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Anderson: "Dynamic Learning helped me feel younger"

DLI Classes focus on DiSC, Pluto & Friends

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By Jeff Anderson - Special to the Times

In all, 425 participants experienced the fun of Dynamic Learning Institute classes during the first two weeks of the spring semester. Fortunately, I attended all five classes and want to share a takeaway from my own experience.

Immersing myself in a variety of DLI sessions has made me feel younger and stimulated my zest for everyday living. My hope is this personal testimony will encourage others to participate in DLI classes and enjoy similar stimulation of dynamic learning.

Every topic opens doors to learning possibilities taught by peers who have a lifetime of interesting experiences to share. In the words of a memorable TV commercial, "We guarantee it."

"Everything DiSC from Assessment to Action"
The second greatest commandment is to "love your neighbor as you love yourself." David Danielson shared that this divine rule is what keeps him motivated to pursue lifelong learning. "For me, these words of Jesus motivate me to keep learning and growing and pressing into becoming the fullest expression of who we have been created to be, so that we can accomplish the fullest expression of what we have been created to do," he said.



Danielson will lead two 90-minute DiSC classes, in which participants will discover keys to better understanding themselves, as well as the other people in their lives. Each participant will complete the online DiSC survey prior to the first session.

The deadline for class registration is Thursday, Feb. 8. Participants will receive their individualized 20-page report at the first DiSC

session. Students will then utilize their report for personal assessment and action planning.

The "Everything DiSC from Assessment to Action" classes are scheduled for consecutive Tuesdays on Feb. 13 and Feb. 20 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Dietert Center, 451 Guadalupe St. DLI Board Member and Club Ed Director Waverly Jones will serve as host for each class.

Registrants are asked to pay one \$55 DLI class fee that includes both sessions and the DiSC assessment report.

"Only when we know and love ourselves can we truly love other people in the healthiest way," Danielson explained. This belief, as well as growing up with a father who was fascinated by people and personality differences, led him in 1996 to study applications of the DiSC personality preference models. He said he found the information to be fun, interesting and life-changing.

"I have now been teaching DiSC seminars for more than 20 years in a variety of settings, and I continue to be amazed at how relevant this information is across every spectrum. I believe Wiley Publishing's Everything DiSC Workplace profile is the most accurate DiSC assessment tool available on the market today," Danielson said.

He said class participants will learn many insights about themselves, including: "As an individual, what are your instinctive strengths and inherent weaknesses? What guidelines can you use to determine the most satisfying use of your time and talents? How can you improve the effectiveness of your relationships with the other people in your life? What are some helpful action steps when there is tension in a relationship?"

Danielson has served as senior pastor at Impact Christian Fellowship, one of Kerrville's largest

churches, for 14 years. He practices what he preaches and encourages new members of Impact to attend similar DiSC learning sessions.

"I want people to come away from the DLI DiSC classes with an enhanced self-awareness and a heightened awareness of others. The goal is to identify each individual's clear personality preference, and then to understand the applications of that for everyday life situations,"

Danielson shared several favorite insights he has learned from teaching DiSC. "The more clearly we understand ourselves, the better opportunity we have to become comfortable in our own skin. Each of us is an original, so obviously, people are different. However, these differences are predictable. Embracing the idea that different's not wrong; different's just different creates the pathway for greater understanding in every relationship in our lives."

DiSC establishes the vocabulary and personal understanding that is the foundational for better self-awareness, and it also creates a variety of insights necessary for more effective and productive relationships with other people – in the workplace, in friendships and at home. DLI encourages everyone who is interested in improving their relational skills to take advantage of this "Everything DiSC" learning opportunity.

"Pluto and friends – Smaller Solar System Bodies"

Want to learn an appreciation for the enormous diversity that exists within the solar system?



It's not just the sun and planets, as there are thousands of very interesting and under-appreciated smaller solar system bodies that inform us about our universe.

Schreiner University professor Kim Arvidsson will deliver a presentation Feb. 15 at the Loftis Observatory Campus, 2100 E. Main St. behind the main campus, from 6 to 7:30pm.

The class will investigate the smaller inhabitants of the solar system, and attendees will learn about dwarf planets, asteroids, Kuiper Belt objects and comets. In recent years, more is becoming known about these elusive solar system bodies, as exemplified by the New Horizons mission to Pluto and beyond.

"In 1986, I saw Halley's Comet, and was informed that it hadn't been seen since 1910, and wouldn't be seen again until 2061. I thought it was the coolest thing that astronomers were able to so accurately predict where and when such spectacular objects could be seen," Arvidsson said.

Interestingly, the precision of the movements in our universe gives way to our ever-evolving knowledge of astronomy. Chances are most class participants learned in grade school that Pluto was the ninth planet from the sun. However in 2006, Pluto was formally excluded from its status as a planet. Who killed Pluto and why it had it coming will be discussed by Arvidsson.

Arvidsson teaches physics and astronomy at Schreiner University, where he is also director of the Loftis Observatory. He earned his doctoral degree in astrophysics from Iowa State University, and his undergraduate degree in physics from Lund University in Sweden.

Learn why Pluto is no longer a planet and why that makes sense. Learn what the Kuiper Belt is and how these smaller bodies give us clues to the solar system's formation. As Arvidsson said, "What's the point if you're not learning?"

DLI board members Kristen and Dowell Mudry will serve as hosts at the Schreiner University Loftis Observatory during "Pluto and Friends."

May we never stop learning and growing younger together.

Dynamic Learning Institute

DLI is a Kerrville community partnership between the Dietert Center's Club Ed, Schreiner University, SERV Kerrville and the Dynamic Learning Institute Board of Directors. Dynamic Learning aims to provide the Kerrville area with fun, interactive and stimulating learning experiences.

The DLI board hopes many community residents will join it in discovering the joy of learning from dynamic instructors who have lifetimes of subject experiences to share. There are no tests, no grades and no papers — just the opportunity to explore interesting topics and develop new interests.

DLI Chairman Jeff Anderson is the servant pastor of SERV Kerrville, a nonprofit collaborating with community partners to empower lifelong learning.