

Series Programming

The late “Last Lecturer,” Dr. Randy Pausch from Carnegie Mellon University (PA), brought series programming poignantly to life when he participated in CMU’s “Last Lecture” program. This series, which is sponsored on many college campuses, allows participants to give a lecture as if it were their very last.

This is but one type of series programming that can take place on campus. Here are some others to consider and to get you and your group thinking:

To learn more about Dr. Randy Pausch, to access his lectures, to order them and more, head to www.cmu.edu/randyslecture/.

■ A How-to Series.

Ask different faculty, staff, students, and community members to share how to do something, from making balloon animals to concocting delicious lasagna. The website www.ehow.com has *tons* of ideas to get your how-to juices flowing!

■ A Time in a Bottle Series.

Talk about different time-related topics, from a practical “time management” program to the more abstract “making the most of your time on earth” discussion.

■ A Music to Our Ears Series.

Celebrate different types of music from different eras with dances, concerts, lectures, and open mic jam sessions. Give students an opportunity to visit the music and arts building to try different instruments. Make music!

■ A Social Justice Series.

Invite a Peace Corps volunteer to share her experiences. Program around Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. Share poverty statistics. Discuss the meaning of a living wage. Bring issues of social justice to life through this series.

■ A Creative Spirit Series.

Celebrate the creative spirit by hosting painting classes, doing right-brain aerobics, chalking a campus parking lot (with permission), creating puppets with local schoolchildren, making a “Creative Geniuses” honor wall that students can add to, and more!

Awareness Weeks

Themed awareness weeks come in all shapes and sizes. For instance, at Ithaca College (NY) they held a Conservative Awareness Week while the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill annually sponsors a Race Relations Week. And, although we haven’t yet heard about a Lizard Lover’s Awareness Week, it’s probably only a matter of time!

So, what type of awareness week might you like to try? Consider the needs and interests of your fellow students, such as:

- ✓ Career Choices Awareness Week
- ✓ Anxiety and Depression Awareness Week
- ✓ Healthy Relationships Week
- ✓ Fitness Fads Awareness Week
- ✓ Financial Fitness Week
- ✓ Summer Options Awareness Week
- ✓ Pet Care Awareness Week
- ✓ Etiquette Awareness Week
- ✓ Anime Awareness Week
- ✓ Skin Care Awareness Week

Collaborate with different campus and community groups to make these awareness weeks come vividly to life!

■ An “Out in the Real World” Series.

Give students practical tools they can use in their lives after college by sponsoring workshops on things like cooking for one, car maintenance, financial fitness, pet ownership, finding a place to live, stretching your clothing budget, and more.

■ An Animal Appreciation Series.

So many people love animals—so give them what they want! This series could include dog agility trials, a cat show, visits to the local animal shelter, showing some cool Discovery Channel documentaries, a professor talking about her primate research, a trip to the local wildlife sanctuary, bird watching expeditions, and much more.

Tune into students’ interests and you’ll soon have an excellent series to offer!