



Fresh from the JAR

LRC Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 2005

The Learning Resources Center's hours are:

Monday—Thursday: 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Caswell Resources Center's hours are:

Monday—Thursday: 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Contact Us:

Phone—599-1181 x489

(Person) & 694-5707 x240 (Caswell)

Website:

www2.piedmontcc.edu/lrc

Monthly Facts:

—First World's AIDS Day on December 1, 1988

—Illinois admitted to the Union on December 3, 1818

—First human heart transplant performed by Christian Barnard, South African surgeon on December 3, 1967

Celebrity Birthdays Are:

12/01/1940—Richard Pryor

12/01/1935—Woody Allen

12/08/1542—Mary, Queen of Scots

12/10/1830—Emily Dickinson

12/16/1963—Benjamin Bratt

12/23/1867—Madame C.J. Walker

12/25/1949—Sissy Spacek

12/26/1893—Mao Tse-tung

12/28/1954—Denzel Washington

12/30/1984—LeBron James

Survival Skills for Finals

If you're like the majority of college students, you've cringed at the stress brought on by final exams and relieved when they're done. Have you ever walked out of class asking everyone else: "What answer did you put down for question number . . .?"

If you asked another classmate a question like this, then you're definitely in need of some academic assistance this semester. So, follow these tips to make finals week go as smoothly as possible.



- Start early: A good rule to follow is to start studying at least one week in advance.

- Know the type of test: Will the final be multiple

choice, essay, true/false, or a

combination? This is important to know because there are different ways to study for different types of tests.

- Study what you don't know: Concentrate on studying information you are less familiar with.
- Budget your time: Make sure you give yourself enough time to take breaks while studying. This will recharge your energy.
- Pick an appropriate place to study: The LRC is a great place to study. A good studying environment will allow you to better retain the information.
- Study your way: Some people learn most efficiently by reading, some by listening, and some by writing. Just remember that repetition is the key!

- Stay healthy: Be sure to get plenty of sleep and eat healthy during this stressful week.

For more information on studying tips for finals, try these websites:

eCampusTours—

www.ecampustours.com

Final Exam Week—

www.simpson.edu/hawley/study/finals.html

Success in Mathematics—

www.euler.slu.edu/Dept/SuccessinMath.html

The Semester—

www.thesemester.com

Tips for Studying for Midterms & Finals—

www.albertson.edu/saf/study/finals.html

Tips to Tame the Finals Beast—

www.honors.ucr.edu/finals.htm

Going the Distance

Distance learning does not indicate any particular degree of separation. You can be a distance learner located only a short hop across campus from the instructor, or you can be thousands of miles away. There are many forms of learning by a distance including audioconferencing, interactive video, or Internet-based. The latter tends to be the most popular form of learning by a distance.

Internet-based learning requires students to have a computer connected to the Internet access, which allows access to a variety of tools such as the World Wide Web and e-mail. Therefore, technology is responsible for bringing together with your classmates. Of course, the result is more interac-

tion. Classmates, homework, and instructors all require netiquette.

"Netiquette" is a contraction of Internet and etiquette. Netiquette describes the things you should and should not do online if you want to get along with others. Follow these guidelines that governing online communication with your classmates and instructor:

1. Make messages short and to the point.
2. Use a subject line so the content of your message is clear.
3. Identify yourself
4. Use all caps only to highlight an important point or to note a title or heading.
5. Avoid typing in all caps—this is

considered shouting or conveying an angry tone.

6. Be thoughtful and cautious in what you say.
7. When responding to someone else's message, focus on ideas, not the person.
8. Show respect for other opinions.
9. Be careful when using sarcasm and humor.
10. Do not use obscenities.
11. Be careful not to get too personal too fast.
12. Finally, classes may have their own individual netiquette rules, so follow the guidelines in order to be part of the online group!

Visit Distance Education

Online @ www2.piedmontcc.edu/lrc/Distance_Education/Default.htm

Fresh from the JAR

All Journals Are Equal . . . NOT!

The following is a list of criteria that can be used to distinguish between popular magazines and scholarly journals. This list will aid you in selecting articles when your instructor asks you to use scholarly articles in your research papers. You will know the difference between *Psychology Today* and *Journal of Applied Psychology*.

Popular Magazines

Appearance: eye-catching cover, glossy paper, pictures and illustrations in color

Audience: nonprofessionals

Content: personalities, news, and general interest articles, articles written by staff, may be unsigned

Accountability: editorial review, no bibliographies

Advertisements: heavy

Scholarly Journals

Appearance: plain cover and paper, black/white graphics and illustrations, pages consecutively through each volume

Audience: researchers and professionals

Content: research projects, methodology, and theory, articles written by contributing authors

Accountability: peer reviewed, has bibliographies

Advertisements: few or none

Funny Fascinating Firsts

Dogs trained to guide the blind in the United States were taught at The Seeing Eye, Nashville, TN, in 1928.

Composer of jazz music was William Christopher "W.C." Handy, whose *Memphis Blues* was composed in 1911 and published on September 27, 1912. He was known as the "father of the blues."

Penalty rule in football was passed in 1885. It required five points to be deducted from a team's score if one of its players crossed the scrimmage line before the ball was snapped.

Holiday WWW

The holiday season is upon us once again, and the LRC staff wants to make sure you have plenty to keep you busy on your computers, even on your vacation. Check out these websites to add that cyber flair to your holidays.

1. Learn about the origins of Christmas trees and mistletoe, as well as Christian prayers and activities at:
~en.wikipedia.org/wiki
~www.merry-christmas.com
~www.christmasarchives.com/trees.html

2. What are the Nguzo Saba of the African-American holiday of Kwanzaa? Find out all about the celebration of this holiday at Kwanzaa: a Celebration of Family, Unity and Culture at:
~www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org
~www.kwanzaaland.com

3. Read about the history of Hanukkah at:
~www.historychannel.com/exhibits/holidays/hanukkah
~people.howstuffworks.com/hanukkah.htm



4. People celebrate the Winter Solstice on the eve of the shortest day of the year. In China, they call it Dong Zhi, and in Iran, they call it Shabe-Yalda.

Discover the meaning of the Winter Solstice and its relationship to Christmas at:

~www.equinox-and-solstice.com/html/winter_solstice.html
~www.tryskelion.com/yule7.htm
~www.circlesanctuary.org/pholidays/SolsticePlanningGuide.html

5. Don't know what to get for those hard-to-buy-for friends or relatives? Try searching:
~www.christmasgifts.com
~www.happychristmas.com
~www.christmasgiftswithheart.com

6. After the eating comes more eating, of the leftovers. Give them new life with tips from:
~holiday.allrecipes.com
~www.vegsource.com/holiday.htm
~www.cooksrecipes.com/category/holiday.html

Tech Byte . . . Your Virtual Library

The LRC's web site offers many ways to learn about the resources and activities at your library.



You can find a link to our electronic databases by clicking on "LRC Resources" from our web site. Our electronic databases give

you access to hundreds of online journals, magazines, and newspapers.

Database Spotlight: *Academic Search Elite* is a database that indexes over 2,900 publications, including scholarly journals in the social sciences, humanities, general science, education and multicultural studies, as well as popular magazines published from 1990-present. Full-text articles are provided for over 1,300 periodical titles.

For more information, contact Vanessa Bass, Reference Librarian.

Do You Have Suggestions?

If you have any suggestions, ideas, or concerns, please send them via e-mail. In the subject line, enter **Newsletter Suggestions** and send to Vanessa Bass, Reference Librarian, at bassv@piedmontcc.edu.

Thank You

A special thank you to everyone who helped with suggestions, submissions, editing, and ideas with putting together this newsletter.

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