bibliography

Flower Darby with James Lang (2019) Small teaching online: Applying learning science in online classes. ISBN 9781119619093 (Hardcover)

Cathy N. Davidson (2017) The new education: How to revolutionize the university to prepare students for a world in flux. ISBN 978-0-465-07972-8

Paul Farmer (2020) Fevers, feuds, and diamonds ; Ebola and the ravages of history ISBN 9780374234324

Ross Gay (2019) The book of delights: Essays ISBN 9781616207922 (Hardcover)

Maria Hinojosa (2020) Once I was you: A memoir of love and hate in a torn America ISBN 9781982128678

Northwest Earth Institute (2014) Seeing systems: peace, justice & sustainability [www.nwei.org](http://www.nwei.org)

Eli Saslow (2018) Rising out of hatred: Awakening white nationalist. ISBN 978-0525-43495-5

### **CONTACT:**

Michael J. Lenaghan  
Social Science Department and The Honors College (2256-39)  
North Campus, Miami Dade College 11380 NW 27 Avenue  
MIAMI, FL USA 33167

[mlenagha@mdc.edu](mailto:mlenagha@mdc.edu)  
[www.mdc.edu](http://www.mdc.edu)  
(1) 305-237-1631

**2021 © Michael J. Lenaghan**