

Reinert Center for Teaching Excellence



way: to maximize the number of “swaps” in the conversation: interrupt, respond, go back and forth as much as you can. In that way, you can make a connection, a human connection.

Let us take a leaf from Christian’s book: what is it that we can do that a computer cannot? What is it that we can get a computer to do so that we can do more: more nurturing, more guiding, more motivating, more challenging? How can we be more human?

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**Removing the Separation between Learning and Life:  
Preparing Students for Lifelong Learning**

Deanne Marie Mason, Ph.D. Nursing-Madrid

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Learning involves experience, practice, and reflection on the experience, but it begins with something unknown or unexpected. It begins with a question.

A friend taught me the most about life-long learning. He recently died, 6 weeks before his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Curiosity helped him get out of bed each day, kept him going through work and social activities, and infused his greetings to all those around him. My friend delved into a startling array of subjects. He always probed the frontier of his knowledge, exploring a wide array of subjects like Jungian philosophy, Japanese silk screen, irrationality in the psychology of investing, and the form and function of neurons. As the end inevitably drew near, in quintessential fashion he plumbed the great mystery of life and what lies beyond.

Curiosity kept my friend youthful even in old age. At the memorial service for this life-long learner, a family member quipped “his life was cut short at 99.”

Perhaps what most set my friend apart was how his curiosity enriched not only his own life, but the lives of all those around him. It extended far beyond facts and theories. He expressed a boundless interest in everyone he met, for everyone had something to teach him. Sharing laughs and sharing perspectives built an inclusive knowledge base of the world around him. His manner taught me that life-long learning isn't so much an intellectual exercise; it's a life skill.

In this digital age of exponential advances, continued learning keeps one's mind nimble and outlook relevant. Writer and futurist Alvin Toffler wrote, “The illiterate of the 21

**David Ford**

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Remember the principle of your Jesuit education in your future endeavors to be men and women for others. Go forward in your pursuits with drive, passion, happiness and a positive outlook.

**Kim Levenhagen**

As you begin a new chapter in your lives, I hope you continue to live out the Jesuit philosophy of being men and women for others. Never forget the classmates, faculty and staff of Saint Louis University who have challenged you to live and reflect on this Ignatian principle. Every day is a gift; share it with others, and live with no regrets.

**Richard Ryffel**

Learning is a lifelong marathon