

EXCEL STUDENTS SHINE AT COMMUNITY LADIES LUNCHEON

EXCEL students shine! Donald Cissell, Dawn Leigh, Jennifer Corsen, and Cheryl Hoefler did an outstanding job at the annual MAC Foundation Ladies Luncheon held Tuesday, October 4th. These four students, along with 8 other MAC students, spoke to the luncheon attendees about their experiences at MAC. The EXCEL students “stood out” in a very positive way because their stories were moving and their presentations were excellent. I received very positive feedback from a number of luncheon attendees about the EXCEL students’ presentations. Thanks to all four students who took time out of their free day to come to campus to attend the luncheon.

TIME TO APPLY!!!!



It’s time to apply for the host of scholarships that are available each year to graduating high school seniors, continuing MAC students, and GED students. These include institutional, endowed, foundation and outside scholarships. The MAC scholarship application can be found at:
<http://www.mineralarea.edu/students/admissionInformation/financialAssistance/documents/ScholarshipApplication.pdf>

The deadline for submitting the completed application is February 1st, 2012. Please note that a student essay and a faculty reference are required.

See “Time to Apply” on page 4

Coming Events



- Dec. 12 Final Exams for day and evening classes begin
- Dec. 12 EXCEL Finals Breather
- Dec. 12 Textbook buy back in bookstore
- Dec. 21 Grades available on web
- Dec. 22 Christmas Holiday Break - Offices are closed



January

- Jan. 2 Offices re-open
- Jan. 4 Spring textbook sales begin in bookstore
- Jan. 11 Spring Term Begins EXCEL Open House 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- Jan. 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Campus closed
- Jan. 18 EXCEL Workshop - 10:00 AM A & S bldg., Rm. C9
- Jan. 25 EXCEL Workshop - 10:00 AM A & S bldg., Rm. C9

Logical Fallacies...

In College and

In Life

By Rachel Neumeier

Critical thinking isn't just something you worry about when writing your Comp II paper . . . although you probably should worry about it then. In fact, when your instructor says you need to be sure and "evaluate your sources," that's exactly what she means: that you need to decide whether each source is really relevant to your paper topic and then decide whether the author makes a good case for his point of view. Also, when you have two sources that disagree, you have to decide which one is right (or closer to right) and why.

But your own life is also filled with decisions, right?

Like, should you transfer immediately after you get your AA, or should you take a year or two off, get a job, and make some money? Or, should you start this new lawn care business and if so should you start it here or St. Louis or Kansas City? Or, you know this guy is going to propose; should you say yes?

There may not be any right or wrong answers to questions like those, though sometimes there certainly are. But it's always best to think things through and *decide* what to do, rather than just closing your eyes, leaping forward, and hoping you haven't just plunged off a cliff. Thinking "critically" doesn't mean you're being nitpicky and negative. The emphasis is on the *thinking*.

If you're thinking critically, you're really doing three basic things when you make a decision:

First, you try to gather all the important facts before you decide about something. That means, if you're diagnosed with melanoma, you immediately look up facts about melanoma on the Mayo Clinic website or another *reputable* website and then you talk to a cancer specialist about what you think you've learned to make sure you understand everything.

Second, you try *not* to make decisions on emotional, impulsive grounds. That means you don't decide that

See "Fallacies" on page 4



Food For Thought

"Knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."

James Madison

"Be a yardstick of quality. Some people aren't used to an environment where excellence is expected."

Steve Jobs

"Don't find fault, find a remedy."

Henry Ford

"High expectations are the key to everything."

Sam Walton

"No man is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent."

Abraham Lincoln

"The teacher who is indeed wise does not bid you to enter the house of his wisdom but rather leads you to the threshold of your mind."

Khalil Gibran

"Good management is the art of making problems so interesting and their solutions so constructive that everyone wants to get to work and deal with them."

Paul Hawken

"Give whatever you are doing and whoever you are with the gift of your attention."

Jim Rohn

Source: <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors>

The Tutor's Corner

By Bernie Ratliff



Hey Excellers! Are you looking for a magic formula that will guarantee good grades without your studying? Good luck! The reality is that success in college is dependent on your ability to study effectively and efficiently. One strategy that helps some students study effectively is the SQ4R method. SQ4R stands for Survey, Question, Read, Recite, Relate, and Review.

- **Survey:** Look over the assignment before you read it or begin studying. Surveying means that you skim (read) each page of your assignment quickly. This method can help you become acquainted with the information so that you do not feel overwhelmed.
- **Question:** Ask questions to help you learn your specific assignment. Questioning should emphasize what, why, how, when, who, and where of the content. Ask yourself questions as you read or study. Answering the questions will help you to make sense of the material and it should help you to remember it. Write your questions in the left margin of your note book or wherever it is convenient. Thoughtful questioning indicates that you are reading, digesting, and integrating the written word.
- **Read:** Actively read your assignment and your notes. Read for a purpose. By this, I mean that you should read to answer your questions and to remember the information. Be alert for bold or italicized print that indicates special emphasis. Be sure to read everything, including tables, graphs, and illustrations. Visualize the information as you read. Break (divide) long reading assignments into sections.
- **Recite:** Look away from the book or notes and think about what you have read or studied. As you study, periodically stop, cover the information and explain or recall, in your own words, what you have learned. Do this numerous times. If you cannot

recall the information, you need to review it again. Try to recall main headings, key examples, terms and important ideas. Develop an overall concept of what you have read or studied in your own words and thoughts.

- **Relate:** When you study new information, try to link facts, terms, and concepts with information you already know.
- **Review:** Reexamine the information after you have read it and after each class. Don't wait until right before a quiz to begin reviewing. You need to start reviewing as soon as the new assignment begins. Consistent review of your reading assignment and notes reinforces learning. Daily reviewing eliminates the need for cramming. Right before a major examination do a final and thorough review. Practice explaining the information in your own words. The final review is a fine tuning of your knowledge. The more you review the more you remember.

Hopefully, this summary of the SQ4R method will help you to be a successful student.

Henderson and Sadler Are EXCEL Scholarship Recipients for Fall 2011

Cynthia Henderson and James Sadler were each awarded a \$500 EXCEL Scholarship this fall. These scholarships are funded by Mineral Area College (MAC) specifically to recognize EXCEL students who are in their second year of college, persisting toward a degree, and an active participant in EXCEL activities and services.

MAC awards four \$500 scholarships to EXCEL students annually, two each fall and two each spring.

The scholarship application and information for the Spring 2012 will be posted on EXCEL's web page and disseminated via email next week. Be on the lookout for this information and be sure to apply provided you meet the requirements.



Fallacies

Continued from Page 2

since Cousin Bob had melanoma and tried the standard treatment and died anyway, that therefore the standard treatment “doesn’t work”. Instead, you look at the proportionate success of each possible treatment and the personal characteristics that make people more or less likely to survive this type of cancer and make your own decision based on real information.

Third, you try to avoid falling into common logical fallacies. That means you do NOT decide that the Amazing Carrot Diet will cure your melanoma, even if you read testimonials proclaiming that it worked like magic for somebody’s mother.

There are literally hundreds of named logical fallacies, but many of the most common are caused by you depending on your emotions to substitute for actual thought. Probably the single most common cause of bad decision making is *wishful thinking*.

Wishful thinking means that you want X to be true, so you decide that X *is* true.

Even if you think that it sounds ridiculous when it’s laid out like that – even if you would never make decisions this way on purpose – people do in fact make decisions based on exactly this kind of wishful thinking *all the time*.

“This time it’ll be different . . . he really loves me.”

“If I’m supportive and loving enough, he’ll change.”

“The economy will be better by this time next year and then I’ll have no trouble getting a job.”

“I’ve been coming to class every day, so I’m sure the instructor will pass me even though I’ve been failing my tests.”

Any time you find yourself feeling that things will just work out because you want them to, you have probably fallen into wishful thinking – a dangerous way to run your life.

It’s not that you should give up hope that things will work out well – but you should think about what you can do to make sure things *do* work out, not just tell yourself that everything will be fine even if you do nothing. *Real positive thinking* implies action: what are YOU going to do to make sure things work out the way

you want them to? *Wishful thinking* implies passivity: you’re just waiting for the good times to arrive and save you from your current circumstances. When you put it like that, I bet it’s obvious which is more likely to actually work!

Time to Apply

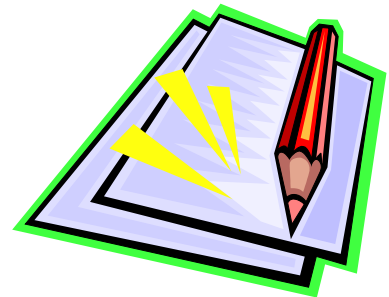
Continued from page 1

The Scholarship Subcommittee reads and scores the applications each March. Among the factors considered are the quality of the essay, the reference letter, students’ involvement in extracurricular and/or community activities, and indication of special circumstances/need.

If you are not involved in any extracurricular or community activities because of other responsibilities, state that. For example, you may say that your time is limited because you are a single parent who works 20 hours / week; or your parents can’t help with expenses so you work 50 hours per week in addition to taking 15 credit hours, etc.

And be sure to mention special family circumstances that may be an obstacle to continuation of your education. For instance, perhaps you or your father, mother, or spouse lost a job, making it difficult to continue college. Or perhaps your car is in dire need

of a major repair that you keep delaying because you can’t afford it. Be sure to give any information that would help the scholarship readers evaluate your financial need, your academic successes, and the priority you place on your education.



If you would like to discuss this application with Matt or Elaine, just call the office and schedule an appointment.

EXCEL STUDENTS ATTEND OPEN HOUSE AT UM-SL

By Matt Sopko

The University of Missouri's St. Louis campus is a popular choice for EXCEL students transferring to a bachelor degree program and on November 12th, we traveled there to attend their open house.

Upon arriving by bus at the UM-SL campus, we quickly made our way to the Millennium Student Center, where the open house was held. The MSC, as it is known to students, was crowded with excited high school and community college students and we were all directed to the third floor where the formal presentation was about to begin.

The orientation was informative and well organized. The staff took the time to answer questions thoroughly and they seemed particularly well informed. After the general presentation, information booths for each program and department were arranged around the first and second floor concourses and students were allowed to gather information at their own pace. Faculty and staff members were also available at each booth to answer any questions student might have regarding their choice of major area of study or extracurricular and co-curricular programs.

For students seeking an urban educational experience, UM-SL is an excellent choice. With an enrollment of nearly 16,000 students, UM-SL is the largest university in St. Louis and the third largest in Missouri. The University of Missouri was founded in 1839, and the system now has four campuses. UM-SL was established in 1963, as part of a new movement in education that established public universities within metropolitan areas across the country.

We also enjoyed the relaxing meal and conversation on our way back. All in all, it was another successful EXCEL campus visit.



Kelly Coleman, Myra Doss, Nathan Witt,
Donald Cissell, Courtney Naeger, Tricia Pettus,
Roy Bowyer, Johna Stokes, Theodore Barnhouse,
Annette Burnia, Melissa Woods, Amy Hall,
Cheryl Hodge, Tina Brenneke, Jenna Link,
Christina Cason, Sherry Leeling, Cheri Culver,
Maresa Nall, Christina Bivens,
Lee Suhre, Robert Schumer



DeAnna Kearney, Bryan Tedder,
Linda Lewis, Sarah Henson,
Dustin Culver, Melinda Kesselring,
Stacey Helton, Sandra Kean, Maggie Sims

EXCEL/SSS MISSION

To provide the support necessary for each EXCEL/SSS student to reach his/her own level of "academic excellence" and succeed in achieving a postsecondary education.

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