

Academic Excellence

A Newsletter of the Academic Success Center

Fourth Annual Tutoring and Supplemental Instruction Institute

by *Chardin Claybourne-Bey*,
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Wayne State University (WSU) will host the fourth annual Comerica Charitable Foundation Academic Success Center Tutoring and Supplemental Instruction Institute (TSII) on

April 11 in the McGregor Memorial Conference Center on the WSU campus. Professor Steve Kahn, Director of the WSU Center for Excellence and Equity and Mathematics will be the keynote speaker. The generous grant from the Comerica Charitable Foundation allows the institute to be held with no registration fee for all attendees—a rarity among conferences. Registrants can sign-up for the all-day conference online at



Photo by Susan Sheiner

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

The theme for the 2008 TSII, “Strengthening Learning Bridges,” emphasizes the importance of all disciplines and organizations to reinforce educational connections. These “learning

bridges”—between institutions, within departments, among students, faculty, and staff—are essential. They must be built, utilized, and maintained.

Once again, the institute will bring together Tutors, SI Leaders, faculty, academic professional staff, and educators from not only WSU, but also colleges and

universities from the Midwest region.

This year, the TSII will include new participants and presenters from the University of Cincinnati (Ohio), Bluffton University (Ohio), Defiance College (Ohio), and Hennepin Technical College (Minnesota).

Individual Learning Styles: Personalizing Student Success

by *Angela Zanardelli*,
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At this stage in your education you probably realize that there are different types of teachers, but did you know about the different types of learners? Learning styles are simply different approaches to learning. Each individual has their own learning style and recognizing yours could make a dramatic impact on your college success.

According to the Learning Center,
<http://www.utexas.edu/student/utlc/>

[campus_programs/pgm_study_strategies/](#), at the University of Texas, there are three main types of learners including auditory, visual, and tactile.

Let’s first discuss the auditory learner. A student with this learning style learns most effectively by hearing information explained out loud. This student is more likely to comprehend information when it is presented in a lecture as opposed to reading a textbook. It can be helpful for this type of learner to tape record lectures with the consent of their professor. *(Continued on page 3.)*

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Winter Hours:

Monday and Thursday

8:30 am - 7:00 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Who Guides You? Mentorship for College

What is Comerica Scholars?

The Comerica Scholars Learning Community is a leadership and retention program for gifted and talented students that matriculated from the Detroit Public School system. The initiative is designed to engage and maximize the academic talents of these Comerica Scholars to excel in academics, leadership and service learning. Students in the program have demonstrated strong academic performance and retention rates in comparison to their Wayne State peers. For more information about the program, you are welcome to contact Dr. April Boyce Cobb at (313)577-3224.

by **Latesha Bigford**,
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Are you concerned with academic excellence, personal social skills, and general overall growth and development? If your answer is “yes” to any of the above, you may benefit from having a mentor. Having a good mentor early in your career can greatly impact your success in any field.

A mentor is someone who has knowledge or experience in your interest areas. They can help you learn the academic culture, clarify personal and professional goals, develop personal and academic skills, and develop networks as you pursue career interests and participate in activities to broaden your educational experience. In addition, a mentor is someone in the university community who

cares about your progress and well-being.

Characteristics of a good mentor include, but are not limited to, the following: enthusiastic, sensitive, respectful, unselfish, appreciative of individual differences, and supportive of others. You may be thinking, “How do I find

guidance throughout your academic career. Instructors in the courses relevant to your major are a great starting point, as they are experts in their field. Also, talking to other students in your major may assist you in identifying people that may be able to provide you with guidance.



Mentors and students meet regularly as part of the Comerica Scholars mentor program. Photo by Susan Sheiner.

someone like that?” You can start by looking around you, in your classes.

There are a number of people that you encounter everyday that may be able to provide you with

After identifying a potential mentor, it is important that you have a clear idea of your expectations and responsibilities within the mentor-mentee relationship. You should identify goals for the relationship as well as boundaries and limitations. Also, discuss how much time you are able to commit to the relationship on a regular basis. Your mentor relationship can be as unique as you are, so feel free to explore options of development that are beneficial to you as a student.

What do I do with a major in...?

by **Nannette McCleary**,
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“What is your major?” This is probably the most common conversation starter on college campuses. “What can I do with my major?” is the most common question heard by college counselors.

To begin exploring academic majors and how they relate to potential careers, students may want to ask four simple questions; What specific skills and abilities will I develop in this program? What are the customary occupational opportunities? What are the typical work activities for

people in these careers? What employment settings and industries hire these occupations?

Career Services has a multitude of resources for students to explore occupational options. One of the best sources for current information about potential careers is job fairs. Students can visit <http://www.careerservices.wayne.edu>

to check out the more than 30 career events and workshops offered this semester. Job fairs and similar career events offer students a chance to interact with

employer representatives, often alumni, who can share a personal experience. Not only do students get valuable career planning assistance, they can also establish important networks that can lead to the all important professional work experience such as cooperative education and internships.

Students can contact Career Services in 1001 Faculty/ Administration Building, (313) 577-3390, to learn about exploring their academic major.

Visit careerservices.wayne.edu to check out the more than 30 career events and workshops offered this semester.

Study Skills Corner: Comparing Notes

by *Ilissa R. Gilmore*,
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Despite being a crucial skill for students, note-taking is something that is not often taught in school. Because of this, many people take ineffective notes or do not take notes at all. These habits are likely the reason why some students struggle in school. The purpose of note-taking is to help you study more effectively. Writing down facts and ideas increases the likelihood that you will remember them. There are several note-taking techniques to help you write and organize your notes.

	name
●	
recall column	notes column
●	
	summary

The Outlining Method:

With this method, numbers, Roman numerals, dashes, or bullet points are used to show the relationships between ideas and information. Outlining is better for book note-taking than for lecture note-taking because books are often organized this way.

The Mapping Method:

Using this, you write the lecture's main topic in the center of a blank sheet of paper. Then, as new sub-topics are introduced, you draw a line from this center and write the sub-topic along the line. This method may be better for lectures, but you'll probably find yourself having to re-draw the maps for the purposes of better understanding.

The Cornell System:

A simple but effective method of note taking. You divide your paper into three sections. In the largest section, you can take notes however you want. Then, after the lecture, write some questions about material into the column on the right. In the bottom section, summarize the material. This helps you to process the information from the lecture or reading.

The Charting Method:

Categorize topics in the lecture and place relevant information, words, and phrases in each section. Some advantages of this method are that it helps you to organize relevant content and reduces the amount of writing necessary. However, to use it accurately, you must know everything to be covered in the lecture. Some people find it easier to use computers for note-taking and they do have several advantages over using a pen and paper. For one thing, computers make sharing of notes easier.

Also, notes on a computer are easier to read than handwriting, and organizing and finding notes is easier with computer notes. There are even programs available that allow you to draw illustrations on your computer. Try one of these methods and see which one suits you, or perhaps create your own. No matter how you choose to take notes, the most important thing is to make sure it is a system that works for you.

Writing down facts and ideas increases the likelihood that you will remember them.

Interested in sharing your academic success tips with WSU?

Submit a manuscript to asc@lists.wayne.edu

Individual Learning Styles... continued from page 1

Reviewing the lecture by tape is a great way to help the auditory learner retain course material.

The visual learner processes information best when they can see the material. This student learns best from viewing diagrams, charts, and pictures. It is suggested that the visual learner sits close to the front of the room during lecture and

pays close attention to the professor's body language and facial expressions to better understand the content of the material.

Finally, the tactile learner is most successful with hands on activities. The tactile learner usually succeeds in courses with a lab or active assignments. This student enjoys physical movement and may study best while standing or

moving around.

To find out more about your learning style, be sure to visit <http://www.engr.ncsu.edu/learningstyles/ilsweb.html> for a free learning style assessment. Regardless of your personal learning style, remember that there is no wrong way to learn. Use your style to your advantage by knowing what study methods work best for you.

Each individual has their own learning style and recognizing yours could make a dramatic impact in your college success.

A Newsletter of the Academic Success Center

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

WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Academic Success Center



Charitable
Foundation

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We're on the web:
<http://www.success.wayne.edu/>

Mission Statement

The mission of the Academic Success Center is to help students become independent and motivated learners. To support students' success in the University environment, the Academic Success Center aims to provide individualized services and the tools to develop effective learning skills.

Free services that the office offers include:

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

Thank you to our editorial board:

Angela Zanardelli, Latesha Bigford, Susan Sheiner, Associate Editor and Laura Woodward, Editor.

Top Ten Websites for WSU Students

by Shena Penn, au7669@wayne.edu

1. pipeline.wayne.edu– Pipeline is Wayne State University's website for student information, including transcripts, or a list of upcoming school events. Pipeline offers a student tab allowing students to access course schedules and financial records. This is the place to access your WSU e-mail.

2. lib.wayne.edu- WSU's library website. It's great for finding scholarly articles, requesting books, and doing research. Look at the 'for students tab' for Assignment Planner, Searchpath and Drop in Workshops.

3. dictionary.com- This is a quick way to find the definition of any word you're unsure about. Oxford.com is also available for WSU students as part of the library system.

4. facebook.com- Need a break from studying? Facebook is a social networking website that keeps students and colleagues connected with people in their social communities. Facebook also offers an opportunity for networking with professional and academic groups on the site.

5. google.com- Anything you are looking for, Google can find it. Google.com is a search engine which can be

used to find other websites, videos, photos, maps, and other things. In addition, Google Scholar is a great place to download scholarly articles. Look for it on Wayne's library web page.

6. yahoo.com- This is a popular website used for finding the latest breaking news, searching the internet, e-mail, and games. Have you heard about yahoo briefcase yet? It can be a great tool to back up important papers.

7. thesouthendnews.com– The Wayne State student newspaper's website contains news and feature articles on and about Wayne State activities. Go to this site for everything from school sports to interesting features.

8. blackboard.wayne.edu

Blackboard is WSU's site for managing courses. You can check grades, take quizzes, and stay on top of what is due. Check out the announcements tab for important communications from your professors.

9. classschedule.wayne.edu- Trying to find out which classes are offered for the next semester? Classschedule.wayne.edu is the perfect place to look. It offers a description of the courses and all the available sections.

10. youtube.com- This a great place to find video clips of almost anything, for education or entertainment. Although it can be very informative, save it for a well deserved break from studying.



Jumpstart your academic success

Check out our list of free workshops with strategies which can boost your grades at www.success.wayne.edu/workshop_list.php