INSIDE

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- Lending an ear to success
In an age of instant communication when it seems like everyone has something important to say or a vital opinion to express, the essential communication skill needed to make sense of it all is often the one people know least about – the ability to listen.

Northwest students who sign up for summer school in 2008 can begin learning to unlock the secrets of good listening by taking listening behavior and skills, a Department of Communication, Theatre, and Languages course that will be taught by Dr. Joe Kreizinger.

“From day one we begin teaching students to think like a listener instead of like a speaker.” Kreizinger said. “This is a critical and undervalued part of the communication process.”

A number of elements in the listening course, notes Kreizinger, were developed by Dr. Bob Bohlken, a nationally recognized listening expert and Northwest professor emeritus.

Bohlken, who was recently inducted into the International Listening Association’s Hall of Fame, has authored numerous books and articles on the subject and is a frequent presenter at listening conferences.

Kreizinger said students taking the course learn to become better listeners by employing a six-step model that moves from merely hearing – the simplest and most basic listening activity – through understanding, remembering, interpreting, evaluating and responding. Students also fulfill assignments that teach them to evaluate their listening skills and adopt strategies for improvement.

“One project is to write a paper about their own listening, which helps them discover what they need to do differently,” Kreizinger said. “They learn to adopt techniques that allow them to meet their particular goals.”

It may not show up as a qualification in career guides and job postings, but knowing how to listen is one of the skills most desired by employers as essential to professional success. Teachers, doctors, journalists, lawyers, engineers, scientists and computer programmers who have developed solid techniques for retaining and fully comprehending what others are saying have a clear advantage in the workplace.

Kreizinger said research shows that employers value the ability to speak, write and listen above a straight-A transcript and job-specific skill sets. And the importance of listening has become even more important in an age of virtual communication in which people spend far less time speaking face to face.

Taking a course on listening during the summer has special advantages, Kreizinger said. For one thing, the class sessions are longer – two and a half hours four days a week rather than 50 minutes three days a week.

“It’s a very intensive experience,” he said. “There is more time for group activities, elaboration and discussion – for listening. The longer sessions allow you to clarify certain topics.”

Summer sessions on a University campus also move to a more informal rhythm. It’s not that the pace is slow – in fact it’s accelerated. But the large blocks of class time mean there are also large blocks of free time when students can discuss and digest what they’ve learned.

“Text messaging is different than knowing how to respond to a person directly,” Kreizinger said. “A lot of listening is learning to consider the context. Also, many of us spend too much time thinking about what we are going to say instead of about what the other person is saying. In this course, we look at how that can harm the communication process.”

“Students often start out by saying, ‘Help me fix my listening,’” Kreizinger said, “but gradually they come to see that it’s not that simple. As they begin to understand the process, they start to realize what they need to do in order to improve.”
Arboretum regrowth

“This arboretum will be better than it ever was.”

In response to the damage to the Northwest campus trees in the Dec. 11 ice storm, President Dean L. Hubbard has given assurance that “This campus and this arboretum will be better than it ever was.” The storm, which left destruction across a broad area of the Midwest and many people without power for several days, was one of the worst in recent memory.

Before the storm, there were 1,300 trees growing on campus, from saplings to towering oaks and evergreens. Ice damage forced the removal of 79 trees, or 6 percent of the University stand. Another 430 trees had to be pruned, some so severely that they will probably not survive. Forty percent of the campus tree population suffered at least some damage.

Trees have always been an important part of both the Northwest landscape and its institutional culture, Hubbard noted. In 1993, the state Legislature designated the campus as the Missouri Arboretum, and tree-lined sidewalks and shady lawns have long been among the University’s most treasured hallmarks.

The president said recovery will comprise six phases, two of which, the clearing of hazardous debris and removal of destroyed trees, are complete. Phase three – stump removal – will take place this winter. During phases four and five, workers will complete the removal of brush, limbs and branches then reseed grass and replant trees.

Hubbard said phase six will begin on April 11 and will consist of a University-wide celebration, including the ceremonial planting of 79 trees to replace those killed by the storm.

Students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of Northwest are invited to take part in replacing fallen trees. Sponsoring a tree costs $300, and many groups, offices and departments have already donated. Sponsorship covers the cost of a tree and its long-term care and maintenance. Donor names will be placed on a plaque near the tree. Gifts in any other amount are also welcome.

For details and an online donation form, go to www.nwmissouri.edu/arboretum/overview.htm.
Many students at Northwest Missouri State University work during the summer. Others make summer work for them by enrolling in classes, which can help them graduate early and save money while taking advantage of a rigorous yet informal academic experience.

Summer sessions have become increasingly popular in recent years. Elizabeth Smith, Trenton, Mo., and Dan Scheuler, Fairbury, Neb., have shared their opinions and recommendations for staying in Maryville and attending summer classes.

Smith is a senior double major in accounting and corporate finance who plans to stay on to complete a graduate degree. She will finish her undergraduate degree in May and hopes to complete work on her MBA next December.

She plays trumpet in the Bearcat Marching Band during the fall trimester and went on the band’s trip to perform in the London New Year’s Day Parade this year.

“As you make plans for the summer, we want you to know that the courses printed in the Summer Course Offerings booklet will not be cancelled because of low enrollments. This “Summer Guarantee” allows you to plan your academic schedule and arrange your summer activities to complement your course load, without the concern that at the last minute the course will be cancelled because of insufficient interest by other students. We look forward to seeing you this summer.
Q AND A

Northwest Family talks with
Dr. Charles McAdams, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Charles McAdams, Northwest Dean of Arts & Sciences, serves as the lead administrator of the nine academic departments in this college. Coming to the University from the University of Central Missouri in 2004, Dr. McAdams led the academic team in establishing the Northwest Kansas City and St. Joseph Centers. His academic background is in music. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Tennessee Technological University and both his master’s and doctorate from the University of Illinois.

NF: What is the “summer class guarantee?”

McAdams: We want parents and students to know that any course listed in the summer course offerings booklet will not be cancelled because of low enrollments. This is our guarantee. Students can have confidence the courses they plan to enroll for during summer will be there for them. This guarantee allows students to plan their schedule one, two, or three years ahead with much greater confidence. It is that simple.

NF: Does this program refer to online or classes on campus?

McAdams: Yes, the guarantee refers to online, face-to-face courses on campus and blended courses. (Blended courses are those that meet a few times “face-to-face” with the majority of the course completed online.)

NF: Why is this important to my student?

McAdams: Maneuvering through the list of degree requirements, determining what courses are offered each trimester, and planning a specific schedule is one of the challenges every college student faces. While our faculty members provide valuable assistance during the enrollment process, students still spend a great deal of time planning their schedules so they can complete their degree sooner or to make room in their schedule during the academic year for other specific major or unique elective courses that might not otherwise fit in their schedule. Some upper division major-specific courses or specialized elective courses may only be offered once a year or only in one section or time period a trimester. If a student has very many of these courses in a single trimester it reduces flexibility in their schedule as it is possible an elective course outside their major area may be offered the same time as another required course in their major. Enrolling for courses in the summer provides flexibility by reducing the number of single section courses students need to take during the academic year.

NF: Is there any additional cost for this guarantee?

McAdams: There is no fee for this guarantee. In fact taking summer courses saves students money in the long run because taking courses in the summer can shorten the length of time required to complete a degree. In addition summer courses are billed at the previous year’s tuition rates so students save money by taking a courses in the summer rather than waiting to take the course the next academic year and hoping the course will fit into their schedule.

Dr. Charles McAdams

MARCH 2008
New faculty positions created to keep pace with growth

Northwest’s Board of Regents have approved a recommendation for the hiring of new faculty and staff under the recently adopted Rational Expectations Enrollment Plan (REEP), which anticipates a 20 percent increase in the University’s historical enrollment levels over the next five years.

Proposed new faculty positions for fall 2008 include four additional instructors, one each in the areas of English, music, accounting and management. Proposed staff positions, to be filled as soon as possible, include an assistant director of admissions for recruitment and a campus visit coordinator.

Foundation officials describe plans for new alumni center

Northwest Missouri State University staff representing the Northwest Foundation met with homeowners Thursday, Jan. 31, to discuss plans for a new alumni center to be constructed on the corner of College Avenue and North Munn Avenue.

Construction will require the demolition of four existing homes that have already been acquired by the Foundation, whose board will be asked to approve architectural plans for the 17,000 square-foot structure at its next meeting in March.

Northwest Vice President for University Advancement Orrie Covert, who also acts as the Foundation’s executive director, said Thursday that a new alumni center is needed due to significant growth in the form of rising enrollment levels over the next five years, which anticipates a 20 percent growth in the form of rising enrollment levels over the next five years.

As currently envisioned, the Village at Northwest would be an urban-style community comprising shops, restaurants and offices together with a combination of single-family homes, townhouses and loft-style condominiums. According to a staff report submitted to the board, such a development would provide easy access for residents who want to take advantage of the educational, recreational and volunteer opportunities provided by the University.

In addition to housing for alumni and active or retired faculty and staff, the community’s condos and garage apartments could also create rental opportunities for students, the report stated.

Gaining experience through internship

Bolivar native Jenny Francka, a junior at Northwest Missouri State University pursuing a degree in journalism with an advertising minor, received an editorial assistant internship at the “Northwest Alumni Magazine.” The 40-page magazine is published tri-annually and has a readership of more than 50,000 Northwest alumni and friends.

In addition to her internship, Francka holds leadership positions within Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority, served as a 2007 homecoming committee chairwoman and is a section editor for the Heartland View online magazine.

Area students celebrate MLK Day at Northwest

Northwest hosted a Day of Civic Engagement on Monday, Jan. 21, the observed birthday of civil rights giant Martin Luther King Jr.

The event was sponsored by the University’s Office Minority Affairs and Office of Volunteerism and Service Learning.

Middle school and high school students from Maryville, the Missouri Academy of Science, Mathematics and Computing and the Clarinda (Iowa) Academy attended the afternoon event. They were joined by young people from a number of St. Joseph schools and organizations, including the Bartlett Center, Catholic Charities, Bode Middle School and the Mid-City Excellence Center.
Calendar of Events

March
1 Women’s and men’s basketball at Fort Hays State
   Feast of Languages
   Theatre: “Little Shop of Horrors,” 7:30 p.m., PAC
3 Second block begins
3-21 Ann Willoughby Graphic Design exhibit
4 Tower Choir concert
   Last date to add or enroll in a second-block course
5 Spring Career Day
   Last date to get 100 percent refund for dropped second-block courses
6-8 Indoor Track NCAA national championships
7-10 Women’s and men’s basketball
   MIAA tournament
   Last date to get 75 percent refund for dropped second-block courses
8 Jazz Festival
9-15 Greek Week
9 Sigma Society’s 35th Annual Bridal Show
10 Study Abroad deadline to submit applications for Summer 08 and Fall 08
10-13 Men’s basketball South Central regionals
12 Last date to get 50 percent refund for dropped second-block courses
12 Last date to place a second-block course on pass/fail
12 Last date to change a second-block course to audit
13 Outdoor men’s track at Pittsburg State Open
   Encore: Parsons Dance Company
14 Last date to get 25 percent refund for dropped second-block courses
14 Up ‘til Dawn Finale
15 Celebration of Quality
15 Third installment due
17 Pregistration for summer and fall 2008 begins
18 Career Services Education Expo
   Distinguished Lecture: Barbara Martinez-Jitner
   Last date to withdraw from the University
20 Northwest Dance Company
   Spring show
21 Residence halls close for Spring Break, 6 p.m.
21-29 Alternative Spring Break: Give the Kids the World Village, Orlando, FL
24-28 Spring Break
24 Women’s Golf at Missouri Western Invitational
25 Student payday
28-29 Women’s Golf at Truman State Invitational
30 Residence halls re-open, 1 p.m.
30-31 Outdoor track at Jock’s Nitch/Northwest Collegiate Open Multi’s Herschel Neil Decathlon/Ashley Nally Heptathlon
31 Northwest Week (through April 4)
   Classes resume, 8 a.m.
   Gail Simpson Sculpture exhibit (through April 25)

April
1 Last day to cancel housing contract without fees
   Tower Service Awards
2 Last date to drop a second-block course
3-4 Women’s golf at William Jewell Invitational
4 Theatre: “Bash”
5 Outdoor Track Jock’s Nitch/Northwest Collegiate Open
6-7 Women’s golf at Nebraska Wesleyan Invitational
8 Orchestra concert
11 Women’s golf at Avila Invitational
12 Outdoor track at Jim Duncan Invitational
14-15 Women’s golf at Park Invitational
15 Fourth installment due
17 Symphony Band concert
17 Jazz Ensemble concert
17-19 Outdoor track at Kansas Relays
19 Day of Percussion Festival
19 Outdoor Track at CMSU Mule Relays
20 Choral concert
22 Wind Symphony concert
24 Women’s golf Bearcat Classic Invitational
25 Classwork ends
   Outdoor track at Kip Janvrin Open
   Northwest Celebration Spring Show
25-26 Outdoor track at Drake Relays
   Art Club Show and Sale
27-28 Outdoor track at MIAA Heptathlon/Decathlon
28 Final exams (through May 2)

May
2 Trimester ends
3 Commencement: 10 a.m. Melvin & Valorie Booth College of Business and Professional Studies and Graduate School; 2 p.m.
   College of Arts & Sciences and College of Education & Human Services

For an up-to-date calendar, go online at www.nwmissouri.edu/calendar

Northwest

For more information about Northwest, visit www.nwmissouri.edu or call 660.562.1212

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