

**Dear Classes:  
DrK Weekly Newsletter (WN)  
08272013**

**AMRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY



REF: CO2416 Technology Enhanced Communications  
CO1403 Management Information Systems (MIS) in Business Administration  
CO2412 Creating a Business Presence on the Web  
BS4458 ePortfolio in Business Administration

Hello to all of my co-learners. Below you will find a sample letter from Fall 2013 for you to review so you might know from where this WN (DrK Weekly Newsletter) is derived. I send these out on a bi-monthly (2 times/month) basis (as much as is possible) to inform, update, and offer support. As we are into Tuesday of the first week, there are a few items that I want to share with you as you begin the journey.

The very first thing is that I am a continuous-student-teacher. This means that I learn as you do, I work as you do; I sleep as much as I can, and I am just like you. But...I have some years on me, much like the miles on a car. The tires are a bit worn, the lights aren't as bright as they were once, but that old car still runs. Thus, I still learn just like you do and until my Lord calls me to my Home, I will run the race before me. Now, with that said, our journey is OUR journey, not yours, not mine—but ours. For it to be OURS, we must be about the business of discussion, ideas, momentum, and progress. The first order of progress is the PIP...Personal Information Paradigm (or as my daughter said once, 'Pair-ah-dig-um.'). This is to introduce you to me and if you have already done one of these, simply update and submit. My pair-ah-dig-um is located at <http://dr-kenscott-com>. Let me caution you...that web site is not about self, but a validation when I need something for something else. I'm not giving you this web site to 'boast'; God forbid I do that ever. I am providing it so you might know a bit about me and that in this exchange of 'info', we might know each other better and thus, make better progress in our journey. Remember---OUR journey. SO, please look at the PIP this week and please post it to Bb and I will read every word and speak to your 'pair-ah-dig-um.'

The second item is your project for each course. Take heart...I am fully aware of the pains, travails, and keyboard time spent in this lofty goal. Let me offer you some help. The DPP is a proposal. Just like when I proposed to my wife of 34 years, 1 month, 3 hours, 55 minutes, and tick, tick, tick...I proposed to give her the World (modified several times since then), listen to her every word (modified several times since then), give her a huge house (modified several times since then), and solve all problems that she may ever experience (modified several times since then). But, by Grace, Mercy, and Love of the Father, we carved out a niche in the World, we now listen more than ever to each other, we live in a huge house by our modest standards (it AIN'T huge...!!!), and we help each other solve problems. Therefore, your DPP is a proposal: it might be a WORLD of an exercise, it will definitely cause you to hear your words of 'what do I do?', it will definitely cause you to wander around your house and think that this is hopeless (it is not, I assure you), and it will surely cause you to consider it a problem in need of a resolution—but it is ONLY ONLY ONLY a proposal at this point. It won't take you 34 years to accomplish it, and it can be done in a semester of 14 or so weeks—BUT.....(drum roll)..... You must do something: type on your keyboard a few little sentences, they make pages; think about

what you want to accomplish, it makes a document; and, submit, cause I can't read by 'virmosis' (virtual-osmosis). Let me give you an example: if you are doing the web design, your paper or DPP is 'going to be to do' a DPP = Discovery Paper/Project. A DPP is validation of your skills development. IN other words, as you are learning to use DreamWeaver or HTML5, you validate your progress by capturing a few screen-shots, then using verbiage to define, describe, and extend what you validated via the screen-shot. See how simple that was!!!!!! So, if your initial tutorial was to browse the application, much like kicking the tires of that car I alluded to earlier in this—now—diatribe, you begin to see how your DPP becomes a DPP. You are discovering how to learn the application, and then you supplement the DPP in terms of looking at some of the content surrounding the topic. Whoa...got ahead of 'meself'... the proposal is that you intend to do this, and do this by action, and do this by motivation, and do this by being consistent each week, and do this by thinking outside the box. My saying is this: "Think outside the box!!!!???...I don't even get near the edges...NOT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" (Did I get that vernacular about right when it was radical—'cuse me, RAD!) This actually means, **THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX!**

You see, the initial DPP is a **proposal**. It has some basic elements, but it is a start. At a time in my life, I was an AVID-CRAZED-ALMOSTINSANE racquetball player. IN fact, I was getting pretty good at it and was headed to California to play on the pro-circuit. Then I made that proposal to my wife and you can't keep those things promised and be on the circuit of pro-racquetball at the same time, so, I began to work on what I promised. I didn't lose my life's dream, God just gave me another one. But, when that dream arrived, I had to get up from my seat, and go, go, go. My DPP was to do this, add to it, and keep moving like the rolling-stone. So it is with your DPP: get it down on paper, propose something, and then it will take shape as you move forward. There is veritas (truth) in Life: a stone that moves little get mossy fast. Translation: the longer you sit idle, the more grass grows under your feet...and in between thy toes. What that has to do with anything, I have not a clue, but WOW—did it sound profound!!! Well...a little profound...just a bit profound? OKAY!!! ... just short of profound. ☺

So, two things: the PIP and the DPP. These will not require a lot of time or effort, but they do require some keyboard time, a bit of left-brain/right-brain firing of the synopsis. Then, simply upload them in Bb and I will e-grab them, and e-review them, and finally, e-return them to you.

Finally, read the letter below and it will give you a sense of what these NL's or WLs are about. They inform, offer support, give what Wisdom that can be given from someone who has lived a few years, travelled nearly ¾ of the Earth, served in the military, and stayed up way too late writing these words on this page (it is 5:00AM as I type this). SO, you see, this journey is OURS – as cliché as that may sound. As someone by the name of John Donne said once, "No person is an island." Well, learning isn't done in a vacuum. You know what a vacuum is? It is the absence of something else. Like—no air! Oops. No air, no life. So, for now, think in terms of: if you run into problems, or need help, or just need to figure out what to do, who you gonna call? DrKBusters. Some of you might not know of this reference and it maketh me feeleth oldeth.

God Bless and remember: if you don't ask, I can't interpret what I can't see, hear, or be cognizant of.... I AM HERE TO HELP YOU ON OUR JOURNEY.

## **Sample Letter for Your Perusal: (Written for the Spring 2013 group, ~03132013)**

Let me first of all say to all of you, I hope that Easter has meaning and importance in your lives as it does in ours. We celebrate its significance to our lives and our futures in Eternity. May God be praised in His Glory and Honor for what He has done for us at this time of year.

Second, I have graded the materials, less the ePortfolio, which I will do shortly. I, as it seems of late, am always on the cusp of doing catch up from one class or between jobs or between illnesses or between waking hours and the necessity to slumber, and so it goeth. I wanted to take this opportunity to share something with all of you in the hopes that it might make a difference in your lives.

As I interact with you, my co-learners, although we assign titles to things, such as students-instructors, and so forth, I wanted to leave you with my philosophical bent on learning. Some of this may be of value to you, or it may seem to be “preaching to the choir.” (Although I have never directed a choir, the “idear” is near the same, I suppose.)

When I was an undergraduate at Georgia Southern University, some eons ago, I was taking Electrical Engineering courses in pursuit of a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering Technology. In this process, I encountered a “prof” by the name of Dr. Jim Manring, PhD, PE, a former NASA design engineer and one of the few who passed his Professional Engineer license with a score of 100—which if you know about certifications, this PE exam is like the CCIE, or CISSP, or any other of several top certs in the IT world. A score of 100 is rare, and the tester is ascribed to a status of genius, if you will. Well, Dr. Manring was the type of “hero” in EE courses that when he entered the room, you as a student felt his presence and hoped that you might be able to at least pass with a C, at best, or a D, if you were able to at least understand his level of knowledge. He could spout a differential equation so easily, you got lost about the third word in his description of what he was talking about. He could discuss the theory of an engineering design issue/problem as if he was taking a walk in a park and had time to hear the songs of the birds. With all of that repertoire, we ‘students’ feared him because he seemed to be so far beyond our comprehension that we were just hopeful to at least survive and continue to our graduations. Then, when he arrived that first day and began to talk about the class, content, our success, and his goals for us, we began to see the man differently. He was a true champion of our success. He understood our needs, issues of fear of failing, and so forth. He came down to our level—that is, he was not Dr. Jim Manring, PhD, PE, -- he was Jim Manring, teacher, co-learner, a master of pay-it-forward, and so forth. Now, he expected us to study, practice, do the labs, achieve a sufficient level of understanding and application, but he was a master teacher that made our learning fun, fundamental, and functional. I think that because of these three f’s, many of us avoided the F that we had dreaded when his reputation preceded him. IN other words, he could still do all those things we feared, but he did so to demonstrate knowledge and the reason for that knowledge. He explained the need for engineers to understand the calculus-based math in our problems, to be able to apply engineering principles/principals to our work, and why is was necessary to obtain a correct answer when the difference in a number like 208.3468 and 20.83468 could send a rocket in the ocean as compared to a trajectory orbit. But, he did so at our level and with compassion and understanding. You could go to his office and tell him your concerns and he listened, gave encouragement, and helped you to the end. I have remembered

this individual all of these years because he gave me the hope that I could make it to graduation if I applied even a modicum of effort. He never gave up on me or other students; the only time that happened was when the student gave up and quit. Even then, Dr. Manring sought out the student and tried to see what happened, and how to help that person continue. Not only was he a most intelligent and brilliant engineer at the highest level, he was a person of compassion in understanding the lives of those who were doing their best to learn and make progress.

With this said, I have tried to emulate this person in all my nearly 30 years of teaching. I have tried to allow for schedules that are difficult or issues of learning that impede the progress. I have said before that I understand the demands of life on students, because I was one and have been one and continue to be one. You would think that “owning” an EdD/PhD is the end-all, be-all that we have learned all that there is out there in the world of IT; NOT TRUE. We learn as you are learning, we have families, we have jobs and many of us have two or more; we have issues of Faith, Life, and Health; we go through hard times, we have children and grandchildren and even some have great grandchildren. We must maintain certifications and professional development, produce at the highest level, and serve on so many committees that we think that at times, if we have one more committee meeting to attend, our sense of well-being will be spent beyond recovery. We understand all of that and more. In the end, however, we also have compassion on our students who experience these things, including family and other issues; work demands, loss and sickness that sometimes strikes at the very heart of our Soul. And because of Dr. Jim Manring, I am willing to help when and where I can; I am open to your feedback whether it is positive or corrective—yes, I am willing to hear your complaints, comments, constructive criticisms, and all of that. When you are in need of more time or a one-on-one, I will do my best to make that a priority and get it resolved. I make mistakes and sometimes get lost in my shuffle, just as you do. I have many classes, committees, deadlines, and all of that also. But, my primary goal is your success. YOUR SUCCESS... Just because I have finished my “formal” education with an exit degree has no bearing on my desire to see you succeed. If you can’t finish all of a course, I look at effort; if you weren’t able to produce a paper that meets with the approval of a Peer-reviewed journal editor, I understand the process of learning to write and how hard it can be. Writing is a hard job; writing at the level to publish is sometimes comparable to a root canal (and sometimes I prefer the root canal.) If you feel that you have not achieved your goals, I am open to hear about what you see as needing improvement or what should have been done. Even in this forum, I am not so much about “grades” as I am about effort and desire. Here’s why: Dr. Manring has a design class in which I studied but I knew that I didn’t prepare as I should have. He scored my first exam on the basis of performance. I made a whopping 38/100 on the exam. I failed miserably and was about to simply give up and quit. But, when he gave me the paper, he also looked at me with a nod as if to say, you can do better and I am here for you. This pay-it-forward caused me to study more and study to understand the content as he expected, which was not to become a PE before finishing the class, but to show that I was making progress and doing the normal for what he expected. My next exam and all exams that followed were 90 or better; he threw out the 38 and I made an A in his class. That was like nirvana to me at the time and the lesson was that he understood my learning needs and the struggle to learn. Now, move to present day: I understand your demands of Life; I do. I am sympathetic to those things as I have talked to students in 30 years and learned about their lives, demands, work, sickness, or other issues that seem to devastate their ability to move forward. In all of these years, I am sympathetic to your issues, but I am also sympathetic to your ability to

strive to achieve “what you can.” This means that you make some progress, even if you can’t make all the progress that shows up in the gradebook. Now, you are saying, what are you saying? I am saying that if you make effort, I will multiply that effort in your progress, but I can’t make that multiplication from nothing. If you multiply 0 by 100, what do you get? Let me tell you why I do this:

Learning is hard work. Taking care of family is hard work. Being Faithful to God in Christ is hard work. Being consistent in following God’s Word is hard work. Getting up sometimes is hard work. Serving others is hard work. Turning in assignments is hard work. Taking out the trash is hard work. Exercise is hard work. Getting that root canal is HARD work. Being a friend is hard work. Having a sick family member is hard work. Losing a family member is some of the most difficult work we have to face. Do you see a pattern developing here? Life is hard. I pray every day, all day. I try, I fall, I confess my faults, and I get up and take the next step. But the core existence issue is to try. Take the next step. Get help. Move forward. Keep moving forward. Sometimes giving up seems to be the easiest thing to do, but it is the most destructive thing to do. I have learned that instead of running from God, if I run to Him, in Faith and in my times of sorrow or hurt or need, I receive the help I needed. It may not always be what I thought the response should have been, but I look at it in perspective and it was the help I needed. With that said, as you all are learning and striving to move ahead, talk to your instructors, open up to them, and do this early and often. Don’t stop out/drop out; when you do this, your time line of progress takes a big hit and it takes momentum to get going again. How do you stop a freight train going 70MPH when it weighs 1000 tons? Very slowly and it takes some distance. Well, the counterpart to this is: how do you get the train going again? One horsepower at a time...meaning: it takes as long to get it going as it does to stop it, but you consume horsepower and fuel in the process. Do you see? Momentum and effort go a long way in keeping you on the track of progress; stopping takes concerted effort to get up and going again. When you have a problem, get it resolved; if it takes 5 emails, 10 phone calls, and 30 more emails, then get it done! Don’t assume that just because your 1 email was not returned that we are not sympathetic to your needs, we are. And just because you didn’t get all of your work done, as in my case, I am not going to throw out the baby with the bathwater—as the saying goes.

I know how difficult, as I have said so many times before—how hard learning is with families, multiple classes, and jobs. Then when you add illness or other issues, it can be devastating. How do you find balance? You talk to your instructors, your friends, and yourselves. You determine the path to move you ahead if that is possible; you make progress as you are able and you continue the momentum. When you feel that you are behind, can’t catch up, or it is hopeless, bring this to your instructor THEN, not weeks after the fact. I have often asked for feedback, keep me informed, and so forth. What I know about, I can do as I can to fix it; what I do not know until weeks/months after the fact, becomes many times insurmountable.

I’ll tell you this and then end this: when I was working on my doctorate, there came a point in the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> year (it took me 5 years to complete it), that I got up from my desk after writing for hours and getting discouraged that I told my wife that I was quitting the study and dropping out. IN fact, I stopped writing for almost 4 weeks—which is a lifetime in writing a dissertation. My wife and my mom both began to work on me about finishing, its benefits, and

so forth. My mom even threatened to “whup” me if I didn’t! She was 73 at the time. So, I stoked the fires of the freight train, gained momentum, and continued working. The point here is that I didn’t tell my committee chair until after weeks of not talking to her. She wondered what had happened, why I responded to her emails with a short response, and so forth. She noted that if I had let her know my frustration, and despair, she would have worked with me and gotten me through this tough time and the ‘feeling of needing/wanting to quit.’ I failed to take my own advice and those 4 weeks were miserable and cost me an additional semester of tuition and so forth.

I don’t know if this letter will help or simply be a deleted item when it arrives. I hope it may help you when you are discouraged. At the very least, I want you all to know that I want you to be successful and not lose hope or get to a point that a course seems hopeless and worthless and of no value. I’ve had a few like that, but I always gave it the best effort I could and made the best grade I could and I always learned something of value along the way.

Well, I’ll close here. God bless all of you and I pray that issues that have been reported are improving and that Prayer has been answered.

Until later,  
Cyalaterbye4now,

DrK

PS...thanks to all for the excellent work that has been submitted. It is appreciated and your work will not be in vain.

God Bless All.