

To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe. (Anatole France)

Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH)

<http://www.pilch.org.au>

The Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH) is an independent, not-for-profit legal referral service. It seeks to meet the legal needs of community groups/not-for-profit organisations, and individuals from disadvantaged or marginalised backgrounds by facilitating their access to pro bono legal assistance from PILCH members.

Its main role is to receive, assess and refer requests for pro bono legal assistance. PILCH aims to work creatively to match clients with lawyers willing to give their services without charge.

PILCH clients are individuals, community groups and not-for-profit organisations.

Individual clients, who raise issues of public interest that require legal resolution, who satisfy legal merits and means tests and who are ineligible for legal aid, qualify for referral to a PILCH member. The member then acts for the client on a pro bono basis.

Not-for-profit organisations with public interest objectives, or which provide services that are in the public interest, are also eligible for assistance. PILCH aims to support and enhance the work done for and on behalf of the community by such organisations, which

typically function with limited resources, by providing access to quality legal services.

PILCH's membership represents the diversity of the Victorian legal profession and includes private law firms, the Victorian Bar, corporate legal departments, community legal centres, university law faculties and others in ancillary or related fields.

Members support PILCH in a variety of ways, including providing financial and 'in-kind' support, and by accepting referrals for legal assistance.

Source: Pro Bono Australia



Raising Children Network

<http://raisingchildren.net.au/>

A website with an extensive collection of resources for Australian parents and those in the service sectors who work with parents and families.

With a consortium of three of Australia's leading early-childhood agencies at its core, the Raising Children website was developed with the help of an extensive network including the Australian Government.

This is a website for Australian mothers, fathers, grandparents and anyone else who has responsibility for the care of children. We aim to meet the information needs of a wide range of users, from the just curious, to those looking for assistance with particular problems or issues, or those wanting to explore the science behind modern thinking on the care of children.



A Heartfelt Thankyou!

We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to Victoria University, for their ongoing support for Starlink.

For over 8 years, Victoria University sponsored the hard copy mail out of Starlink, managing the photocopying and distribution to those who still receiving it in the mail.

Special thanks also must go to Linda Tuddenham, who has been responsible for this process over the last few years and always provided such friendly and efficient service.

Most of our subscribers now receive Starlink by email, with only a small number still preferring to receive it by post.

We are therefore now taking over this task ourselves, but wanted to express our appreciation in this issue for the great support we have received from Victoria University over those years.



Promoting Positive Development Among Youth

<http://ocw.tufts.edu/Course/31>

This site contains materials used in an Undergraduate course of the same name held at TUFTS University in 2006.

The online resources include 7 lectures, with full text and slides, as well as a collection of student class presentations that make for interesting reading.

Some Starlink readers may find this a useful resource, although the materials provided do have a qualifying statement: *Please note that the course as presented here does not contain the full content of the course as taught at Tufts. The included content is based on material the Tufts faculty and instructors choose to include, as well as factors such as content preparation, software compatibility, and intellectual property and copyright restrictions.*

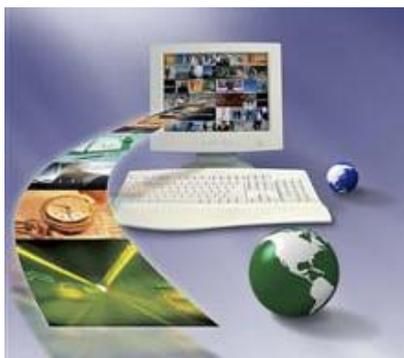
This course is only one of a number provided online through Tufts Open Courseware.

Great universities constantly expand their reach, working across traditional boundaries to grasp and meet the global community's most critical needs. This begins with sharing knowledge -- among colleagues, among departments, among schools and finally across countries and continents.

Tufts OpenCourseWare is part of a new educational movement initiated by MIT where course content is accessible for free to everyone online. Tufts' initial offerings demonstrate the University's strength in the life sciences, as well as a multidisciplinary approach, an international perspective and an underlying ethic of service to our local, national and international communities.



DonorTec



<http://www.donortec.com.au/>

Australian Not for Profits can now obtain Microsoft software and Cisco hardware at a small fraction of the retail price, thanks to a project called DonorTec.

Doug Jacquier the CEO of Community Information Strategies Australia Inc (CISA) says this is a wonderful, but often unknown, opportunity especially for small and medium organisations, to upgrade their IT capacity for a limited cost and to free up savings for other priorities.

DonorTec aims to assist a wide range of charities and Income Tax Exempt Not for Profit organisations by providing donated current software and hardware for a small administration fee, in conjunction with donor partners, Microsoft and Cisco.

Products such Microsoft Office 2007 Professional for \$26, Vista operating system upgrade for \$13, Digital Image Suite 2006 for \$6.50 and many more (including server software) are now available through DonorTec.

Many organisations will also be eligible for Cisco hardware products, including wireless routers and adapters. (Currently Cisco funding has been exceeded, so new applications must wait until August.)

Doug Jacquier says religious, business and professional associations are excluded but there are many organisations in the cultural, health, training, youth, conservation, and community services sectors that will be able to take advantage of this service.

Not for Profits only have to register their details and show that they are an accredited Income Tax Exempt organisation by the Australian Taxation Office and have an Australian Business Number (ABN).

Source: Pro Bono Australia

Wisdom doesn't automatically come with old age. Nothing does - except wrinkles. It's true some wines improve with age. But only if the grapes were good in the first place." (Abigail Van Buren)

Mentor

<http://www.mentoring.org/>

For more than a decade, MENTOR/ National Mentoring Partnership has been working to expand the world of quality mentoring. MENTOR believes that, with the help and guidance of an adult mentor, each child can discover how to unlock and achieve his or her potential.

On this site you'll find a wide range of information and resources related to youth mentoring.

There are many resources to help in establishing and conducting a mentoring program:

http://www.mentoring.org/program_staff/index.php

For example, see the *Elements of Effective Practice Toolkit* at

http://www.mentoring.org/program_staff/eeptoolkit/index.php

2007 International Appreciative Inquiry Conference

The Power of Positive Change

17-19 September 2007

<http://www.2007aiconference.com/>

Would you like a wonderfully energizing and inspiring experience?

Are you able to travel to Orlando, Florida, in September?

If your answer to these questions is “yes”, here is a great opportunity to register for the 2007 International Appreciative Inquiry Conference at a significantly reduced rate.

The conference will be held at Disney’s Yacht and Beach Club Resorts in Orlando, Florida, USA.

The standard registration fee is \$1,895 USD, but we have been invited to offer a discounted rate of \$1,295 USD to our Starlink subscribers.

You need to register before 30 June, and use this promotional code: **BECB50**

VERY IMPORTANT: To register for the event please go to <http://www.2007aiconference.com/step1.cfm> and be sure to type in your code **BECB50** to be properly credited for the discount.

About The Conference:

This 2007 International AI Conference represents a milestone in the evolution of the “positive strengths” movement by bringing together the strengths-based organizational change approaches of Appreciative Inquiry with state-of-the-art insights and tools of Positive Psychology. The Conference will elevate the field to new levels of impact and potential.

The 2007 Conference will feature original Keynote participation with David Cooperrider, the pioneering thought leader and co-creator of Appreciative Inquiry, Martin E.P. Seligman, the father of Positive Psychology, Marcus Buckingham, researcher, author and thought leader on Positive Leadership, Barbara Fredrickson, the world’s leading researcher on Positive Emotions, and Diana Whitney and Jane Watkins, noted authors of the most successful books on AI.



Get the inside perspective and learn “how to” steps to produce innovative products, processes, and new organizational change approaches using proven AI positive change methodologies.

Learn how to harness the strengths of your employees and engage them in positive change initiatives to increase effectiveness and boost bottom line results.

See how forward thinking organizations are using AI strengths-based initiatives to achieve triple (economic, environmental and social) bottom line goals.

You will also hear highlights of breakthrough results from leading organizations, including; Hewlett Packard, Boeing, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Yahoo, EPA, McKinsey, U.S. Cellular, Fairmont Minerals and Lockheed Martin.

Similar Students, Different Results: Why Do Some Schools Do Better?

http://www.edsource.org/pub_abs_simstu05.cfm

What schools do and what resources they have for doing it can make a powerful difference in the achievement of students from low-income backgrounds, according to findings from this two-year EdSource study.

While the data obtained through the study is California-based, the findings have implications for all educators.

From the above website, you can download an executive summary or the full report as a whole or in segments. There are also links to newspaper articles that highlight issues raised for debate by the report.

Interesting reading!

“The bottom line is this”, Allen said one principal told her, “We don’t have an expectation of the home. We don’t blame the home. We can’t teach parents. We don’t worry about whose responsibility it should be. We just consider it ours.”



All Kids are Our Kids

<http://www.search-institute.org/catalog/product.php?productid=16169>

Subtitled *What Communities Must Do to Raise Caring and Responsible Children and Adolescents*, this is the second edition of *All Kids are Our Kids* by Dr. Peter L. Benson, Ph.D., President of the Search Institute in the US.

All Kids are Our Kids presents a comprehensive vision of what children and adolescents need to grow up healthy and explains how to unleash the extraordinary power of community when people unite around healthy development for children and adolescents.

- HumourAdventure®
- Inspired Performance
- Stand & Deliver
- Bee Haven
- Wellbeing
- Change
- Organisational Development & Learning
- Strategic Planning
- Conference Energizers
- Speaking

Address: PO Box 197, Boronia, VIC , 3156
Phone: +61 3 9758 2528
Email: starlink@bjseminars.com.au
Web: <http://www.bjseminars.com.au>

● ... inspiring and connecting people

Inspired Performance

Are you facing the challenge of implementing and maintaining an effective process for reviewing staff performance?

Our Inspired Performance seminars can assist you to develop a user-friendly and strength-based approach that inspires learning, growth and positive change.

Seminars draw on the principles and practices of Appreciative Inquiry and provide an alternative to traditional problem-focused approaches

For more information, call (03) 9758 2528 or email info@bjseminars.com.au



"I've been to Wollongong, Geelong, Kurrajong, Mullumbimby, Mittagong, Molong, Grong Grong, Goondiwindi, Yarra Yarra, Bouindarra, Wallangarra, Turramurra, Boggabri, Gundagai, Narrabri, Tibooburra, Gulgong, Adelong, Billabong, Cabramatta, Parramatta, Wangaratta, Coolangatta ... what's it matter?" (Lucky Starr)



Reflections
CHRIS BENNETT

I've Been Everywhere

Back in the early sixties, Australian pop singer, Lucky Starr, sang his hit tune *I've Been Everywhere*. In a rapid fire delivery he belted out several names of all the places he had visited.

Besides being a catchy tune and one that I still enjoy, the song reminds me of all the places where I have coached, trained, presented or facilitated.

And I feel like I have been everywhere too.

Five places that stick in my mind are unfortunately memorable for all the wrong reasons. Despite the best intentions from the organizer of the event and myself, here is what happened.

I found myself ...

- Teaching a Tai Chi session in a gymnasium with a band practicing next door.
- Presenting at a conference held in a winery, which had a large room of tables, no stage and several pillars in the middle of the room.

- In a library with over sixty participants, where some had to stand in the aisles to fit into the room
- In an office area, where non participants occasionally walked through the group and my presentation.
- In a hall where there was no air conditioning, after lunch when it was 35 degrees outside, to a group of people who did not want to be there.

Often organisers have no choice in the rooms they have available to offer a presenter.



They can be restricted by budgets, rooms available on a given day and many other factors that can come into play when organising an event.

Organisers and presenters do have one thing in common. They both want to do everything they can to make an event a success. It is in their interests as professionals to do so.

So what can you do when you are faced with a potential disaster?

One option is to throw a temper tantrum, whine and complain.

The other option is to adapt.

I arrive at the venue early, so I can quickly assess the conditions, talk with the organiser and then, if required, make whatever changes necessary to improve the situation.

If that doesn't work then I try to ignore the conditions and focus only on my performance.

And after one of those rare 'memorable' events, I sing *I've Been Everywhere*.

It makes me feel better.