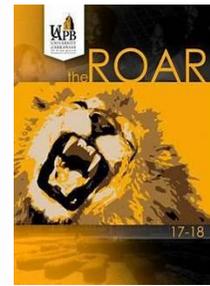




UNIVERSITY
of ARKANSAS
AT PINE BLUFF
—1873—



School of Education Newsletter Vol.4



This inspirational story [*The Star Thrower*](#) and was published by anthropologist/philosopher/writer Loren Eiseley as part of an essay in 1969. I have added a commentary paragraph at the end of the story. I hope you enjoy it.

An old man had a habit of early morning walks on the beach. One day, after a storm, he saw a human figure in the distance moving like a dancer. As he came closer he saw that it was a

young woman and she was not dancing but was reaching down to the sand, picking up a starfish and very gently throwing them into the ocean.

“Young lady,” he asked, “Why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?”

“The sun is up, and the tide is going out, and if I do not throw them in they will die.”

“But young lady, do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and starfish all along it? You cannot possibly make a difference.”

The young woman listened politely, paused and then bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea, past the breaking waves, saying, “It made a difference for that one.”

The old man looked at the young woman inquisitively and thought about what she had done. Inspired, he joined her in throwing starfish back into the sea. Soon others joined, and all the starfish were saved.

How often do we look at some problem and feel paralyzed because it seems overwhelming? So instead of thinking about what you can't do, consider what you *can* do. What is *one* action you can take? It might even be just to *think* about the problem differently. Working and teaching virtually can be overwhelming. You may find yourself at the computer or on zoom calls for hours at a time. Please pace yourself. What you do for UAPB and the School of Education is appreciated. Thank You.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION SURVEY RESULTS

Thanks to all survey participants for completing the survey on such a short notice. Below are the results of the survey. The first part of the survey asked questions pertaining to the online transition of UAPB's operations. Part II pertained to information regarding Blackboard use and the benefits of virtual instruction.

PART I



Considering your complete experience with UAPB transition to total virtual online operation of the university, how comfortable has it been for you?

Results: Preliminary data suggest that faculty are overwhelmingly comfortable or comfortable with transiting to total online operations. Staff somewhat comfortable. Students appear to be split regarding their thoughts about the transition process to online operations; with 33% of the students being somewhat comfortable, 22% of the students being extremely uncomfortable and 19% of students stating they were extremely comfortable with the process.

How helpful has UAPB been in addressing your online problems?

Results. Preliminary data indicates that staff and students have equally split views about how helpful UAPB has been in addressing their online problems. Most faculty indicated that UAPB has been quite helpful in addressing their online problems. The good news is that 18 out of 26 respondents (69%) indicated that the university was somewhat helpful, helpful or extremely helpful in addressing their online problems.



How helpful has your immediate supervisor or professor been to you during this transition?

Results. Preliminary results suggest that 88% of faculty felt positive about the help they have received from their immediate supervisors. The students are not so sure about the help they are receiving from their instructors. Seventy-seven percent (77%) of the students reporting said that their instructors were somewhat helpful. There is a mixed-bag response from the staff with equal responses in all categories except not helpful which did not receive a response.

How accurate is this statement? "I have the resources and equipment I need to work and do course assignments from home (internet, computer, printer)."

Results: Preliminary data suggest that staff and students somewhat have the resources and equipment needed to work from home and do course work. Only 3 out of 17 faculty members indicated that they do not have the resources and equipment to properly work from home.



How well has the School of Education done in terms of keeping you abreast with current information regarding your job or student status?

Results: Preliminary results suggest that only a small position of students, staff and faculty (0.16%) thinks the School of Education has not done well in terms of keeping them abreast with current information regarding their jobs or student status. Over a third (0.34%) of the students and staff think that the School of Education has done somewhat well. Nearly fifty percent (0.49%) responded that the School of Education did well or extremely well in keeping them informed.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION SURVEY RESULTS

PART II -Blackboard

Faculty Results



- A large portion (94%) of the faculty (16 out of 17 faculty) find Blackboard useful and easy to use.
- Between 53% and 58% (or 9 or 10 faculty) reports positive benefits from being online
- Slightly fifty-percent (48%-52%) expected to use blackboard more and would like to continue working and teaching virtually.
- Fourteen out of seventeen faculty or 82% said they were satisfied with the way UAPB School of Education was handling virtual learning and work environments for students, staff and faculty.

Staff Results



- Most staff members didn't complete the Blackboard portion of the survey. This is understandable because they most likely don't use Blackboard in their line of work unless they are enrolled in a college program
- The remaining staff that uses Blackboard either agreed or strongly agreed to the ease and usefulness of Blackboard as a learning system.
- Staff somewhat agreed to the benefits of being virtual and would like to continue working virtually.
- Staff suggested they were somewhat satisfied with the way UAPB School of Education was handling virtual learning and working environments for students, staff and faculty.

Student Results



- Students generally agree that they find Blackboard to be easy and useful.
- Fewer students see the benefits of being totally online.
- Most of the students expected to have work online but the majority of students reporting do not want to continue with total online classes once the crisis ends.
- The majority of the students are satisfied with way virtual learning is being handled by UAPB School of Education.



Now is the time to register for Summer Semester I & 2 and the Fall Semester. The Summer Semesters will be taught virtually online. Thanks to Dr. Todd Garner, the School of Education will be hosting Zoom sessions to assist students with registration or answer any questions they may have regarding registration. Please don't miss out on this opportunity. We are looking forward to having you actively engaged in your courses. Don't let this pandemic keep you from obtaining your education.



Thinking about graduation? We are too. Please know that UAPB is interested in having you participate in graduation ceremonies and are brainstorming about ways to address your plans to march across the stage. While we know there will not be a May graduation that doesn't mean, no graduation for May 2020 graduates. There is talk of moving graduation to August or making it possible for graduates to march in the December graduation ceremonies. Either way, the university education faculty and staff will see you there to cheer you on.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT



If you think and believe, UAPB School of Education will return to its original form of operation after the pandemic you are mistaken.

We have learned that we are stronger than we think, braver than we ever thought and are mastering the art of innovative thinking.

We are here in the present but our minds have been transported to tomorrow's vision. We are ahead of the game. Nothing will stop us now. We are builders not scavengers looking for something valuable. We are **VALUABLE!**

I say to you, "Forge ahead! No looking back! **NO EXCUSES!** Let's get ready to **ROAR!!!!**"