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Op-Ed Columnist

By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

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Come the Revolution



Welcome to the college education revolution.
Big breakthroughs happen when what is suddenly possible meets what is desperately necessary.

The costs of getting a college degree have been rising faster than those of health care, so the need to provide low-cost, quality higher education is more acute than ever. At the same time, in a knowledge economy, getting a higher-education degree is more vital than ever. And thanks to the spread of high-speed wireless technology, high-speed Internet, smartphones, Facebook, the cloud and tablet computers, the world has gone from connected to hyperconnected in just seven years.

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May 28, 2012

Research-Based Undergraduate Science Teaching

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Reform or Revolution?

Undergraduate Science Education in Diverse Contexts of Learning

Larry Flick
Professor of Science Education
Colleges of Education & Science
Dean of College of Education

Major Premise:

Reform in collegiate science education is embedded in large social and professional systems that are being impacted by the rapid growth of information technologies and changing economic conditions

Two points in the talk:

- Confluence of K12 STEM education research with similar work in higher education
- Revolution in information access, presentation, and sharing

Point 1

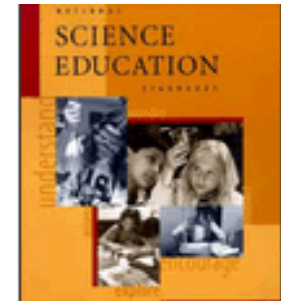
College Science Education

Confluence of issues affecting K12 and Collegiate education

- Cost of higher education
- Student debt
- Accreditation requirements
- Impact of educational research – NGSS & CCSSM



National Science Education Standards (1996)



- A revolution that didn't happen
- Science as inquiry became a forerunner – in advance of the messenger rather than the messenger itself
- Inquiry was largely incorporated into standard modes of practice
- Classroom expression remained of largely teacher understandings and not student understandings

Next Generation Science Education Standards (2012)

- Not tweaking but changing the nature of STEM teaching
- Foregrounds discourse in discipline-based practices
- Science & Mathematics education becoming STEM education
- Combining new components: Inquiry, Engineering, Computation



Scientific & Mathematical practices – theory of change

- IF: Establish a compelling context for learning science
- IF: Instruct students in structured discourse embedded in the practices of the discipline; scaffolds expression of their own thinking
- IF: Instruct students in critiquing the thinking of others, and teacher uses selected student ideas to highlight central content
- THEN: Students see knowledge as a human construction
- THEN: Test knowledge against their own understanding of evidence from the world
- THEN: Appropriate ideas within the context of their own reasoning for long-term retention



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Conceptual framework for Collegiate Science Education

Engaging students in “knowledge work”

Goodyear & Ellis (2011); Goodyear & Zenios (2007)

Reform in Undergraduate Science directs student participation in the work of building knowledge through various forms of discourse rather than just reflecting on completed achievements



Examples of Epistemic Forms in Science Education

Inquiry

Interpreting models

Making models

Using models to form an explanation, a problem

Argumentation

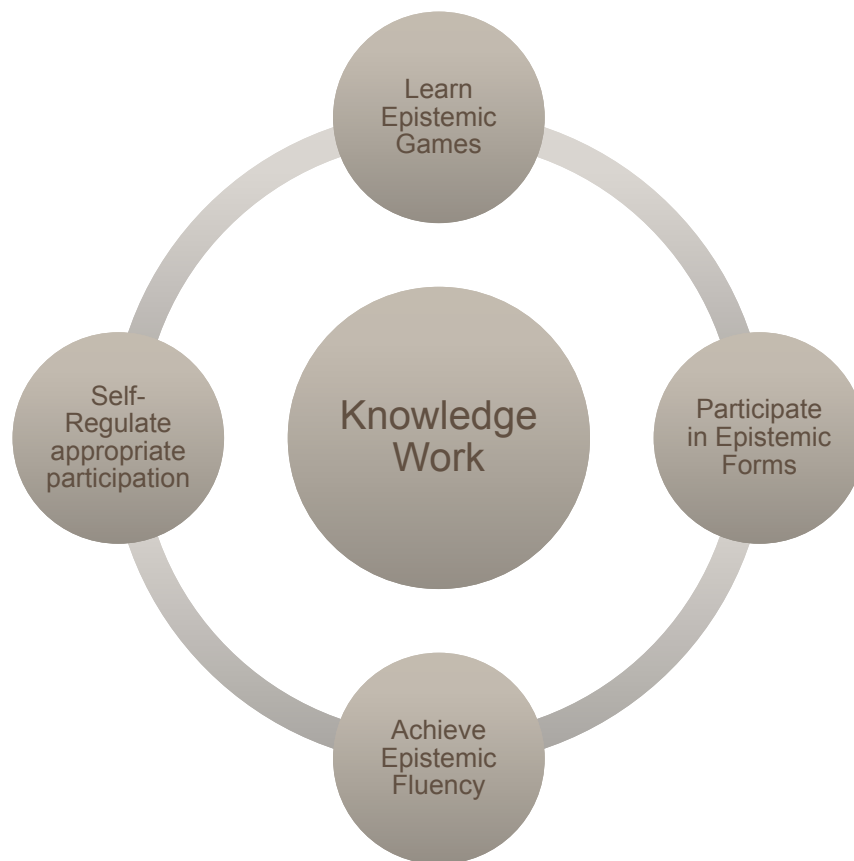
Use of evidence

Generalizations

Justification

Articulating a theory

Stating or finding a “problem”



Goodyear & Ellis (2011);
Goodyear & Zenios (2007)

Personal mental flexibility of conceptual learning in science is
insufficient

Collins & Ferguson, (1993): **Cook & Brown's (1999)**

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Linking Lab, Lecture, and Recitation & Online resources and networking

- Operationally this means to inoculate students in all 4 settings by:
 - Seeing models,
 - Engaging in practice toward well established goals
 - Getting feedback on incremental improvement in the use of discourse used in scientific practices
 - Instruction that fosters independent skill use



(Palincsar & Brown 1989; Lave & Wenger, 1991)

Point 2

Revolution in information access, presentation, and sharing

Examples from the Current Landscape of Innovation in
University Teaching, Course Design, and instructional
environments

(Kirschner, 2012)

- **Kahn Academy** – catalog of instructional elements - In the last 18 months there were 41 million visitors in the US alone.
- Candice Thille – online delivery of content that collects **data on student learning to inform face-to-face instruction**
- Fedora [Flexible Extensible Digital Object Repository Architecture], HathiTrust [*10 million volumes draws on more than 60 partner institutions*], Google Books, Project Gutenberg – **online repositories of the worlds information (available to everyone all the time)**
- Kathleen Fitzpatrick – **changing the environment for scholarship and peer review**

University
perception of market
dominance make
leaders oblivious to
change.



Analogy to video recording industry

- 1970s video recording became a major contributor to the television industry
- 1997 DVD-Video format introduced
- 2006, studios in the US stopped releasing new movie titles in VHS format
- 2011 High-capacity digital recording technologies are currently replacing DVD

Changing Minds

Harry M. Warner of Warner Brothers in 1927 commenting on the prospect of adding sound to movies, **“Who the hell wants to hear actors talk?”**

Changing Minds

David Sarnoff employed by Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America, urged the management to invest in radio in the 1920's – he got the following memo:

“The wireless music box has no imaginable commercial value. Who would pay for a message sent to nobody in particular?”



Changing Minds

Story of AT&T or “Ma Bell”



Science faculty who have advanced pedagogical content knowledge



Andy Karplus



Kevin Ahern



Leslie Blair

Research Scientist first attempt at student-centered teaching



Andy Karplus

Expose the students to skills needed to effectively read and analyze professional research in biophysics.

He wanted to develop the capabilities for being critical consumers of the literature and for selecting research that interested them and that they could grow from as a result of their own efforts.

Lecture: The bigger the better You want a “concert experience”



Leslie Blair

At 500 you can produce a wave across the lecture hall. The idea is that if you are on campus there should be a distinctly campus flavor associated with educational experience.

Increasingly, students have a choice about where they get their education. If they choose to come to the OSU campus, what do they get there that they would not get anywhere else?

Sharing a passion for biochemistry Revealing how life works!



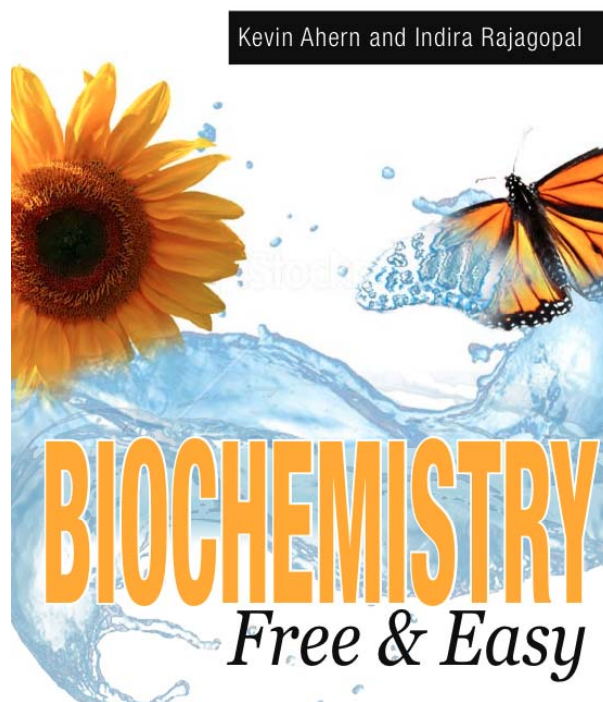
Kevin Ahern

He has made video records of over 300 lectures all of which are **free** on YouTube. He has received messages from students around the country and the world describing how they have used his lectures to increase their knowledge.

Written an iBook available free at the Mac App Store
Biochemistry Free & Easy
by Kevin Ahern and Indira Rajagopal



Kevin Ahern



OSU Open Courseware Learning Module Program

- Learning modules developed from existing online course inventory
- Focused on individual learning objectives
- Available as foundation for additional online course development
- Available for K12 school curriculum enhancement
- Opportunity to enhance International Educational programs
- OSU's approach to Open Courseware

Eight Implications

1. The sheer variety of content presentations, courses, and programs will force examination of standard, on campus science learning environments.
2. We will find new ways for collecting data for advising and tracking our students towards university-worthy outcomes in science that have been vetted with faculty, students, families, business leaders, and donors.
3. As institutions compete for students in a larger market place, there will be greater emphasis on the value of inquiry into science teaching practices.

Eight Implications

4. Science instruction will become the responsibility of a team made up of content experts, often from across STEM disciplines, and electronic media and instructional design experts.
5. An ideal for John Dewey was that education provide ways of bringing people together. By more closely connecting online and on-campus experiences, this ideal may be achieved at scales never before imagined.
6. There will be greater emphasis in professional and scholarly societies on how to bring the meaning of new research results to students and the public through newly created physical and electron venues.

Eight Implications

7. Collaborations across institutions will extend the reach of educational ideas and will offer opportunities to learn more about learning in science and innovative delivery of content.
8. STEM disciplinary practices provide instructional scaffolds for structuring student talk developing intellectual capacity for the use of evidence (in science) and making justifications and generalizations (in mathematics).

Ambitious Teaching

- Creating a more rigorous vocabulary for teacher moves, educational environments, and students learning
- Describing teacher actions and student responses that constitute learning trajectories
- Skills for eliciting, selecting, and ordering student ideas (student thinking) for the purpose of advancing the central content of the course
- Skills for managing presentation of content and student thinking with an eye on the horizon of future understandings

Changing Minds

- Western Union memo of 1876, “This *telephone* has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us.”

