

## Welcome to the fall 2004 Semester!

Whether this is your first semester as a college student, or you've been at Southwestern for several semesters...welcome! The Success Center staff is here to support you in your college pursuits. Let us be a part of your college success by utilizing the free tutoring, attending one of the many workshops, accessing the online resources, or simply using the computers for word processing and internet research.

## How the Success Centers Work...

It is simple...walk in during open hours and ask for help. All services in the Success Centers are free to Southwestern students and no appointments are necessary. Our only requirement is that students must be enrolled at Southwestern in the course for which they are requesting tutoring. Although the majority of services are 'walk-in,' new this year, students can drop off papers longer than 5 pages for review and schedule a time to return to meet with a tutor to discuss the paper. This will allow tutors time to review the paper and then your time with the tutor will be spent discussing it.

## Belleville Campus Success Centers

### Creatively Named:

### Success Center I and Success Center II

In the spring 2004 semester, a second Success Center was opened on the Belleville Campus. Success Center I in room 1240 of the Main Complex offers students free tutoring for writing and liberal arts courses. Twenty computers are available for academic use and workshops on writing and reading topics are offered in a nearby conference room. Success Center II, located in room 1145 of the Information Sciences Building, continues to offer tutoring for math, sciences, business, and allied health, as well as computer access. Workshops on math, accounting, academic success, and career topics will be offered in Success Center II.



## Want a Tour of the Success Centers?

The Success Center staff is happy to provide free tours to individual students and to classes at the request of faculty. Our staff can provide a general overview for classes or tailor demonstrations to the specific needs of faculty. Students can expect to receive tutoring schedules, workshop flyers, bookmarks, or other handouts helpful for class assignments. Simply call the Success Center.



## Has the Way We Learn Changed?

Well, yes and no. Returning adult students may remember the days of typewriters, dusty card catalogs, and papers with manual footnotes at the bottom. Fortunately, those days are gone! Today, there are powerful electronic search engines and sophisticated word processing software. The ways we cite references has changed dramatically too. Classes are offered "online" where all work is done through a computer. Many college textbooks have companion websites or software that offer online explanations, exercises, and practice tests. While we still have biology models to explore; interactive websites are now available to assist students with memorizing anatomy and physiology. Some students carry electronic calendars or PDAs to assist them with scheduling homework assignments and with time management, but many still use traditional day planners or calendars. Memorizing material still requires spending time and using the old fashion techniques of association, acronyms, and grouping outlined in the memorization article of this newsletter. While access to 'newfangled' learning options exists, many of the traditional strategies to student success such as attending class, taking notes, reviewing the notes, reading the material, and preparing for tests remain in tact and are the foundation upon which new strategies can be added.

## How to Make the Most of Your Student Planner

College students are busy! Most have jobs, family commitments, outside activities, and of course school responsibilities. Many students have discovered that they must have good organization and time management skills to find success. New this semester is a one hour workshop, "How to Make the Most of Your Student Planner." Students who attend will be given a free SWIC Student Planner and provided instruction on how to effectively use their planners. Topics such as: prioritizing, organizing, scheduling, and incorporating your class syllabi will be addressed. The workshops are offered in Success Center II (IS 1145). No pre-registration is required.

**Wed., Sept. 15 at 2 p.m.**

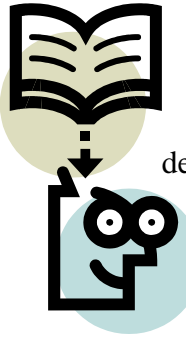
**Tues., Sept. 21 at 2 p.m.**

**Thurs., Sept. 23 at 12:30 p.m.**

**Wed., Oct. 6 at 1 p.m.**

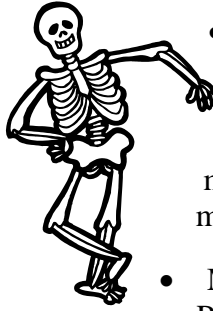


## Memorization Strategies



One of the keys to good test performance is learning how to remember large amounts of important information and being able to demonstrate that on a test. Memorization strategies such as association, grouping, visualization, and the use of acronyms help. Association involves learning new concepts by connecting them with something we already know. For example, have you ever given directions by connecting the road with a well known landmark? (i.e. follow Main Street in Belleville until you get to the fountain and turn...) Using acronyms is another great method. For years, individuals have remembered the names of the Great Lakes by using the acronym "HOMES." A third method is called grouping. Information grouped into smaller categories is easier to remember. Most people can usually remember up to 7 items or numbers easily, such as a phone number. Try grouping related information into smaller groups to retain the information. Visualization is another method. Students report that they find success if they can make a mental picture in their mind of what the information they need to remember looks like. If you would like additional help with memorization or study skills, please visit Success Center II in the Information Sciences Building for a complete list of academic success workshops or for individual help from a tutor.

## What's New?



- Several new biology models have been added to the collection, including the full skeleton. Success Center II now has 25 biology models and 3 chemistry models. Each model has an answer key.
- Making the Most of Your Student Planner Workshop-free Student Planner for participants.

## How Do You Prefer to Learn?

Each of us has a learning style preference, which is essentially how we learn the best. If given the pieces of a birdhouse and told to assemble it, would you prefer to have someone explain to you how to put it together, watch a video or tinker with it to figure it out? Each of these methods describes a learning style preference. If you know which learning style helps you to learn the best, you can incorporate this learning style in your studies. This can make learning easier and more effective.

Several learning style inventories are available to you. One of these inventories is the "Index of Learning Styles Questionnaire," written by Barbara Soloman and Richard Felder of North Carolina State University. It is FREE and available online at [www2.ncsu.edu/unity/lockers/users/f/felder/public/ILSdir/ilsweb.html](http://www2.ncsu.edu/unity/lockers/users/f/felder/public/ILSdir/ilsweb.html). The index categorizes learning styles in four ways:

- **Active or Reflective Learners:** Active learners learn by trying things out and prefer working with others, while Reflective learners learn by thinking things through and prefer working alone.
- **Sensing or Intuitive Learners:** Sensing learners prefer concrete and practical facts and solutions, while Intuitive learners tend to be innovative and like to conceptualize solutions.
- **Visual or Verbal Learners:** Visual learners prefer pictures, charts and diagrams, while Verbal learners prefer written and spoken explanation.
- **Sequential or Global Learners:** Sequential learners prefer linear, orderly material and learn in small incremental steps, while Global learners prefer holistic material; they are systems thinkers and learn in large leaps.