

Friday at the Center: October 31, 2003

Elie Wiesel Prize Contest

Encourage students to engage in cultural dialogue! Full-time juniors and seniors are eligible to compete for awards of up to \$5,000 in the Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Essay Contest for 2004. Submissions should contemplate ethical issues in today's complex society by addressing such topics as, "How can human beings move beyond hate and violence? How can writing be an ethical activity? What is the most profound moral dilemma you have encountered and what did it teach you about ethics?" Students are required to have a Faculty Sponsor who verifies the quality and authenticity of the essay. More information is available at www.eliewieselfoundation.org. **Deadline: Dec. 5, 2003.**

Do You Use Service Learning in the Classroom?

College and university professors are eligible to apply for one of a hundred \$1000 State Farm Good Neighbor Service-Learning Awards to be used to implement service-learning projects for [National Youth Service Day 2004](http://www.nytd.org), April 16-18. See http://www.ysa.org/Awards/overview_parent.cfm for more information. **Deadline: Dec. 8, 2003.**

Long-Term Learning, Cont.

How can we best teach for long-term retention and transfer?

Principle 1: **Practice retrieving.**

Principle 2: **Vary learning conditions.**

Principle 3: **Require learners to re-present information.**

Principle 4: **Identify and draw on prior knowledge and experience.**

Principle 5: **Reflect on attitudes about learning.**

NEW! Principle 6: Experience alone is a poor teacher. What people learn from experience can be systematically wrong, despite great belief and confidence in such knowledge. Research shows that most people are poor judges of how well they comprehend a complex topic. Systematic and corrective feedback is needed for learning to take place.

How would this play out in the classroom? From my own discipline: merely writing a paper and getting it back (an experience) may not teach a student much. However, writing a paper, getting it back, and then revising it (an experience, corrective feedback, and a new experience), can teach a great deal.

(Halpern and Hakel, "Applying the Science of Learning to the University and Beyond," *Change*, July/August 2003.)

Upcoming Faculty Development Opportunities:

Nov. 7-9: Image 2004 Conference and Third Annual Lilly Fellows National Conference on "The Narratable World: The Theological Implications of Story." No charge for SPU faculty to attend plenaries and sessions. Contact Greg Wolfe, gwolfe@spu.edu.

Nov. 14: workshop on building a personal website, presented by Instructional Technology Services. Contact David Wicks, dwicks@spu.edu.

Happy Reformation Day!

SUSAN

Susan VanZanten Gallagher
Professor of English
Director, Center for Scholarship and Faculty Development