

Mehmet Dalkilic, Ph.D., Associate Professor, School of Informatics and Computing, dalkilic@indiana.edu
If you accept the card, you must email me and discuss your choice; if you finish it, we will read more

Professor's Perspective 2010

Invest in you: your mind, your spirit and your humanity; carefully spend the precious currencies of life, *time*, *effort*, *thought*. This investment will bring a true metamorphosis. You will awaken from life's functional narcolepsy—and you must awaken others.

Come to know your professor: what is the question that drives him or her? Make *yourself* known to your professor—sit at the front, ask questions, email, challenge, ponder. Go during office-hours, talk, joke, ruminate.

Always attend a music concert at least once a month; always join a club; always know what's going on at I.U.

Never allow anyone or anything to dissuade you from achieving what you want: “no”, “cannot”, “aptitude”, “rank”, *etc.*, are nothing more than scarecrows. Never be afraid to ask questions.

Never think you must *know* something *before* you study it! Nobody is born an astronaut, a pianist, a doctor, a computer scientist, an accountant, a botanist, a philosopher. College is meant to *transform* you into what you want to become.

Stay away from the mediocre; the worst kind of living is average. Move to the edges of the earth where it's said to drop into an abyss—you'll discover the edge harbors more life, more excitement, more opportunities than any other place on the world.

Whatever you do, do it with passion: studying, laughing, crying, agonizing, contemplating.

Seek out those who are wholly different from you; challenge yourself to understand what they feel, what they see, what they here—then take what's best and add it to yourself.

Do not willfully misunderstand who are different from you—ignore the din of appearance—can you understand the message?

Read, read, read, read—think, think, think—write, write, write; communication binds us *all*; only through reading, thinking, and writing will be you effective in sending your message; read fifteen minutes every night before you sleep; read a novel a month.

Help the weaker, challenge the stronger.

Don't sell your books back; keep them—they mark your path, far more valuable to you and your life than a few anonymous dollars.

Studying isn't spending time churning notes and passages; studying is learning how to ask and answer questions. One of the greatest challenges is with yourself: what level of competence will you be satisfied with? How much can you do on your own? Guide the professor in helping you—but the onus rests, ultimately, upon you.

Changing majors is *neither* bad *nor* unusual—it's routine. The difference between what you *think* the degree is and what it actually is, will probably be great. On the other hand, don't allow one class to determine the fate of your choice.

All success is achieved by *doing*

College is a fantastic do-over! You're have a clean slate. History, math, economics, computer science, chemistry, *etc.* will *all* be brandnew and of a higher calibre! Give yourself a chance to reacquaint yourself with subjects.