

Interesting People

Dr. John S. Erwin, President
Illinois Central College

Interesting People

ICC History

- September, 1967: college opens
 - 2,496 students; 56 faculty
 - Tuition:\$5
 - Budget: \$3.7 million
- June, 1969: first commencement; 103 graduates
- Fall 1981: 15,000 students
 - Tuition: \$16
 - Budget: \$16 million
- December, 2000: 11,764 students
 - Tuition: \$45
 - Budget: \$35.6 million
 - 1,500 classes/400,000+ minds
- Today: 11,804 students
 - Tuition: \$87
 - Budget: \$51 million
 - “We like it here!”
 - 400,000 lives
- The Little Engine that Could

Interesting People

The Contradictory College

- The four missions
 - Leisure, continuing education, cultural
 - Transfers to a 4-year institution; dual credits
 - Fresh starts
 - Vocational and career training
 - Caterpillar Partnership/point of view
- Dealing with ambiguity/no single focus
 - Managing paradox
 - Change is constant
- The Erwin mind
 - Convergent/divergent
 - Quantative/qualitative
- Your biggest profession hurdle?

Interesting People

It's a Wonderful Life (1946)

- 100 best ever made
- Jimmy Stewart; George Bailey
 - Suicidal/guardian angel
- Community colleges
 - Jimmy Stewart/Rodney Dangerfield
 - No earth shattering research
 - No top 10 football teams
 - No Nobel prize winners
- Britain's Got Talent
 - The Story of Paul Potts
 - Opera singer
 - Followed his dreams
 - Sang for the Queen of England
 - October, 2007, ICC Educational Foundation
 - Female left home at 14
 - GED, lack self confidence
 - “She really mattered”

Interesting People

Multiple Intelligences: Howard Gardner (1983)

- Intelligence: “a biopsychological potential to process different kinds of information in different ways”
- The eight types/different learning styles
 - Bodily-kinesthetic (athlete)
 - Interpersonal (politician)
 - Verbal-linguistic (lawyer)
 - Logical-mathematical (scientists)
 - Naturalistic (farmers)
 - Intrapersonal (psychologists)
 - Visual-spatial (artists)
 - Musical (composers)
- Does ICC allow differences?
- Your type?
- Any wishful talent?
- What is your wildest adult dream?

Interesting People

The Beginning of John

- Birthplace
- Parents
 - Siblings
 - Youthful sports (basketball)
 - Passions, activities
- Your early passions
 - Dreams
 - Destinations
- Becky
 - Elementary education teacher: Dunlap
- Children: Lauren, Kristin, Andrew
- Your adolescent
 - Greatest fear?
 - Wildest dream?
 - Wishful absent talent?

Interesting People

John Erwin Education: 14 Years

- Bachelor of Arts: University of Indianapolis
 - Religion and English
- Methodist Theological School, Delaware, OH
 - Master's Degree in Divinity
- Indiana University
 - Master's of Art Degree in History
 - Ph.D. in American Studies in history
- Post-doctoral work
 - Ohio State
 - Hebrew University in Jerusalem
 - Harvard University
- First appointment
 - Olney Central College; basketball coach
- Why so long a journey?
- Your lowest intellectual depth?

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Career Influences

- First influence: grandfather
 - High school mathematics
 - “Life of the mind”
 - Personal library; borrow books
 - Eastern religion
- Non-professional interests?
- Your adult passions?

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The Change to Religion?

- Methodist minister
 - The dream: Indiana farming town
 - Earth/science/meteorology major
 - Rain: pastor, family, dining room
 - Polaroid picture/envelope
 - The premonition
 - Family dog, Shen
 - Daughter/dog to die/killed
 - Explored my faith
 - Religion major
- Ohio State Psychiatric Hospital: Chaplin
- St. Paul United Methodist Church, Columbus

Interesting People

The Power of Premonitions: Larry Dossey, M.D. (2009)

- “An impressionable warning of a future event”
- “Knowing the Future Can Shape Our Lives”
- The cases
 - The baby crib
 - The Farmer’s Almanac: copy boy
 - Making money: intuition; the CEO
- Evidence
 - First sight and hindsight
- Premonitions: Why, What, How?
- How to cultivate premonitions?
- Premonitions in our world view
- An ICC course?

Interesting People

The Miracle of Theism: J.L. Mackie (1962)

- The God Delusion
 - Richard Dawkins (2006)
- Arguments
 - The problem of evil: 9/11
 - Miracles and testimony
 - Descartes and the Idea of God
 - Ontological arguments
 - Berkeley's God and immaterial realism
 - Cosmological arguments
 - Moral arguments
 - The argument from Consciousness
 - Arguments from design
 - Religious experience and natural histories of religion
 - Belief without reason
 - Religion without belief?
 - Replacements for God

Interesting People

Minister/Teacher

- Compare and contrast: minister/president
 - Counseling/teaching
 - Management/people, interest, concerns
 - Goal setting/budgeting
- Compare and contrast governance
 - More than 25 years, 6 parishes
- When are you the happiest?
- Who is your favorite author?
- Who is your hero?
- Any secret ambition?
- Most difficult decision?

Interesting People

Why the Chinese do Math?

- The numbering system
- Culture
 - Rice/2 hotel rooms/450 people
 - 3,000 hours work year
- Devotion/dedication
- How can USA ever:
 - Prevail?
 - Endure?
- The predicate: 10,000 hours: Gates, Beatles

Interesting People

The Quiet Crisis: Education Issues

- Rip Van Winkle returns
- Thomas Jefferson: “...the key to a healthy democracy is an educated electorate”
- The World is Flat, Thomas Friedman
 - Connectivity
 - Cultural differences
 - Cars, cheese, wine
 - Mediocrity no longer acceptable
- The absence of an agrarian economy
 - Knowledge/informational economy
 - Basic skills: math, science, writing

Interesting People

The Kipp Program: Knowledge is Power

- Open enrollment college prep, public
- 1994: Mike Feinburg/David Levin; Doris and Don Fischer/Gap, Inc.
 - 82 schools; 19 states
 - 80% low income; 90% African, Latino
 - 20,000 students
- School begins @ 7:25, ends at 5:00
 - Thinking skills until 7:55
 - 90 mins English, Math; 2 hours
 - 1 hour Science, Social Studies, Orchestra
- Post-5:00: accountability, homework clubs, detentions, sports teams
- 3 extra weeks of school; teacher cell phones
- The Chinese model
 - Effort/fun
 - Desire

Interesting People

The Future of Education

- How to Read a Book
 - U/O/C: Mortimer Adler (1940)
- Fast food nation
- The Internet
 - New York Times Knowledge Network
 - Self-paced, interactive facilitated, interactive live, interactive web cast
 - Arts, business, education, health, history, journalism, law, religion
- The need for bricks and mortar?
- Predicting the future
 - Divergent mind
 - Exploding population
- Where will we be: 100 years?

Interesting People

Closing

- Most treasured possession?
- With whom would you most wish to visit?
- Rewind your life?
- What next?