

re.web at the College of William and Mary
Transcript of: "Come rain or come shine."

Come rain or come shine, I am going to post a re.web podcast today. It is 3:34PM on Thursday, January 17, 2008 and this is Susan Evans. Today, I'm recording from my car, sitting outside the home of my daughter's voice teacher. I have about 25 minutes and if you hear what sounds like a soundtrack of steady rain, don't be fooled. It's the real thing - real rain drops are falling on my windshield and come rain or come shine I'm keeping my weekly commitment to the listeners of this podcast.

I'm so late recording this episode because today has been a busy, but exciting, day for the re.web project. Yesterday, at about 3:55PM, I received an email message from Michael Fox in the President's Office. Michael requested that Courtney Carpenter and I make a presentation about re.web for a 9:00AM meeting of the President and senior administrators. Courtney was already on the docket to attend this meeting and together we provided an update about the three design choices we're considering for the new W&M web site.

Fueled by your nearly 100 comments on our blog, and encouraged by many personal emails you've sent - we had a lot of fun, showing the designs and talking about your reactions to the three options. Two things happened at the presentation that I want to share - and come rain or come shine (and despite a laptop battery that is running low) - you'll hear them.

At 8:48AM, one of Jeff Herrick's crackerjack W&M students, arrived in the nick of time with the magic key to unlock the AV cabinet in the Board Room. You gotta have technology to show web designs. I am regularly reminded about the loyalty and good nature of our students.

At 8:55AM, I walked the two flights of stairs to my office in Blow Hall - and yes, I was discouraged. Despite our combined AV expertise, the unchangeable projector settings in the Board Room were not right for the web images I needed to project. To put it plainly, they made the proposed web designs look like crap. Now to my second favorite thing that happened ...

Joel Pattison, a web designer on the re.web project team, saw my face, knew something was up and told me that he could resize the images I'd be using in my presentation in the time before I had to be ready to present. Let me just say that that left Joel with 12 minutes. You know how this is going to end. Of course, he did it - I went up 2 minutes early knowing that I'd click on a web site with perfectly sized photos of the three design options.

This sort of thing happens a lot at the College - and even on a rainy, dreary day in Williamsburg, it puts a smile on my face. By the way, President Nichol and the senior administrators at W&M loved the designs.

Thanks for listening. Until next week.