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We Came, We Cooked, We Created

Cook It Up was born into existence in large part from the efforts of students in the *Creativity and Innovation* class that I taught this spring. The idea for the forum sprang from the recognition that creativity comes in many shapes and forms; however, it's not always easy to identify what forms it takes and what comprises the process itself. In the December E-Newsletter, I wrote about creativity as an intrinsic condition of living, like breathing or eating. Indeed, this idea served as the inspiration for a major project assignment for the *Creativity and Innovation* class (now a foundation course for the new Minor in Entrepreneurship and Social Enterprise).



The structure required four teams of five or six students to develop and produce the culinary and environmental design for each themed evening of the creativity forum. Because one of the primary demands of creativity is that we must think differently if we are to act innovatively, *Cook It Up* couldn't occur in a regular classroom setting. The location for *Cook It Up* needed to be in an unexpected and adaptable space (with access to a kitchen), if we were to think outside of the *pizza* box.

Much to our delight, Aramark Dining Services and Residence Life and Housing were generous partners and proposed Luter Residence Hall as our location of creation. Luter provided an excellent environment for creative transformation and richness of discussion topics from the respective research and professional worlds that invited faculty member brought to the table.

Here's what one student, double majoring in theatre and political science, had to say: "*Cook It Up* provided something that I find to be scarce on the Wake Forest campus. It provided an intellectual environment *outside* of the classroom where people could share ideas and experiences. Personally, I really enjoyed listening to professors from all different disciplines discuss their creative processes and experiences because often I could identify them with some part of my own experience. To top it all off, the discussions between professors were inspiring."

Who were these people you ask? I'll give you the short menu for the four night program:

- Cindy Gendrich, Theatre and Dilip Kondepudi, Chemistry
- Jacqui Carrasco, Music and Susan Fahrback, Biology
- David Finn, Art and Charlie Richman, Psychology
- Mary Dalton, Communications and Ellen Miller, Anthropology



Also, [click here](#) to see the enticing announcements with each thematic framework from which we wove our discourse, or check out the DVD archives that will be in the Office of Entrepreneurship and Liberal Arts next fall.

As previously mentioned, these conversations did not occur in an ordinary environment, so if you get

a chance to look at the archives, remember that the design teams from the *Creativity and Innovation* class crafted beehives and formal picnics, feast tables and culture clubs to increase our awareness and ability to absorb and interact creatively. Guests ate green mashed potatoes and chocolate chili mousse, sexy cupcakes and unknown delights as we looked out into the courtyard lit by luminaria.

The results were fascinating: two individuals from two very different discipline backgrounds speaking about systems and structures that allow creativity to either flourish or perish and whether the future will be impacted by failures of imagination or a redoubled commitment to creativity and innovation in education, business, and new technology. The discussion helped to foster a new kind of interaction between students, faculty, staff, and others from the community (including other area schools).

READ MORE:

http://entrepreneurship.wfu.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=64&Itemid=88

Lynn Book is Visiting Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance and the Creativity Fellow with the Office of Entrepreneurship and Liberal Arts. She will be teaching Creativity and Innovation both semesters next year (so those of you on the waiting list don't despair!) and a First Year Seminar on Creativity. Keep your antennae out for other creativity events next year and a special lab in performance production and if you want to get on the Creativity Hot List, send her your email address. She can be contacted at bookl@wfu.edu or 336-758-3383.