



“Our Finest Hour” April 22, 2020

Good rainy “Hump Day” to all,

Hope you enjoyed yesterday’s near perfect spring weather. I actually picked lettuce, radishes, and spinach between a couple of afternoon Zoomers. Then, Dean Ron Del Vecchio sent me the follow photo from the Mountain Grove campus.

<https://blogs.missouristate.edu/fruitexperimentstation/2020/04/21/goose-eggs/>

I told Ron it reminded me of a story I used to read to first-grade classes, “Mother Bruce.” Bruce is a grumpy bear who loves to cook eggs gourmet-style. He searches the internet for different recipes, and then cooks his eggs. Whenever the goose eggs Bruce was about to cook started hatching, he ended up with four goselings, so he became their mother, due to imprinting. Cutting to the end, since Bruce’s efforts to teach his goselings migration didn’t work out, they took a bus to Miami and spent the winter months there. A turtle hatched on the beach, saw one of the geese, and said, “Mama.”

There are a couple other “Mother Bruce” books in the series, and “yes” I am missing my “tour de reading” jaunts to elementary classrooms. I miss the hugs from elementary students known as “kiddos” by their teachers, and I miss seeing these same children randomly at a park, store, or function somewhere. They most always come running and hugging, asking when I plan to read to their class again. I just never got that in Hill Hall. 😊 The Title IX Office tells me there is good reason.

Speaking of Hill Hall, normally on Administrative Assistants’ Day (which is today) I give Rose & Sharon a dozen roses, a box of chocolates, a free lunch, and an all expense paid trip to Disneyland. “Given these uncertain times” (which is actually a euphemism for this “damn coronavirus crap”), somehow Administrative Assistants’ Day slipped through the proverbial cracks. Instead, today, I dumped a bunch of LC work onto Sharon, asked Rose to drive to the MSU Postal Services Office and risk her life to pick up our junk mail.

Switch to serious:

Rose & Sharon, as well as all our administrative assistants, are valuable members of the COE team. Without them we simply cannot function. Please let our team know how much we appreciate them. As the saying goes, “you don’t know just how much you appreciate someone until you are ordered to shelter in place (sic).” COE is indebted to our administrative and executive assistants. Thank you all very much. Sincerely.

Also serious:

We need to start a Department Heads' Day. Much has been asked of our department heads of late, and they have stepped up mightily. In turn, our faculty have been absolutely amazing in terms of assisting students, revamping course delivery, and leading by example. Everyone is appreciated, and everyone is doing a tremendous job. "Thank you," just doesn't quite seem to be a sufficient way to express gratitude, but sometimes that is the best one can do. I suspect your valiant efforts will be validated during the summer and fall terms as our students continue to succeed as a result of your fine work.

Because of you, this is, indeed, "our finest hour."

David