

Work brings success



Staff reporter reflects on the benefits of working hard for accomplishments

BY EMILY WICHMER
Staff Reporter

Our society is filled with items promising to get us what we want as fast as possible. With social networks such as Twitter or Facebook, we can read what our friends are doing at any given moment. We can Google answers to our problems. Technology promises to immediately satisfy curiosity. While this makes our lives easier, we should remember that not everything in life is so easily attained. Hard work and perseverance are the best ways to get what we want.

With all this knowledge readily available, it's easy to forget someone actually had to discover the answers through hard work. Our democracy wasn't a lucky coincidence. The Founding Fathers developed it through hard work and compromise. Thomas Edison spent long, candlelit nights tinkering with his invention until it was perfected. What if the founders of Google, Larry Page and Sergey Brin, hadn't worked to develop Google? We wouldn't have answers so easily available to us.

Olympic gymnast Gabby Douglas wouldn't have won her gold medal if she had not trained for the event and worked her hardest to achieve her goal. Not everything comes to us on a silver platter. We can't idly sit on the sidelines and wait for an opportunity to come to us.

Good things come when you work hard. Your grades improve when you study hard. Unfortunately, we can't Google the answers on a test. We need to persevere until we find the correct answer.

Perseverance also has the added benefit of giving you a sense of satisfaction. After trying something again and again, finally mastering the concept gives us pride in our abilities. We can show our friends and family that our hard work paid off, and we can feel good every time someone sees our accomplishment.

For example, when I took geometry during high school, I hated it with a passion. The first two months I spent classes and tutoring sessions mentally cursing Euclid and all his theorems. I wasn't doing my best and my grade reflected it. Then I realized if I had to take geometry, I might as well do my best and work my hardest, so I became engaged in the subject. I asked my tutor specific questions and studied before tests. Soon, things started making sense. At the end of the year, I received an "A" in the class, and I honestly can say it was because I worked hard and persevered.

Even though we have access to a wealth of knowledge with just a few clicks, we need to remember life doesn't work that way. We need to persevere and work hard if we want to achieve our goals.

"Fort Night" celebrated in Ryle Hall



Calli Lowry/Index

Students talk in the blanket fort they built Friday on the fifth floor of Ryle Hall. The students built the fort just for fun out of sheets and blankets and spent time eating snacks and talking inside.

What we want should not always be our top priority



Editor-in-Chief considers if our own wants should be our foremost concerns

BY KATHLEEN BARBOSA
Editor-in-Chief
index.editor@gmail.com

Let's take a minute to talk about what I want.

Actually, let's take a whole column to talk about it. We waste precious minutes waiting in line deciding what we want. We spent our first year of college deciding what we want and many of us still don't have a clue.

We are plagued with the constant question — "What do you want?"

It happens during everyday, ordinary situations. For example, your roommates ask, "What do you want to eat?" Your advisor asks you, "What do you want to learn?" The question swells with importance when it is elevated from the mundane to the ultimate question — "What do you want to do with your life?"

Even this column started as a question of, "What do I want to write?" when it should have been, "What do you want to read?"

Far too often, my answer is, "I don't know," which seems ludicrous. How can I not know what I want? By the nature of the question, I'm the only person who possibly can know what I want. Lately I've been considering it might not be that I have no answer, but instead that I'm asking the wrong question.

This question that every counselor and advisor asks to provide you with some insight into your future is inherently selfish.

Constantly asking ourselves, "What do I want?" means we are tethered to a Universe that places us at the center of it.

Gone is the spirit of civil consciousness placing others above "I." It has disappeared along with the mindset that considers individual talents in the context of community need.

The belief we are the captains of our own lives has polluted the concept of community by consuming any sense of obligation to others we once had and replacing it with the self-serving belief that the rank of captain serves as a moral justification to place our wants

above the needs of the crew.

Often, we mistakenly think we want something, but actually don't. For example, I might decide I want a high-paying job with security and benefits, but what I really want is the ability to live comfortably, to take care of my family and live a lifestyle where money isn't an issue that jeopardizes my relationships. We might say we want money, but we just want to use it as a means to an end.

Other times, we mistake what we want because we are too close to the situation to see the larger picture. For example, if you've ever considered switching your major, then you know what it's like to struggle through the decision about whether to leave the discipline or stick with it. Once you finally leave, you might realize how much you hated it, but when you were stuck in the mundane day to day drone of the work, it is impossible to see how staying with it would start you down a path of a job and eventually a career you equally would dislike.

I have a sneaky feeling, a suspicion, maybe even a hope, that when we look back at what we want now, we'll find it wasn't what we wanted at all and instead we'll see how small and insignificant it all really is.

Maybe we'll eventually see the bigger picture. We'll see our desires on a scale for which our actions have consequences and the ability to help others. We'll comprehend the significance of our decisions by focusing on others. We'll realize what we want should come secondary to "What can we do?"

Go home smarter.

As in faster (and of course with all your newly acquired knowledge). Why drive over 3 hours to

St. Louis when you can hop on a plane and be home in just over an hour? No brainer, right? And free parking, too (space permitting).

Book online today.

St. Louis from
\$50*
each way
including all taxes
and fees



Cape Air
Your wings to St. Louis and beyond.
capeair.com 800-CAPE-AIR

*Fares are subject to availability and other significant conditions. Fares may change without notice, and are not guaranteed until ticketed.



Kirksville Property Management LLC

**The Housing Source in
Kirksville**

Visit us at, 1605 S. Baltimore, Suite D
www.KirksvillePropertyManagement.com,
or call 660.665.6380