

# The Circle of Scholarship

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# Icebreaker

- Find someone you don't know
- One person interview the other person
- Switch roles
- Find another group
- Take turns introducing your partner to the group



# Exercise

- Write one answer on paper
- Pass to next person in group
- Continue passing until all ideas are exhausted



What are the  
potential  
benefits of the  
scholarship of  
pedagogy at  
RIT?



What are the  
potential  
detriments of the  
scholarship of  
pedagogy at  
RIT?



# Background

- 23 Years in Industry
- 10 years as Adjunct Professor at Community College



# As the Years Went On ...

- Loved teaching
- Disliked “Corporate America”



# Took a Risk

- Changed Careers
- Moved to another state
- Left friends and family
- Three young children





# My Feelings

- Seize opportunities when they arise
- Don't be afraid to take risks
- If it feels right, do it
- Otherwise you'll always wonder: "What if ..."

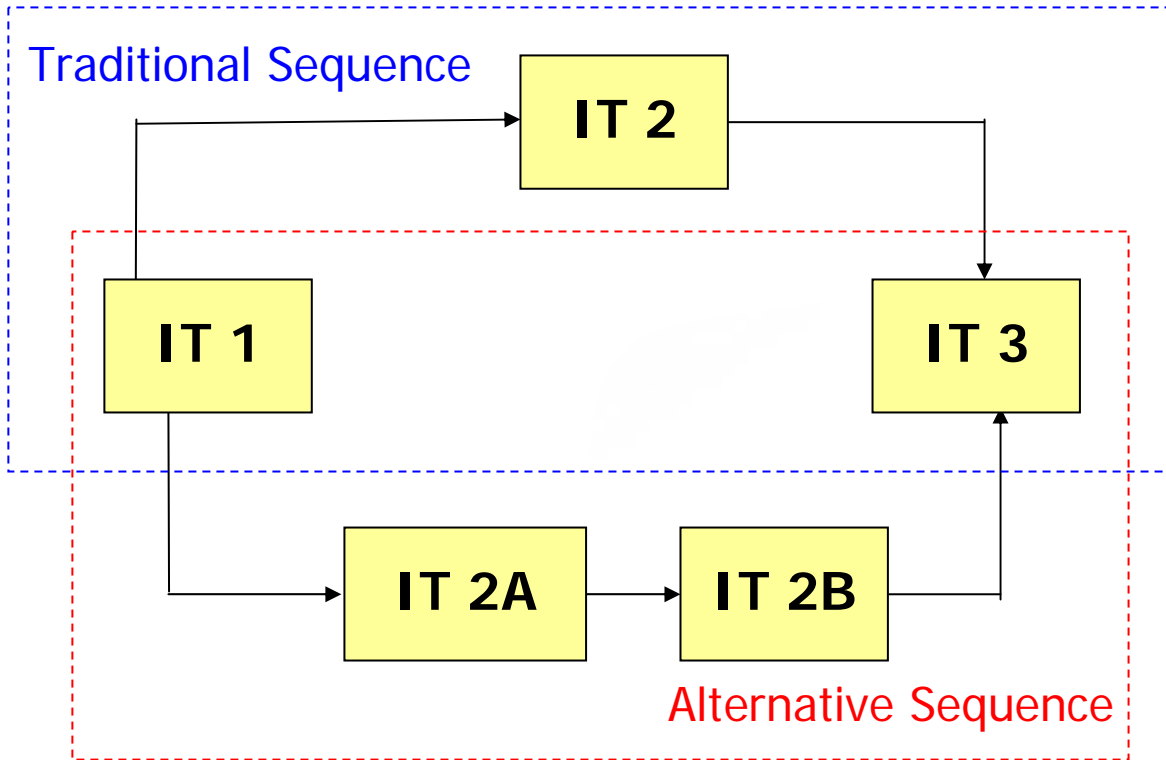


# Opportunity

- Chosen to develop a two-course sequence
- Targeted for under-prepared students



# Alternative Prog. Sequence



A  
"Chance"  
Conversation



# Research

- Determined to help the at-risk students
- Searched the educational databases



# My Path of Discovery

- Constructivism
- Cooperative learning
- Student-centered learning
- Active learning



# What is Active Learning?



# Exercise

- 1st person writes sentence
- Next person adds to or corrects statement(s)
- Continue until all members have answered
- Discuss the team's answer
- Prepare to explain answer





# Application of Research

- Lots of AL articles
- Very few targeted for intro programming courses
- Had to develop my own activities



# Course Design

- Changed the way the course was taught
- Rewrote all the materials
- Created AL activities for every topic



# New Focus

- Traditional Focus
  - Covering as many constructs as possible
- New Focus
  - Using constructs to develop conceptual knowledge



# Active Learning

- Jumped in with both feet
- Some colleagues warned me not to take the risk
- It just felt right



# Risks

- Is approach legitimate
- Student evaluations
- Promotion and tenure
- Colleagues opinions



# Course Results

- Increased retention by 9%
- Increased A,B,C grades by 14%
- All numbers are statistically significant



# Personal Rewards

- Students loved the course
- Exceptional student evaluations
- Noisy classroom



# New Teaching Metaphor

- Coach
- No longer “Sage on the Stage”





# Dissemination

- 2003 SIGITE
- 2003 FITL
  
- Cited in President Simone's "Category of One" white paper



# The Next Year ...

- Faculty Learning Community
- Study future success of IT 2A&B students
- Active learning research
- Teach next group in IT 2A&B



# The First Circle was Complete

- Researched teaching techniques
- Classroom experiment
- Dissemination of results
- Further research in AL



# FLC Requirements

- Design a classroom experiment
- Attend the Lilly conference
- Readings from educational literature



# Lilly Conference

- Met the leaders of the active learning movement
- Learned new techniques to apply in my classroom



# Dissemination

- 2004 FLC Poster Session
- 2004 CCSCNE
- 2004 FITL
- 2004 Geneseo Conference



# PLIG Grant

- Cohort students based on previous prog. experience
- Based on IT 2A & B results



# Another Circle Completed

- IT 2A & B experiment
- Results analyzed
- PLIG grant received
- Cohorting implemented





# Preliminary Cohorting Results

- Benefited students with the most and no experience
- Modifying the cohorting scheme this year based on the results



# Another Circle Begins ...



# 2004 CCSCNE Conference

- Attended a session given by the NSF UG Education Director
- Guided me to the correct grant
  - NSF CCLI Grant
- Approved this year



# Another Circle Begins ...



# Further Dissemination

- 2004 Lilly Conference Presenter
- 2004 SIGITE
- 2005 CCSCNE
- 2005 Frontiers in Education



# Advice

- Research how others are teaching
- Adapt their discoveries to your classroom
- Disseminate the results
- Make contacts



# Scholarship Benefits

- Ultimately it is the students that have benefited from my scholarship
- Which is why I teach

