

Fram Focus volume 6:2 – September 2020

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Cosponsored Events

- Is Greek life essential at RIT? Gray Matters Event. Video conference on Friday, September 18, 2020 from 12:00-1:00 pm. Register [HERE](#).
- Our situation spurs us to build thinking connections across our Tiger community. In October, we expand a special collaboration with Alumni Relations to feature the critical thinking of our accomplished alumni tigers with a series of virtual events. If you know of an alumnus from any of our campuses who is a great critical thinking example and communicator—let us know!

A Few Thoughts

Critical thinking about and supporting pedagogical excellence: With this issue of the Fram Focus we begin our focus on the [College Course Advancement Team \(CATs\)](#), let by **Dr. Sandra Connelly**, Principal Lecturer, College of Science. The

College Course Advancement Team (CATs) was started in the summer 2020 as a “scale up” from the Faculty Leader in Online Learning position that has been in College of Science since 2018. Both facets are focused on the use of online technologies / classroom strategies in discipline specific applications. The CATs are found in every College at RIT (except GIS) and are faculty from within their assigned College. These are faculty who have a record of teaching excellence, a focus on student success, and a desire to help their colleagues advance pedagogy in their own classrooms. Through office hours, consultations, and sometimes just a friendly chat – the CATs are available to help their colleagues through course design / redesign, assignment modifications, and tech strategies as they critically think through applications in this new world of higher education. While the Innovative Learning Institute (ILI) staff are available for workshops and consultations about pedagogical approaches and applications of technology, the CATs are able to help their colleagues see the application of those tools directly to their discipline. While we all know that the tools exist, and that ILI is there for us, sometimes we just do not know how it will apply to our classroom / discipline / specific problem. The CATs are available for just that purpose!

So, you did not know you have a CAT? The CATs Team and lots of other information is available on the CATs Wiki! <https://wiki.rit.edu/display/CollegeCATS> Get to know your CAT – you will find them not only friendly and lovable, but also a wealth of information! Read more [HERE](#) and see CATs Critical Thinking Q&A [HERE](#).

From Gene Fram

“Critical Thinking”. This movie is streaming on **Apple TV**: It took John Leguizamo many moves to get ‘Critical Thinking’ made. Leguizamo’s “Critical Thinking” (streaming Friday on Apple TV) is the true story of the 1998 Miami Senior High School chess team, which became the very first inner-city team to win the U.S. National Chess Championship. Read more [HERE](#).

“Need to Foster Critical Thinking in Students”, interview with Manoj Kumar Tiwari, Director, National Institute of Industrial Engineering; April 2, 2020, BW Businessworld. Dr. Tiwari discusses how a good engineering school is where we create engineers who work towards the betterment of humanity and their surroundings, who can provide core solutions to the major problems in the urban and rural areas. Read more [HERE](#).

“Why I let my mentees make mistakes”, by René S. Shahmohamadloo, **Science Magazine**, Sept 3, 2020. This article describes how letting students find their own way gave them room to grow as scientists. Read more [HERE](#).

“How to win arguments and actually change someone’s mind”. **Inverse Newsletter**, August 15, 2020. Jonah Berger is a professor of marketing at the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. Read more [HERE](#).

“Artificial Intelligence in PR: Is It Science Fiction?” by Mark Macias, Forbes, Sept. 9, 2020. *Mark Macias is the Founder of MACIAS PR named 2017-2019 Strategic PR Firm of the Year and 2015-2017 Financial PR Firm of the Year.* Can AI help get stories in the news or is it just a new agency spin to stand out from the crowd? *Read more [HERE](#).*

“How Can You Tell Who’s Lying? Misinformation is a big cause of polarization”, by David Evans, Psychology Today, Sept. 9, 2020. David Evans is an award-winning writer and counselor/mediator. We are in the midst of a misinformation pandemic and critical thinking offers the tools to determine the truth. Read more [HERE](#).

