

Academic Excellence

A Newsletter of the Academic Success Center

Learning Beyond the Lecture

By Michelle D. Taylor, as2788@wayne.edu



Becoming involved in extracurricular activities is known to have a positive effect on a student's learning experience. Out-of-class activities can help you to develop skills that you will use throughout your university career and beyond. According to Alexander Astin, Professor Emeritus at UCLA, researcher and author of *What Matters in College*, "almost any type of student involvement in college positively affects student learning and development." In fact, there are two ways extracurricular activities have proven effective.

Learning Life Skills. In an ever changing and more diverse world, cultural sensitivity is a necessary trait. Through extracurricular activities, the opportunity to interact with students from various backgrounds often arises. This is a perfect setting to expose yourself to diversity, which can lead to increased learning and enhanced development.

Extracurricular activities can help you to become a "success promoter"—one who is not only an effective leader, but also knows how to accept leadership—a skill that will come in handy when involved in team-driven projects. Out-of-class activities also help with critical thinking, negotiating and managing conflict, time-management, and intellectual competence.

Meeting New People. According to Astin, while faculty-student relationships are important, "a student's peer group is the single most potent source of influence on growth and development during the undergraduate years." Involvement with extracurricular activities allows you to experience both by presenting you with the opportunity to meet faculty and staff from university departments as well as involvement in peer-networking. You could make connections that may last a lifetime and provide benefits after graduating college.

Wondering about activities on and around Wayne State University's campus in which you can get involved? A few examples are community service and projects that focus on bettering the environment, tutoring at a local grade school, joining a group/club, studying abroad, or participating in WSU's alternative spring break. With 300 non-profit organizations in the Detroit area and over 200 student organizations on WSU's campus, the possibilities go on and on. So, get involved and make the most of your college experience!

For more information on WSU's student organizations visit www.doso.wayne.edu

Math: Insight for Success

By Susan Sheiner, ax5983@wayne.edu

"Math is not a *spectator sport*," says Math Learning Specialist Michael Day. In order to remain successful, you have to stay active he explains. Day, a math instructor at Wayne State University and Henry Ford Community College stresses forming positive study habits as a strategy for success in mathematics. Insight for success includes a simple checklist in formulating the best practices.

- Attend Class Regularly- "This keeps you in the game," Day says. "Whether you are studying hard or not, going to class keeps you in the game."

- Know Available Resources- the Math Resource Center (MRC) located on the first floor of the Faculty Administration Building offers walk in tutoring for math. Visit www.math.wayne.edu for further details including preparation tips for math placement exams. In addition, the Academic Success Center (ASC) located on the first floor of the Undergraduate Library offers walk in tutoring for math classes. Tutoring at the ASC and the MRC is free for Wayne State students.
- Find or Create a Community- Some WSU courses offer Supplemental Instruction (SI) for support in math or other subjects.

Continued on page 3

Interim Director

Michelle Bruner

ad8105@wayne.edu

Comerica Scholars

Project Manager

Lisa Dillon

as9189@wayne.edu

Reading and Study Skills

Coordinator

Angela Zanardelli

au1072@wayne.edu

Mathematics Learning Specialist

Michael R. Day

ag8259@wayne.edu

Research Coordinator

Laura Woodward

af5826@wayne.edu

Supplemental Instruction

Coordinator

Theresa Lindsey

av4760@wayne.edu

Tutoring Coordinator

Chardin Claybourne-Bey

ay1414@wayne.edu

Academic Success Center

Wayne State University

1600 Adamany Undergraduate Library
Detroit, MI 48202 (313)577.3165

<http://success.wayne.edu/>

Monday and Thursday

8:30 am - 7:00 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

8:30 am-5:00 pm

Career Resources: Best Places to Explore

By *Nannette McCleary Shaw*,
ab7639@wayne.edu

Did you know that WSU's main campus offers a variety of resources available for you to explore how your academic major relates to potential careers? Many are even available 24-7. So whether you are between classes or inspired to browse after hours, here are the highlights:

UGL Career Center - This Collection was established when the David Adamany Undergraduate Library (UGL) opened. Recently, the Career Collection was completely revamped and updated by Nathan Martin, a former Graduate Assistant, and alum of the Library and Information Science Program. The collection comprises a whole section of the south wall on the second floor and covers a wide range of topics including, academic-occupational books, graduate school test prep

guides, U.S. labor and economic trend statistics, and job search tips. Even more impressive, the upgrade on www.lib.wayne.edu makes more than 300 e-books accessible 24-7. Librarian Duryea Callaway, who supervised the project, explained that WSU maintains this electronic collection that is automatically updated. To find these books, as well as other resources, simply click the [Subject Guides](#) link under "Ask-A-Librarian" to find the [Career](#) link.

Detroit Public Library (DPL) - The largest library system in Michigan, the DPL houses the Career and Employment Information Center on the first floor of the Main Library on Woodward. Contact (313) 833-4251 or visit www.detroit.lib.mi.us to learn more about services and hours of operation.

Career Services - There are approximately five career counseling

or placement departments at WSU, but only one serves the entire student and alumni population. Be sure to call (313) 577-3390 or stop by Room 1001 in the Faculty/Administration Building to explore and speak to a counselor. You can also visit www.careerservices.wayne.edu anytime to register and learn more about the services available to you.

College of Education Teacher Placement Office - 489 Educ. Bldg, (313) 577-1635, www.coe.wayne.edu.

Law School Career Services - 471 W Palmer, Suite 1265, (313) 577-3949 www.law.wayne.edu/career-services.

School of Business Administration Career Planning & Placement Services-103 Prentis, (313)577-4781, www.busadm.wayne.edu.

Staying Focused and Fighting the Winter Blues

By *Melanie Corlin*, *ax1653@wayne.edu*

So it's the middle of winter, the semester is almost half-way through, and midterms are coming up in a few weeks. Many of us feel tired and overwhelmed by all the work ahead of us. Here are some tips for fighting the winter blues and staying focused on your school work.

- Start by preparing early. Make yourself a study schedule and get your note cards, chapter outlines and reading out of the way. Set aside a couple days for each class to read the necessary chapters, make your note cards, and organize your notes. This way, when midterm week begins, the only thing you have to worry about is reviewing what you have already learned and passing your exam.



- Find a study group. Study groups work really well when it comes to learning new information. Everyone has their own way of remembering information and some people understand the information better than others. Not only does explaining the information to someone else help you retain the material, but learning how others study and how they remember the

information may help you as well. Another plus to a study group is it allows you to meet new people and make new friends.

- Allow yourself some free time. Cramming your brain 24 hours a day may seem like a good idea, but studies show giving yourself a break allows your mind to process all the new information and organize it. If you complete the first tip you will have a sufficient amount of extra time to relax.

If you take these tips into consideration and implement them into your routine, your stress level will decrease and you'll find that midterm week will pass in a flash.

Study Skills Corner: Vocabulary Building

By Anita Harris,
am3480@wayne.edu

Are you sometimes lost for words? Does your professor use words that are unfamiliar to you? Well, don't be discouraged. There are strategies to help you improve your vocabulary. Having a strong vocabulary is vital to any student's success in college and in the workplace.

According to Kathleen T. McWhorter author of, "Vocabulary Simplified: Strategies for Building Your College Vocabulary," a daily diet of new words will help you become a well-spoken individual and an effective writer.

Boost your vocabulary by visiting:
Vocabulary: An Ongoing Process
<http://www.ucc.vt.edu/stdysk/vocabula.html>

Commonly Misused Words
<http://www.cmu.edu/styleguide/trickywords.html>

A Word A Day
<http://www.wordsmith.org/awad/index.html>

Here are five easy ways to introduce new words into your repertoire.

1. Keep an eye out for precise words that will replace two to three smaller, less descriptive words. Instead of *feeling sorry* about something, you could use the words *rue* or *regret*, *lament* or *bemoan* instead.
2. Look for additional meanings for words you already know. For example, you know that a *skirt* is an article of clothing, but you can also use it to mean to pass around or avoid, as in the "The candidate skirted the controversial issue of gun control."
3. Look out for words that you know but do not use. Make note of useful words that would sharpen your own speech or writing.
4. Learn to play word games. Various Websites offer word games that heighten our word awareness and introduce new words. The Merriam-Webster Website (<http://www.m-w.com>) offers a word game that changes daily.



5. Challenge yourself to learn a word each day. No matter how busy you are, find a new exciting word to learn. When you have down time from studying, find a word in the newspaper or on the internet to see if you know what it means. For example, check out Merriam-Webster Website word for the day. By the end of the year you would have learned 365 new words! If you need additional assistance, please stop by the Academic Success Center located in the Undergraduate Library or go to www.success.wayne.edu

Tips derived from *Vocabulary Simplified: Strategies for Building Your College Vocabulary* by Kathleen McWhorter

Math: Insight for Success... *continued from page 1*

Check with your instructor or visit www.success.wayne.edu to find out more. The community support can help build strategies and keep the motivation. Michael Day offers a six week workshop for students wishing to sharpen math skills for introductory algebra.

"I tend to focus on study skills and motivation instead of course content," Day said. Interested students can contact Michael Day at mday@wayne.edu to register for his next free workshop.

- Practice- "Practice is key," Day said. "It is one thing for students to watch someone do it, but you really have to jump in yourself and struggle (to learn it). It is kind of like swimming," he said.
- Repeat the above steps- The repetition will help set the pace and standard for insured success. It is important to develop your own study habits in order to succeed. "I try to make self-motivated students," Day said. "That is my goal."



By following these five steps students can develop strategies for success in math and other related subjects.

A Newsletter of the Academic Success Center

Leading the way in evidence-based academic support and excellence.

Top Ten Unique Courses at WSU

by Lisa Dillon, as9189@wayne.edu

The following course offerings as described in the university schedule of classes grabbed my attention. Who knew that you could take a course on the Great Lakes, or that you could devote a semester to studying nonprofit leadership? For complete descriptions see www.bulletins.wayne.edu

1. Introduction to Canadian Studies (PS 2700/ENG 2670/HIS 2700) 3 cr.- This course surveys Canada's cultural, literary, historical, geographical and political aspects. Key concepts include social patterns and other components that define the Canadian experience.

2. Archaeology of the Great Lakes (ANT 2500) 4 cr.- Introduction to Native cultures and archaeology of Michigan and the Great Lakes region, from the first peopling of the region through early historic times; changing patterns of adaptation to the ecology of the Great Lakes region; focus on ancient technologies and material culture, social organization, settlement patterns, economic strategies, and political formations.

3. Detroit Area Minorities: Arabs, Hispanics, and African Americans (ANT 3110) 3-4 cr.- This class takes a look at Detroit area Arab, African American, and Hispanic communities from the perspective of history, social organization, and cultural background. Topics include: family roles, community structure, migration, religious beliefs, education, health problems.

4. Magic, Religion and Science (ANT 5370) 3 cr.- The nature and variety of religious belief, practice and theoretical interpretations is explored.

5. The World of Ideas (IH 3710) 3-4 cr.- This course focuses on culture, including mass and popular cultures; how ideas give significance to human experience, and how they are valued and devalued.

6. Non-profit Leadership (NPS 3100) 4 cr.- Expert knowledge of Michigan and national philanthropy; builds on overview provided in NPS 3000: Management in nonprofit organizations, including human service, arts, and cultural and civic organizations; overview of theory, practice and history in nonprofits.

7. The Study of Non-Violence (PCS 2050) 3 cr.- Intellectual and social roots of non-violence and the practice of non-violence in various societies and people's life styles are examined. Historical and political forces and movements related to non-violence.

8. Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies. (PCS 2000/HIS 2500/PS 2820) 3 cr.- This is a survey course with topics ranging from biology and conflict among animals to disputes involving the individual, the family, the neighborhood and region, the nation and global or international community.

9. The Sounds of Music. (PHY 3100) 4 cr.- For students interested in the physical foundations of the production, perception, and reproduction of musical sounds. Topics include wave properties, loudness levels and the human ear.

10. Serial Killers (SOC 3880) 3 cr.- This course examines the types of men and women who commit multiple murders and what compels them to do so. Interdisciplinary and sociological factors in serial killings; response to these killings.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Comerica Academic Success Center is for all Wayne State University undergraduate students to become self-determined, motivated, and independent learners. To support students' success in the University environment, the Academic Success Center provides individualized services and the tools to develop effective learning skills.

Free services of the Academic Success Center include:

- Tutoring and Supplemental Instruction
- Individual Support with a Learning Specialist
- Study Skill Enhancing Workshops

Thank you to our editorial board:

Chardin Claybourne-Bey, Latesha Bigford, Robert Buentello, Michelle Taylor, Angela Zanardelli, Susan Sheiner, Associate Editor, Laura Woodward, Editor.

WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Academic Success Center

1600 David Adamany
Undergraduate Library
Detroit, MI 48202

We're on the web:

<http://www.success.wayne.edu/>