When Adversity Hits, Tell Yourself a Positive Story

When tragic events like the Boston Marathon bombings happen we have a choice in the narrative we tell after the event. Terrorists want us to tell stories of fear, despair and hopelessness. Yet Bostonians decided to tell themselves and the world a very different narrative. They told stories of strength, resolve, courage, faith, unity and love.

This is significant because the stories you tell yourself determine how you respond to adversity and how you live your life.

When Charlie Ebersol, the producer of The Moment on USA Network, survived a plane crash that killed his younger brother, one of the first things his mother told him was, “You are allowed to be sad but you can’t be mad, sad. You have to make a purpose and turn this into something good.” Charlie said that this perspective changed his life. He went on to sell his company, gave up all the things he had been doing and focused only on the things he loved—which lead to him producing an inspiring television show like The Moment.

In television and life people get knocked down. Those who see themselves as victims stay down. But those who see themselves as heroes get back up and armed with optimism, courage and faith, they move forward and take action to create a brighter and better future.

In one of my favorite books, A Million Miles in a Thousand Years, author Donald Miller tells the story of a friend whose teenager daughter was rebelling, doing drugs and dating the wrong kind of guy. The dad decided he needed to stop yelling at his daughter and instead needed to create a different narrative for her life. He held a family meeting where he shared that they were going to raise money and build an orphanage in Mexico. At first his family thought he had lost his mind but then they all rallied behind the idea. His daughter even got excited about going to Mexico and meeting the kids there and posting pictures on her website.

A few months later when Donald Miller saw his friend again, he told Donald that everything changed for the better. His family was living a better story. His daughter even broke up with her boyfriend after he told her she was too fat. The dad said, “No girl who plays the role of a hero in her story dates a guy who uses her. She knows who she is. She just forgot for a little while.”

Those who study film making know that in every great movie the main character wants to achieve something but must overcome adversity and conflict in order to get it. And those who study life know it works the same way.

Whether you want to start a business, build a winning team, raise great kids, provide safe drinking water in Africa, help the homeless, find a cure for cancer, educate children or create a more peaceful world, adversity and
conflict will be part of your story as you strive to achieve your goal.

But when adversity hits you can choose to tell yourself and the world a positive story and work passionately to create a positive outcome.


Life is full of change, we just need to be aware of the change and adapt. In the past, those of us who logged onto K-State’s IT system were required to change our passwords a minimum of twice a year (February and September) and more often if needed. An article in K-State Today, informed us of the new change to University Policy. K-State eID passwords now need to be changed every 180 days in order to access K-State’s information technology resources (i.e., HRIS, iSIS, FIS, etc.) If you fail to change your password, you will lose access to K-State email and other resources. If you are wondering when your eID expires, go to K-State’s home page, on the upper right side, click “sign in”. Use your current eID and password to access your eProfile. If you do not change your password before your assigned date, it will lock you out of your email and other IT services.

Bill Spiegel, supervisor at Facilities Recycling, and his staff have been very busy this last month. Besides their normal work, there was RecycleMania, Earth Day, a trip to Flinthills Discovery Center and an interview on K-Man Radio. Bill wrote, “In February 2013, I was asked by the Interim Director Susie at the Flinthills Discovery Center to assist in the 1st Anniversary celebration of the center. In the process K-State Recycle Center provided a variety of recycle material which included cardboard boxes, 250 plastic containers ranging from 1/2 gallon to 5 gallon sizes, newspapers, plastic bottles in which children from ages 5-12 made objects in which to construct and disassemble. In addition we provided over 300 egg cartons in which the children made caterpillars and colored them. On the second floor of the Discovery I had many displays of recycle containers and information pamphlets to distribute. I also had a video display of the history of K-State recycling program. During the 7 hour time frame I discussed K-Staters recycling program to over 240 visitors of the Discovery Center. Becca Fusaro and Mitch Breeding volunteered over 6 hours of time to assist children playing with all the recycling material on the 3rd floor which greatly assisted the Discovery Center staff.”

Below are pictures of children at the Flinthills Discovery Center creating fun things from recycled material.
**Who's New...**

**April 1, 2013**

Tammy Powers was promoted to an Administrative Specialist. She is working for Jay Henning in the campus Post Office.

Jason Sellman was hired as a Custodial Specialist. He is working for Stephanie Brecheisen on the day Custodial crew.

Adam Ukena was hired as a temporary Administrative Assistant. He is working for Sandy Hoffman in the Training and Safety Shop.

Ralph Grooms was hired as a temporary Custodial Specialist. He is working for Michael Price on the night Custodial crew.

Tracey Burnett was hired as a Custodial Specialist. He is working for Steve Greinke on the night Custodial crew.

**April 15, 2013**

John Brown’s position was reallocated to a Physical Plant Supervisor Specialist. He is still working for Dale Boggs.

**April 15, 2013**

Thomas F. Burke was hired as a G.M.R.T. He is working for Donald Wainwright in the Electric Shop.

**April 29, 2013**:

Dennis G. DeBardeleben was hired as a Storekeeper Specialist. He is working for Sarah Davis in the Storeroom.

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I still find each day too short for all the thoughts I want to think, all the walks I want to take, all the books I want to read, and all the friends I want to see.  

~John Burroughs
Each year the Classified Senate recognizes “Years of Service” at their awards ceremony which was held April 24th this spring.

Years of service are calculated at the end of the previous year. The Classified Senate honors employees who have completed 5, 15, 25 and 35 years. They also offer awards for Employee of Year, Meritorious Service, and Award of Excellence.

For more information on these awards: [http://www.ksu.edu/classsenate/award.html](http://www.ksu.edu/classsenate/award.html)

Those who retired in 2012 were: Larry Darrow, Nick Garcia, Mary Rutherford and Howard Tubbs.


Receiving 15 year awards: Henry Billings, Chipper Cooper Jr., Rene Doherty, Charita Falley, Carol Foveaux, Martin Jones, Jane Mitchell, Rene’ Smalldridge and James Vesta.


Receiving an award for 35 years of service was Steven K. Releford. Steve passed away recently; his award will be given to his family.

Employee of the Year went to Darlene Jones. Darlene is a Custodial Lead Worker on Mary Grubbs’ crew.

Meritorious Service Awards: Michael Seymour, Chris Holliman, Jim Ukena and John Lacy.

Facilities’ Classified Senate representatives are: Michael Ashcraft, Dale Billam, Michael Seymour and Terri Wyrick.

Executive Council: President Dale Billam.
In his role as President, Dale presided over the ceremony this year. Dale did an excellent job. A special thanks to all who have served on the Classified Senate. We caught a candid photo while Dale was master of ceremonies.

In addition to the Classified Senate awards, the State of Kansas also recognizes employees when they achieve 10, 20, 30 and 40 years of service. Division of Facilities has a yearly ceremony to honor these employees and distribute their State of Kansas award pins.

Thank you to Becky R. Wolfe Taylor from KSU’s Speech & Hearing Family Center, who wrote these kind words:

“I just saw the Division of Facilities FM News for the first time, and I just had to let you know that is an AWESOME read! I am the Administrative Specialist at the Campus Creek Complex, and I get to work with many Facilities personnel. What a blessing it was to read about them, and who got hired (I actually met a new one yesterday, and didn't know he was new until this newsletter). And what a wonderful way to appreciate people who get caught doing good! I'm just very impressed with this publication, and look forward to reading the next one! Thank you!”

“Caught in the Act of Doing Good!”

Extending "kudos" to another individual is praise given for achievement.

Have you experienced or noticed a Facilities employee who is doing their job above and beyond the call of duty? If you see them doing random acts of kindness or going out of their way to help you or others in your area, building, or department, we want to know about it. So often the focus is on the negative aspects of a situation; however we would like to accent the positive and give recognition to our workers for a job well done. This is open to all Facilities employees, no matter what their role in our Division.

http://www.ksu.edu/facilities/forms/Caught.html