

Fram Focus volume 6:7 - February 2021

IN THIS ISSUE:

• Cosponsored Events:

- **“Should prisons be abolished?”** Friday, February 4, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. Co-sponsored with Gray Matters
- **Teaching Circles: “Fostering Applied Critical Thinking (ACT) Across the Disciplines.”** co-sponsored with the Innovative Learning Institute. Spring 2020 (beginning in February)
- **RIT Student Game Showcase.** Registration closes February 15, 2021. The showcase brings together students, faculty, alumni and industry professionals to celebrate the achievements of RIT student-led game design teams. Category winners and Best in Show will be announced during the live virtual showcase on April 17, 2021
- **Fram Speaker Series:** February 26, 2021, Featuring Eugene Fram, Professor Emeritus and SCOB alums

• Fram Finds:

- **Assessment Tools:** Critical Thinking Outcomes, Rubrics and Results.
- **“Critical Thinking” The Movie** starring John Leguizamo, Rachel Bay Jones, Michael Kenneth Williams. It tells the true story of the Miami Jackson High School chess team, which was the first inner city team to win the U.S. National Chess Championship.
- **“Dr. Munson’s Performing Arts Challenge”**: We are pleased to announce Dr. Munson’s Performing Arts Challenge will again be part of FreezeFest in 2021! Join us virtually for an evening of dance, music, theatre, comedy, juggling, and more, showcasing RIT student talents! Join the LIVE event: www.rit.edu/performing-arts-live
- **“Moving Forward Committee Poster Design Contest.”** Students are invited to create a poster design that captures the spirit of the Moving Forward Initiative that was established to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment and the 200th birthday of Susan B. Anthony. Winning submission will receive \$300.

• A Few Thoughts

- **Richard Doolittle**, Vice Dean, College of Health Science and Technology; and member of the College Course Advancement Team (CATs)
- **Mark Thompson**, Lecturer, College of Engineering Technology; and member of the College Course Advancement Team (CATs)

- **From Gene Fram:**

- **“COVID-19 sparks an overdue discussion on education reform: An optimistic vision,”** by Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, Elias Blinkoff, Helen Shwe Hadani, and Roberta Michnick Golinkoff. Brookings, Monday, January 3, 2021.
- **“Too much of our technology builds walls, instead of bridges... We need to take responsibility of our digital future,”** by Aleks Krotoski. Science Focus, Jan. 11, 2021.
- **“How experience can hinder critical thinking,”** by Christopher Dwyer, Ph.D., Psychology Today, January 26, 2021.

Co-SPONSORED EVENTS

- **“Should prisons be abolished?”** Friday, February 4, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. Co-sponsored with Gray Matters, a facilitated, open dialogue on controversial topics open to the RIT community, practicing “controversy with civility.” Contact: Chris Hinesley, chhgsm@rit.edu. **REGISTER HERE.**
- **Teaching Circles: “Fostering Applied Critical Thinking (ACT) Across the Disciplines,”** co-sponsored with the Innovative Learning Institute. A teaching circle is a small group of teachers who come together for at least one term to have robust discussions about a teaching and learning topic. If you are interested in joining one of these upcoming groups, they will be conducted synchronously in Zoom. This teaching circle will focus on ACT (Applied Critical Thinking) with particular emphasis on developing best practices for (1) student capacity to evaluate information quality and use information from various sources across the disciplines and (2) practicing the art of collegial conversations and critique in the disciplines. Every few weeks, we will host a one-hour Zoom session. The circle will be limited to 8-10 teachers and each member should be prepared to develop and share best practices across this crucial topic. This teaching circle will be a shared experience, facilitated by Jennifer Schneider and several members of the [Fram Advisory Board](#). If you would like to join this circle, email [Jennifer Schneider](#). Read more [HERE](#).
- **Student Game Showcase.** Submissions are open for the RIT Student Game Showcase. The showcase brings together students, faculty, alumni and industry professionals to celebrate the achievements of RIT student-led game design teams. Category winners and Best in Show will be announced during the live virtual showcase on April 17, 2021. Co-sponsored with the GCCIS School of Interactive Games and Media. **Registration closes February 15, 2021. [REGISTER HERE.](#)**
- **Fram Speaker Series:** February 26, 2021, Featuring Eugene Fram, Professor Emeritus and SCOB alums. The panel will discuss the importance of critical thinking in the business world. Course #MGMT102 (Management 102 Business Planning and Professional Development) let by John Ward. [Zoom information HERE.](#)

FRAM FINDS

- **Assessment Tools**: Critical Thinking Outcomes, Rubrics & Results. Read more [HERE](#).
- **"Critical Thinking"** The Movie starring John Leguizamo, Rachel Bay Jones, Michael Kenneth Williams. It tells the true story of the Miami Jackson High School chess team, which was the first inner city team to win the U.S. National Chess Championship. The team was led by an unconventional but inspirational teacher. The movie is available for direct download on platforms including Amazon Video, Apple TV and iTunes. View movie on YouTube [HERE](#).
- **"Dr. Munson's Performing Arts Challenge"**: We are pleased to announce Dr. Munson's Performing Arts Challenge will again be part of FreezeFest in 2021! Join us virtually for an evening of dance, music, theatre, comedy, juggling, and more, showcasing RIT student talents! Join the LIVE event [HERE](#).
- **"Moving Forward Committee Poster Design Contest"**. Students are invited to create a poster design that captures the spirit of the Moving Forward Initiative that was established to celebrate and honor the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment and the 200th birthday of Susan B. Anthony. Winning submission will receive \$300. Submission deadline is February 15, 2021. Read more [HERE](#).

A FEW THOUGHTS

In this issue we meet:

- **Richard Doolittle**, Vice Dean, College of Health Science and Technology; and member of the College Course Advancement Team (CATs). His research interests include biomedical engineering projects within orthopedic rehabilitation as well as virtual reality environments pertaining to medical education. Read more [HERE](#).
- **Mark Thompson**, Lecturer, College of Engineering Technology; and member of the College Course Advancement Team (CATs). Mark is fairly new to RIT. He discusses how critical thinking in engineering is fundamental to the design and problem-solving process. Read more [HERE](#).

FROM GENE FRAM

- **"COVID-10 sparks an overdue discussion on education reform: An optimistic vision"**, by Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, Elias Blinkoff, Helen Shwe Hadani, and Roberta Michnick Golinkoff. Brookings, Monday, January 3, 2021. Despite teachers' valiant efforts, surveys show that over half of the teachers nationwide covered half of the material they teach in a typical year, at most. Projections estimate that students began school in Fall 2020 having lost up

to 37% of a typical school year in reading and as much as 63% in math. Read more [HERE](#).

- **“Too much of our technology builds walls, instead of bridges... We need to take responsibility of our digital future,”** by Aleks Krotoski. Science Focus, Jan. 11, 2021. Algorithms have turned the online world into an echo chamber. Let’s welcome back diversity, critical thinking and a sense of community. Read more [HERE](#).
- **“How experience can hinder critical thinking,”** by Christopher Dwyer, Ph.D., Psychology Today, January 26, 2021. Read more [HERE](#).

