



A Faculty of One:

Navigating the Complexities of Interdisciplinary Work

R. David Lankes, Follett Chair

The Formula for Success in Academia

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While $ME < Fish_{Biggest}$ {
then $(pond \div 2)$ };

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The Information Field



LEADING AND PROMOTING THE INFORMATION FIELD.

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PENNSTATE



COLLEGE OF INFORMATION
SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY

Managing Information, Powering Intelligence

INFORMATION SCIENCES AND
TECHNOLOGY BUILDING



Information Science as a Revelatory Case

- Growth of Undergraduate Education
- Strongly Aligned Professional Communities
- Strong Societal/Service Mission
- Interdisciplinary



- Public Policy
- Theology
- Education/Literacy
- Information Retrieval/
Data Science
- Film Production
- History
- Librarianship/Archives

The Information Dilemma

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- Information Fields?
 - Digital Humanities
 - Technology
 - Analytics
 - Computer Science
 - Transportation

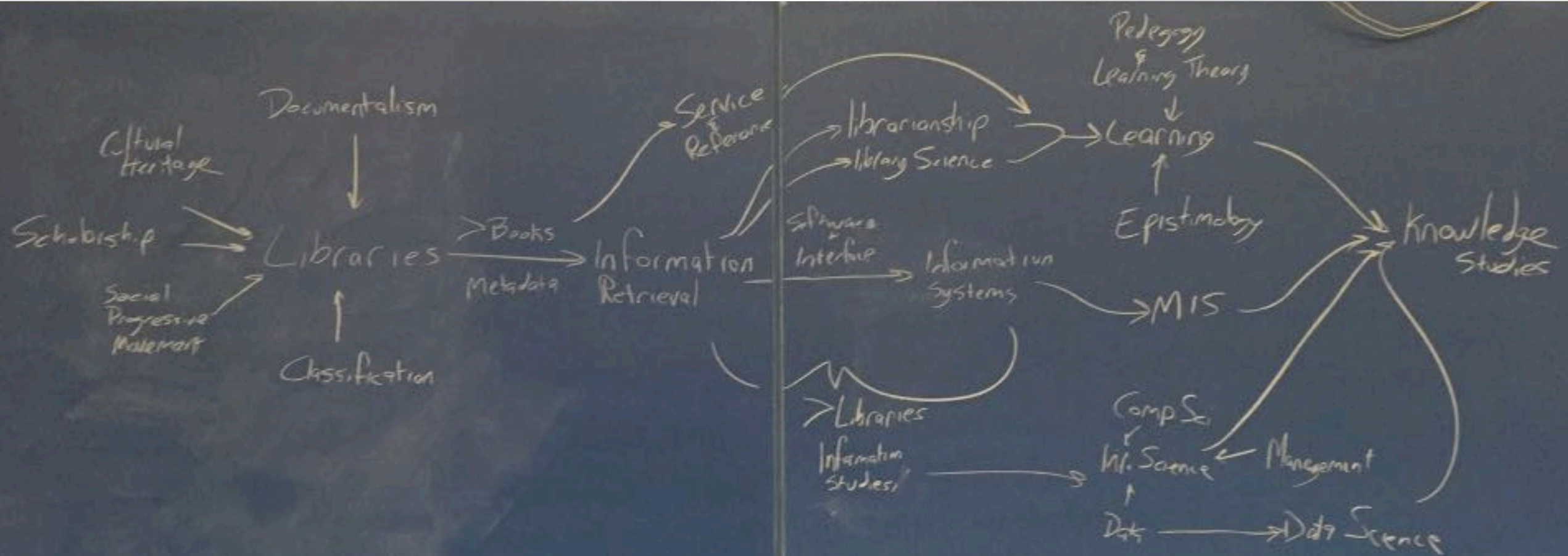
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 - Trans-Disciplinary
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 - Cross-Disciplinary
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The Information Dilemma



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- Buckland: as knowledge, as process, as thing
- Zins: 54 Scholar Delphi

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Productive = Changes in understanding or direction of conversants

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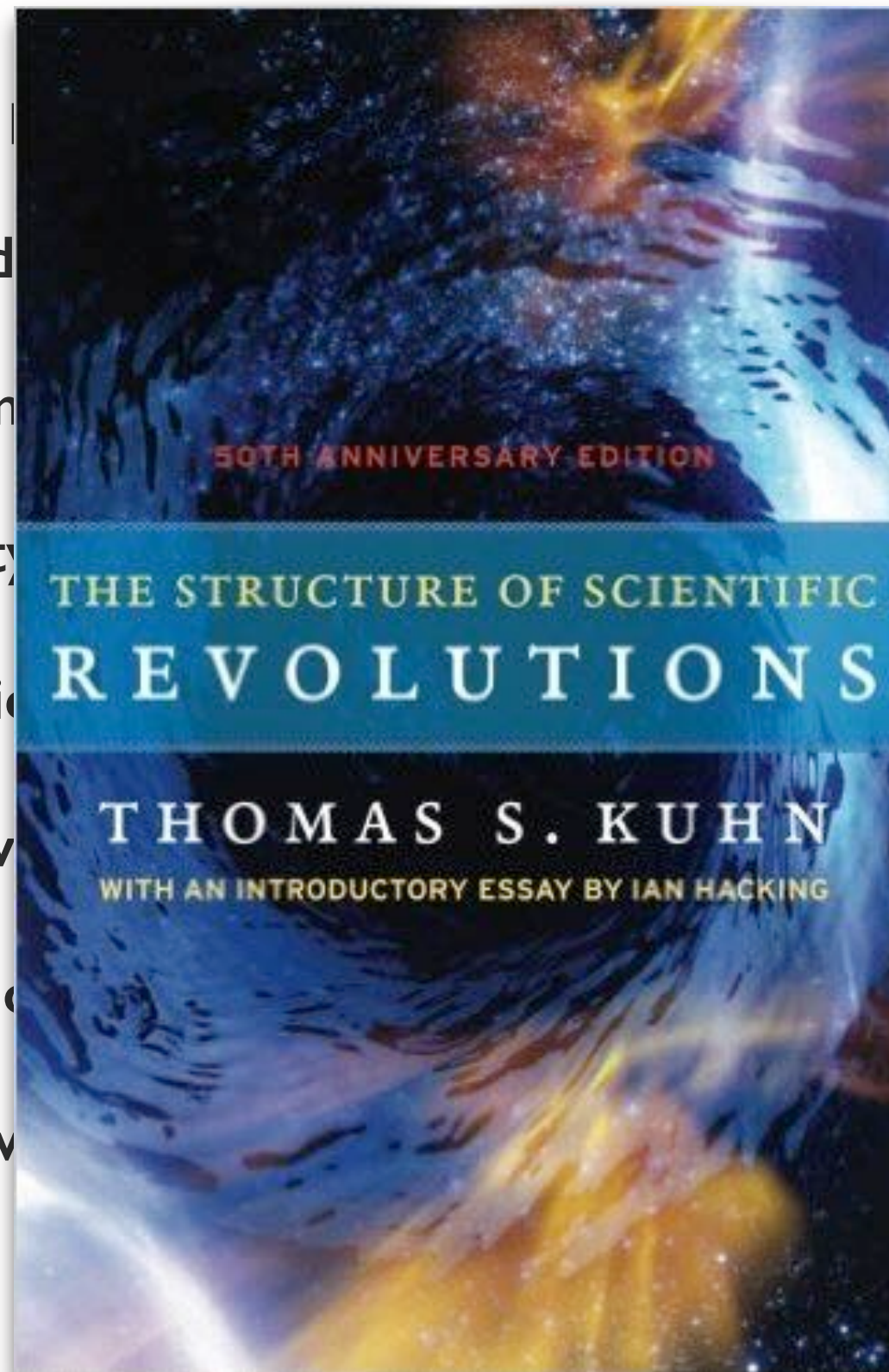
However, a conversational view is one of engagement

That these are challenging, often difficult, times for academic libraries is no news ... Concern for professionalism, with its attention to accountability and responsibility, abounds. Unprecedented growth in technology provides vast new opportunities for communication, and the availability of information far outstrips most people's capacity to digest it all. In the face of this information explosion, it is ironic that academic librarians are casting about for an appropriate myth or model for library service ...I suggest that we begin to think of libraries as centers for conversation and of ourselves as mediators of and participants in the conversations of the world.

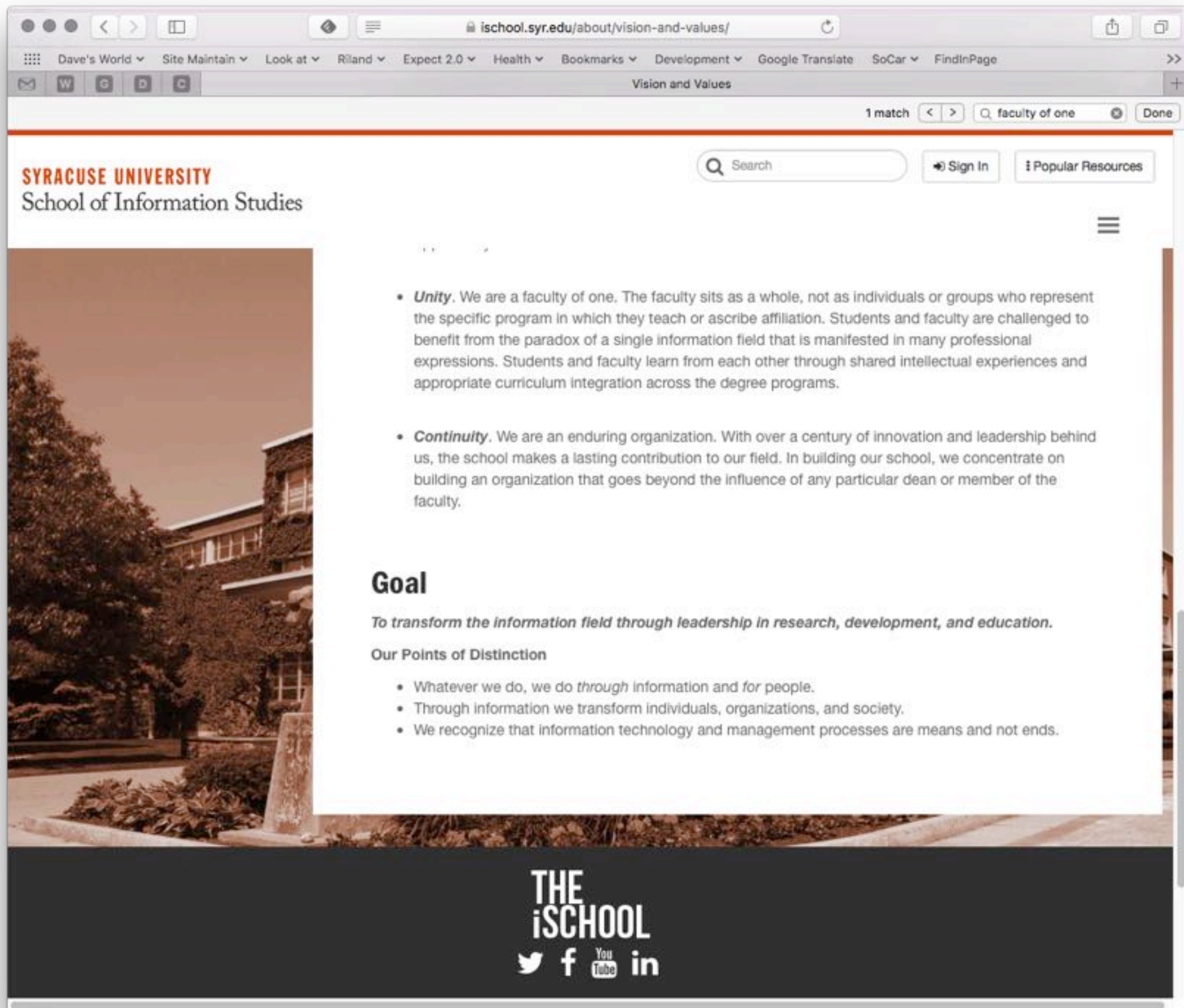
Joan Bechtel | 1986

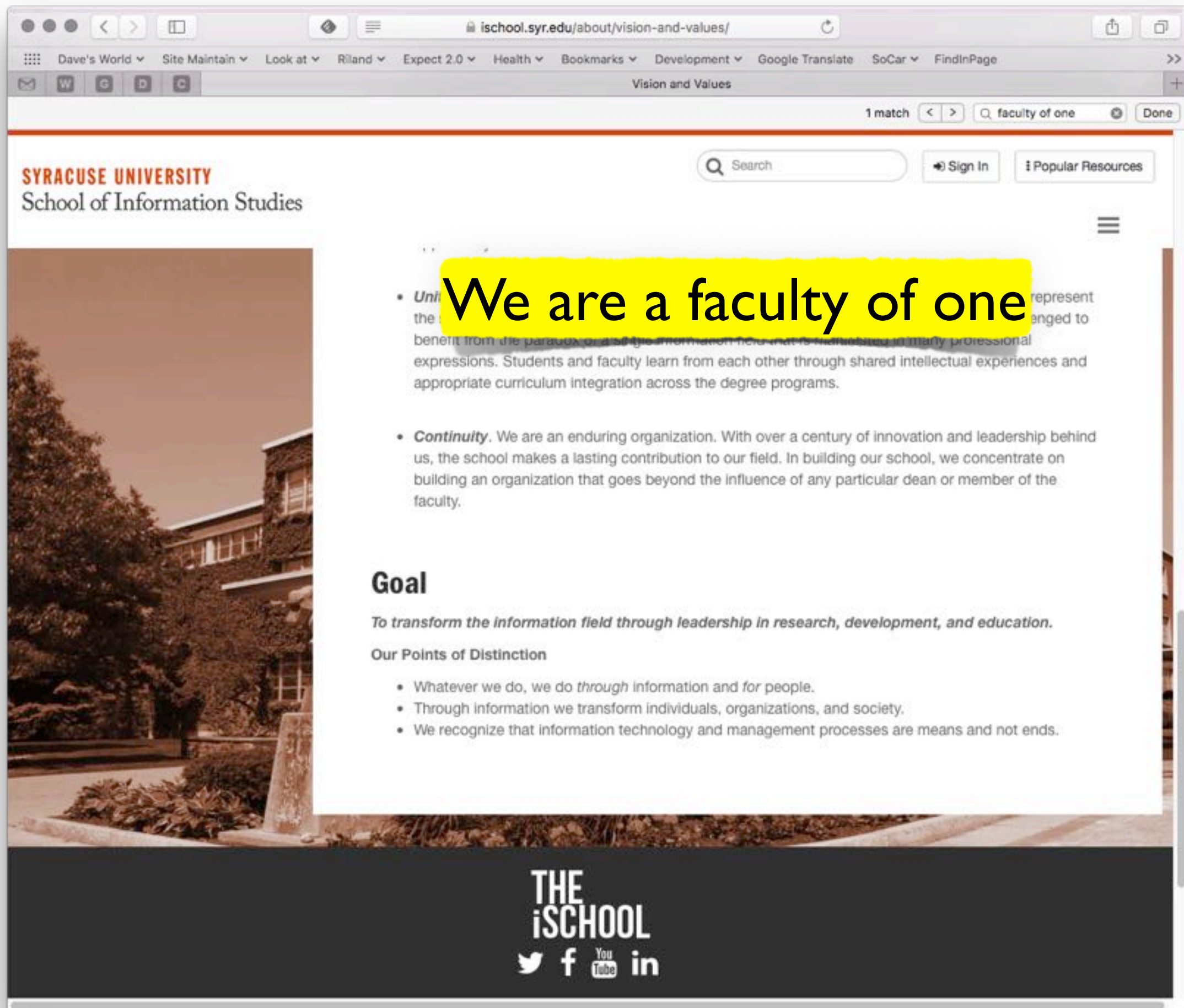
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Jean Bechtel 1986





We are a faculty of one

- **Unity.** We represent the the benefit from the paradox of the information field that is maintained in many professional expressions. Students and faculty learn from each other through shared intellectual experiences and appropriate curriculum integration across the degree programs.
- **Continuity.** We are an enduring organization. With over a century of innovation and leadership behind us, the school makes a lasting contribution to our field. In building our school, we concentrate on building an organization that goes beyond the influence of any particular dean or member of the faculty.

Goal

To transform the information field through leadership in research, development, and education.

Our Points of Distinction

- Whatever we do, we do *through* information and *for* people.
- Through information we transform individuals, organizations, and society.
- We recognize that information technology and management processes are means and not ends.







Teaching





Teaching



Research





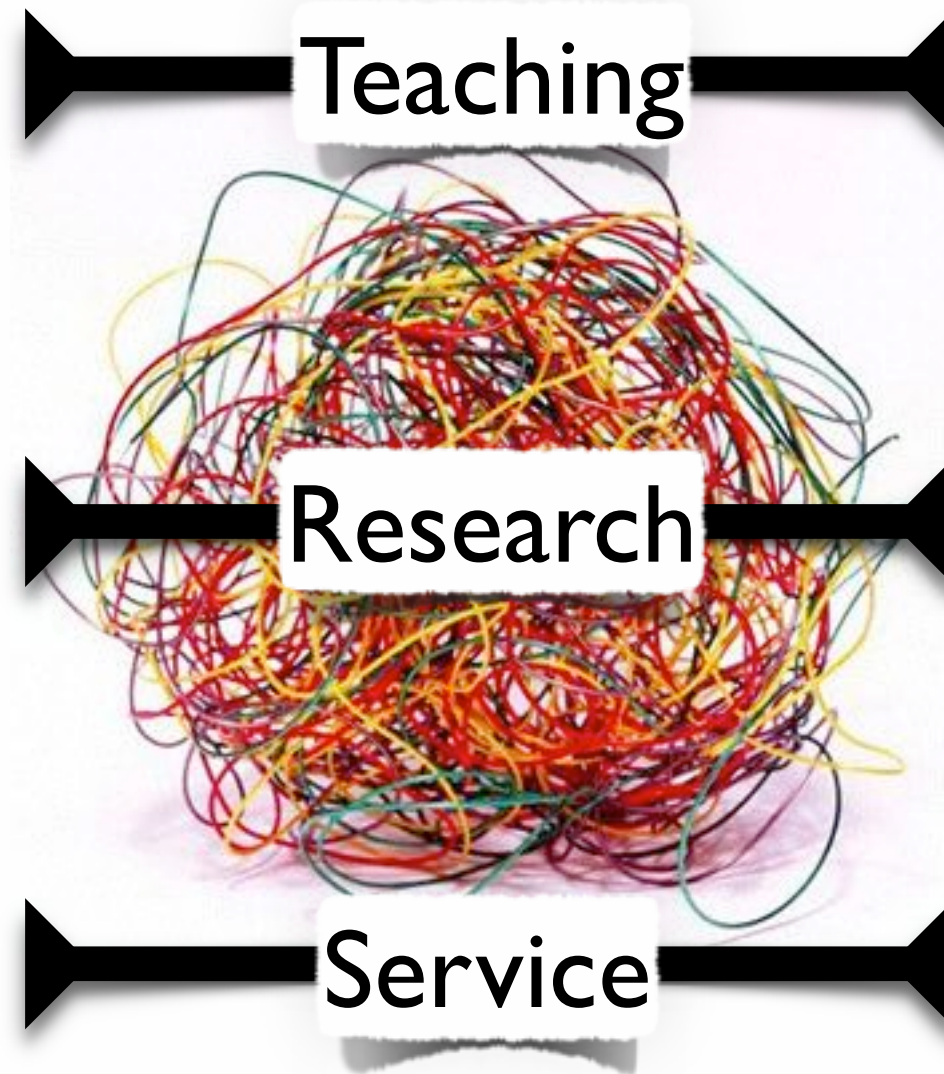
Teaching

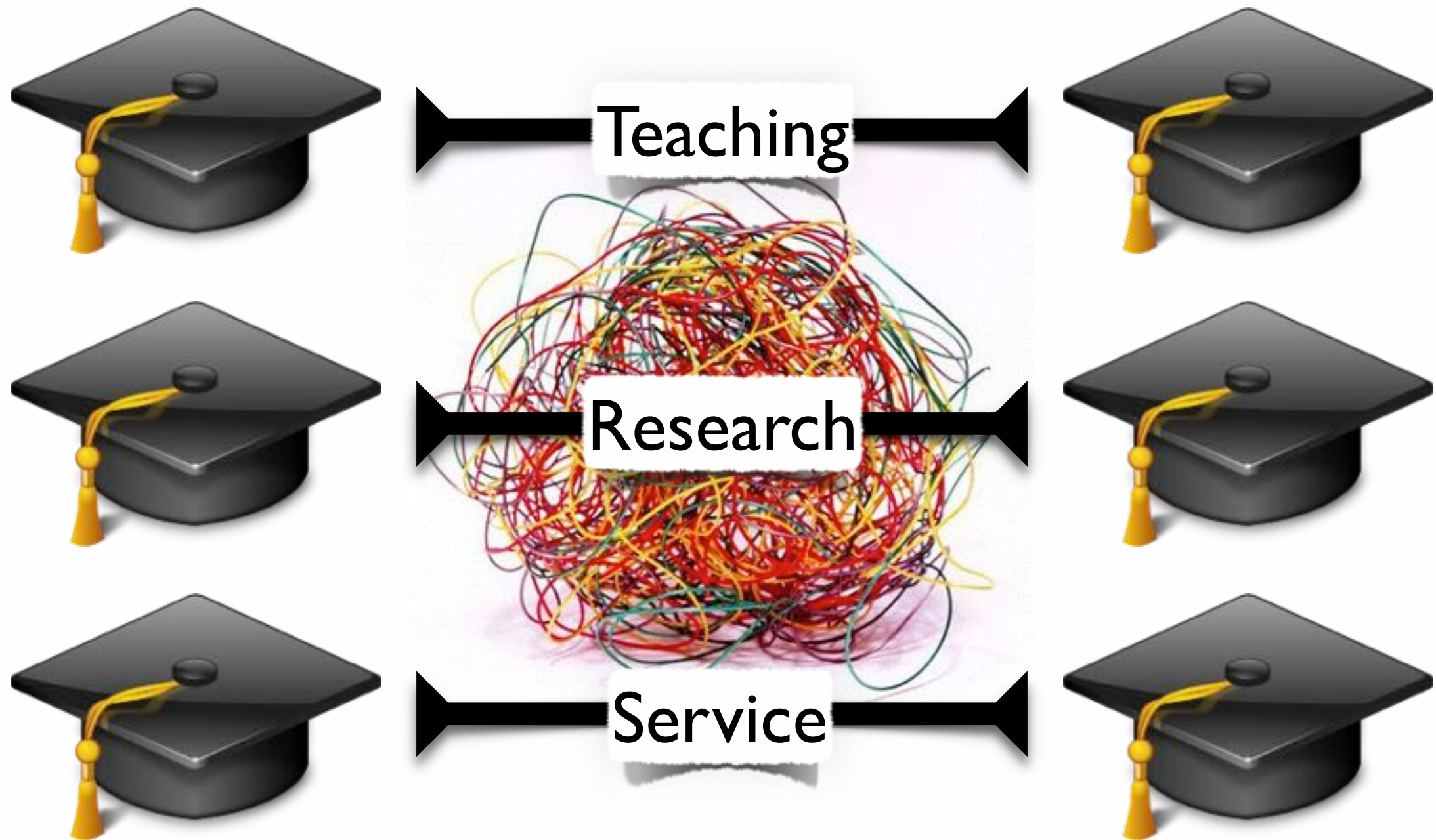


Research



Service





Common Values:

Respect

Commitment to Converse

Transformative Social Engagement

So What?

- Move Past Depth versus Breadth False Dichotomy
- Depth in Engaged Conversation
 - Concepts of Public Scholarship Help
 - Focusing on Impact Breaks Down Boundaries
 - Thematic Texts, Summer Workshops, Internal “Visiting Scholars,” High Impact Thematic Courses

Robert Calin- Jageman

Lund-Gill Chair



Opportunity

- The College That Shall Be Named
 - Moving From School to School of Thought