

REQUIREMENTS FOR DIALOG VII PARTICIPATION

Otherwise known as "The Rules"

Just so you know what you are getting yourself into,

Do not accept the invitation to the DIALOG VII symposium unless you are willing to abide by the following ☺:

- **TIME: This is a 24-hour/day, full-week commitment.** *All participants will be required to attend the entire symposium. Plan to:*

Arrive at Mobile, AL (or DISL if you are driving) by 18:00 pm on Saturday December 3 and Depart on Saturday December 10. You may leave DISL after 6:00 pm on Friday night if absolutely necessary, but the last evening is always the most fun and you really will be sorry if you miss it.

You will be held captive at the DISL for the duration of the meeting. We will schedule one afternoon for some sort of field trip as part of the group activities. There will be NO time for visiting with family or friends and housing will be available only to participants unless there is a medical or child-related need. If you have a child who needs to be with you, and/or an assistant of some sort, we will do our best to accommodate that. Please contact Sue Weiler, weiler@whitman.edu to discuss arrangements.

Once we know your travel schedule, **Sue Weiler's office** will inform you as to how to go about making airline reservations and make reservations at DISL in your name for the time period of the symposium.

• **REVAMPED DISSERTATION TITLE:** Re-craft your dissertation title to use it as a 'hook' to draw in a reporter at an interdisciplinary meeting such as the AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science, publisher of *Science*). The context here is a broad interdisciplinary, international scientific meeting, a meeting with many concurrent sessions and one that attracts reporters from many of the major newspapers. Your primary chance to get attention is through the presentation title. With many concurrent sessions, you need to be easily understood by a non-specialist and compelling in your word craft to attract a reporter.

Take some time to think of an interesting, intriguing title for your talk - one that will grab a journalist's attention. Some good examples from the AAAS 2004 meeting include:

- Fugitive Fish: The Ecological, Economic, and Social Consequences of Escaped Salmon
 - Taking the Heat - Can Ocean Fertilization Really Help Cool Climate?
 - The Best Drug Never Created: The Implications of Understanding and Harnessing the Placebo Effect
- The OLD title will go in the program book. When you give your oral presentation to the group, present your NEW title along with your OLD one on your first slide.

• **8-MINUTE ORAL PRESENTATION:** Each participant will present an **EIGHT-minute overview** of his/her Ph.D. dissertation research (with additional 1 minute for questions/discussion, more time for questions if you take less than the allotted 8 minutes....) I can't stress enough that this will be a very interdisciplinary group, unfamiliar with all that jargon you take so much for granted. So prepare your talk as a short 'plenary address' for a broad interdisciplinary audience rather than the sort of presentation generally made at a discipline-specific meeting. You need to provide a background/context for your work--what is the 'big picture' and where does your work fit in the grand scheme of things. Be sure to include the following:

- Brief introduction to the issue/area of research to provide a context for those outside your field;
- Statement of the specific problem you addressed and why it was important enough to consume so many years of your time;
- Highlights of methodology and results;
- Significance of your results (why should anyone care about your work);
- Current work and plans for the future

Some of you guys have been "out" for a couple of years and are now bored with your thesis work. You are free to juggle the 5 sections any way you like so long as it doesn't add up to more than 8

minutes and you make at least passing reference to your thesis work....

Save the details for your poster presentation. Remember, 8 minutes is the absolute maximum that you will be allowed to talk. A good rule of thumb for any talk is no more than one slide per minute, so don't plan on more than 8 slides; less is more in this context! You can bring copies of your latest papers or other documents if you want to hand those out.

- **POSTER PRESENTATION.** Each person will be required to make a poster presentation. This does not have to be on your Ph.D. dissertation research. It can be on your Ph.D. research, on your current research or other professional activity, or some combination of the three. Allotted space will be a 4'x4'.

- **ON-SITE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS** Participants will take part in working groups to discuss emerging aquatic science research, education and policy issues. This is YOUR symposium. Once on site, you will meet with your peers to discuss and decide on topics for discussion. Plan to be an active participant in the process, and **come with some ideas for discussion** that will be appropriate for a broad interdisciplinary peer group.

- **SHARING ROOMS:** Each participant will reside at the **DISL** in the student dormitory. You will be sharing sleeping rooms with other symposium participants. Most rooms are doubles. We have a small number of single rooms. *Please contact Sue Weiler, dialog@whitman.edu, if for some reason you cannot or strongly prefer not to share a room.*

- **FOOD PREFERENCES:**

- Inform dialog@whitman.edu if you have any strict food requirements (vegetarian, vegan, etc). Keep in mind you will be eating dormitory food.

- **HEALTH ISSUES:**

- Inform dialog@whitman.edu if you have any dietary restrictions.
- Inform dialog@whitman.edu if you have any health problems.

Information will be held confidentially by Susan Weiler and provided only on an as-needed basis.