



CAME Voice/Voix

Inspiring Through the Heart: The Soul on Fire podcast series

Anne Wong, Health Sciences, McMaster University (wongan@mcmaster.ca)

Faculty development programs traditionally take the form of instructional workshops, lectures and seminars. However, we think that other modalities of educational delivery should be explored to enable a range of learning opportunities. For instance, it has been our observation that personal narratives can be a compelling way to inspire and motivate. Our innovative podcast series “*Soul on Fire: Narratives that Inspire*” was developed, based on the notion that the “most powerful weapon on earth is the human soul on fire” (Foch) and that “education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire” (Yeats).

The “*Soul on Fire: Narratives that Inspire*” podcast series is a collaborative Faculty of Health Sciences Program for Faculty Development (PFD) and MacPherson Institute faculty development project at McMaster University, supported by a McMaster “Forward With Integrity Grant”. The podcast series showcased the narratives of exemplary McMaster faculty educators in order to inspire listeners to recognize their own passion and academic potential. In doing so we sought to stimulate reflective practice, and to promote teaching, educational scholarship and academic engagement.

We put together a list of exemplary faculty across all faculties at McMaster University informed by a track record of outstanding academic contributions and achievements as well as nominations from department chairs and university leaders. The faculty were chosen based on their enthusiasm and passion, dedication and impact. We interviewed nine of these faculty members about their personal and professional journeys. Participants were asked about their academic work and interests, what inspires their own passion and lessons learned. Each interview was recorded, edited and formatted as a 30-minute podcast.

The launch of the podcast series was publicised through the University websites, newsletters, email notifications and through social media. One of the development team (AW) was interviewed about the podcast series by CFMU, the local McMaster University radio station and one podcast interview was aired in its entirety.

The “*Soul on Fire: Narratives that Inspire*” podcast series has received much interest as expressed by faculty and listener uptake. It was featured as a poster presentation at the International Conference for Physician Health in September 2016 under the theme of “increasing joy in medicine”. Its effectiveness in promoting faculty engagement, reflection and practice is being assessed through online uptake, discussions, and post podcast surveys. We hope that this information will help inform the use of narrative podcasts as a pedagogical modality.

You can access the podcasts from the ‘Soul on Fire’ podcast website: <http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/on-fire/>