From Undecided to Open-Minded: Reframing Uncertainty as Opportunity
"The real voyage of discovery is not in seeing new landscapes, but having new eyes."
-Marcel Proust
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Sentence Relay Activity
Each person will go up to the board and write one word to start a sentence. Without speaking to one another, the next person will go to the wall and add another word. When each person returns to the line, the next person may go. At the end of one minute, the goal is to have one long, complete sentence created together as a group.
**Sentence Relay Activity**

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"The Question"

- What do you want to be when you grow up?
- What are you going to do with that major?
- What are you doing to do after graduation?

Two Career Metaphors

Happenstance Learning Theory

**happenstance definition:**
something that happens by chance

- Balancing the two extremes of box-one can lead to approach our careers.
- It all depends on luck
- It all depends on one's plans and actions

Reflect:
What is an unexpected or unplanned event that helped positively influence one of your major career or life decisions?

Observing how happenstances have impacted your own careers can help minimize and reduce the impact of not having it completely planned out.
"The Question"

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* What are you going to do with that major?
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Happenstance Learning Theory

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Balancing the two extremes of how we can tend to approach our careers:

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Happenstance Learning Theory

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Balancing the two extremes of how we can tend to approach our careers:

* It all depends on luck
* It all depends on one's plans and actions
"Every situation can be seen as presenting potential opportunities if individuals can recognize them and then take action to capitalize on them. The interaction of planned and unplanned actions is so complex that the consequences are virtually unpredictable and can best be labeled as happenstance."

~John Krumboltz
Two Career Metaphors
Essential to have in your "leadership operating system":

- Curiosity
- Flexibility
- Optimism
- Persistence
Reflect:
What is an unexpected or unplanned event that helped positively influence one of your major career or life decisions?

Disclosing how happenstances have impacted our own careers can help normalize and reinforce the concept of not having life completely planned out!
Using HLT In Your Leadership Development

Lead By Keeping Options Open

Lead By Taking Risks

Level Up And Take Action!
(Put the "Happen" in Happenstance)
Lead By Keeping Options Open

- **Liberate** yourself from the pressure of committing to one path since:
  
a) we as people change - abilities, interests, education, life circumstances, etc.
  
b) the new economy and world of work is constantly changing

- **Pivot is the new normal**
“Pivoting throughout our careers, is the new normal.... a Pivot mindset is not one that proposes reckless job hopping by quitting a job at the first sign of displeasure. Rather, it emphasizes shifting naturally within your role and from one position into the next, while remaining open to a wide variety of options along the way.”
• https://youtu.be/IzFjoBQHGVM
Road Trip Nation: Combining Interests

http://roadtripnation.com/leader/ana-hortillosa/ana-hortillosa-interview
Lead By Taking Risks

• Be proactive in the face of uncertainty—one small step at a time
• Doing something is usually better than doing nothing
• Recognize the future starts NOW
• Reframe mistakes into valuable learning opportunities
• Move forward by trying again or try something else
• Celebrate your victories along the way

Adapted from “Luck is No Accident” by John Krumboltz and Al Levin, 2010, Impact Publishers
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Make Mistakes

Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You’re doing things you’ve never done before, and more importantly, you’re Doing Something.

• https://youtu.be/97Gw0sTVLZc
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Risks that Paid Off

What stands out to you most from these stories?
Nicole Baldwin, Founder of Biao Skincare
http://roadtripnation.com/leader/nicole-baldwin/nicole-baldwin-shark-tank

Hannah Song, President of LiNK (Liberty for North Korea)

Howard Schultz, CEO of Starbucks
• https://youtu.be/aOmfvna1CTI
Level Up And Take Action!
(Put the "Happen" in Happenstance)

Cultivate Curiosity
- [List of points related to curiosity]

Cultivate Connections
- [List of connections points]

Cultivate Other Experimental Wanderings
- [List of experimental wanderings points]

What else???
Cultivate Curiosity

- professional development is ongoing (podcasts, TED talks, workshops, etc.)
- research areas of interests (ICC, O-NET, etc.)
- View internships with a happenstance filter
- The Steve Jobs approach→ taking classes outside of major
Cultivate Connections

Informational interviews- Find someone who is passionate about their job and ask questions about their career journey (Road Trip nation approach)

At every social function, challenge yourself to speak to one new person

Use family, friends, faculty as resources

Attend UCD Career Fairs!
Cultivate Other Experimental Wanderings

Take up a new hobby

Study/work in a new place (in the US or abroad)

Volunteer with an organization that aligns with their values and/or interests

Join a campus club or professional association

Help to organize an event

What else???
Life is Not An Algebra Problem
• https://youtu.be/BauFlpkvbxQ
Embrace opportunities, be a leader by being open-minded, and enjoy the journey!

We must be willing to let go of the life we planned so as to have the life that is waiting for us.

Joseph Campbell

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