Capstone Part 6: Regrouping

It’s been too long, CHC, I know. Here I am though! I’m still here!

Let’s start this chat with a little game of “Is This the First Draft of Michelle’s Translation, or an Entire Ream of Paper?”

Okay, did you make your guess?

Well, trick question. It is BOTH the first draft of my translation project AND an entire ream of paper. Yay me! Actually, fine, it’s not an ENTIRE ream of paper, but it’s still about 25% of a ream of paper, which, seriously, is a lot. Sorry to everyone standing behind me in the library printer lines. I would have warned you but I was a little embarrassed actually.

Anyway, let’s talk Capstones.

Considering the recent events in my life, my Capstone Experience has been anything but typical. I actually only just sent my second semester proposal to my committee, uh, this morning. It’s only a month late, guys, don’t worry. Luckily everyone has been extremely understanding and patient with me as I work to navigate the endless sea of paperwork and complications associated with losing all of one’s earthly possessions in a house fire. Thanks professors! And CHC (especially Robbie in 504 who has been an absolute angel about helping me sort out the late add process)!

We can still talk about what one MIGHT do, if one were, you know, on track with their project (I am envious of all of you who are. Please don’t speak to me).

Where we left off (unofficially) last semester was about right. During the fall, write a proposal! Get it approved! Then, snuggle up to a million library books and start reading. Or hang out in a lab. Or choreograph something. Or paint something. Or translate something. Or whatever it is that you do. Do that thing. The first semester of
your Capstone is all about research, whatever that means for you. A lot of people also meet regularly with their advisors and create a concrete outline and plan for writing in the spring semester, but how you go about that is really up to you - that’s the “independent” part of this whole thing.

When the second semester of your undertaking rolls around, you get to revise your proposal. I’m saying “get to” and not “have to” (although you do have to) because it’s a good opportunity to officially re-express your ideas about your project, which are guaranteed to have changed at least a little (for me, a LOT) since you first started. This process is much the same as the original proposal, but I’ll urge you to write this up before spring semester starts so you don’t have one of these experiences of running around frantically for signatures on the last days of add/drop.

Okay! Good! We’ve caught up! That’s great. Now for the long journey of writing, which really isn’t all that long. I mean, your paper will be, but reasonable first draft due dates are actually approaching, so maybe I’ll leave you and get back to that for now. Expect a frantic update soon!

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