Moodle and the First Year Experience at Kalamazoo College

Greg Diment, Director of Computing
Carolyn Zinn, Associate Director of Web Services
Kalamazoo College

- Kalamazoo Michigan
- Residential liberal arts
- 1340 students
- 101 faculty
- First Year class size of 360-380
First Year Experience

THE FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE

The First Year Experience at "K" is a nationally recognized program that helps students achieve academic success, make choices that lead to balanced lives, and learn to relate to people and cultures different than their own.

Elements of the First Year Experience

**Summer Common Reading** - a shared conversation about the Summer Common Reading selection with classmates, faculty, AND the selection's author

**LandSea** - an optional 18-day wilderness backpacking, climbing canoeing experience

**Orientation** - a week of intensive faculty, staff, student-mentor, and new student involvement

**First Year Seminars** - small, discussion-based seminars that develop critical thinking and college writing skills

**First Year Forums** - special dramatic presentations, interactive learning sessions, and structured conversations

**Academic Advisors** - faculty who know their first-year advisees personally

**Peer Leaders** - student mentors assigned to each first-year student through the first-year seminar

More Information
Dr. Zeide Picley, Dean of the First Year & Advising
(269) 337-5755
picley@kzoo.edu
web site http://www.kzoo.edu/firstyear
mission of the FYE program

help students to:

• achieve academic success
• make choices that lead to balanced lives
• learn to relate to people and cultures different than their own.
elements of program

- summer common reading
- first year seminars
- peer leaders
- first year forums
- orientation week
- LandSea - optional
goals of the FYE Moodle project

- decrease summer melt and fall/winter quarter attrition
- increase student perception of supportive environment (NSSE)
- address the perennial problem of how to get the attention of students
Create a site on Moodle, our web-based course management system, to start a dialog and the beginnings of community even before the students arrive on campus.
Moodle

- Open-source web-based CMS/LMS
- Kalamazoo has used Moodle since 2004
- About 25% adoption by faculty
  - 30-35 courses each term
  - 20-25 faculty
  - About 20 non-course sites (committees, interest groups)
why Moodle?

- web-based community is second nature to this generation
- connect with them and allow them to connect with each other
- the FYE program is a good fit for the various features of Moodle
- safe
- cheap substitute for expensive gift campaigns
- more manageable than on-campus summer orientation
how we set it up for K'10

- a place for them -- just for new students, not intended for any other audience
- a fresh look, to contrast with the more somber look of our other web resources
- comprehensive information and links
welcome to the "k" college first-year program

helping you to
- achieve academic success
- make choices that lead to a balanced life
- learn to relate to people and cultures different than your own

1 summer common reading
is an important first step in building a cohesive, dynamic, educational community. To share a book means we all begin "on the same page"—literally. To then meet and hear from the author adds the dialogue between reader and writer, text and audience, that will be crucial to your educational experience over the next four years. We hope that, through reading this book attentively, discussing it with peers and faculty, connecting it to other academic disciplines at the college and making it relevant to yourself in surprising ways, you will see the Summer Common Reading experience as a microcosm of, and a model for, a liberal arts education.

2 first-year seminars
involve faculty from many different departments, who develop special topics courses that introduce students to the critical thinking and writing skills required in college. Seminars help students find and develop a voice through writing, speaking, analytical reading, discussion, and critical thinking. Seminars are small and operate through an exploratory discussion format. They begin during orientation and are the only class taken by all "K" students. Students write frequent, short papers, with much opportunity for revisions. Seminars include projects that foster intercultural understanding and home information literacy.

3 first-year forums
are special programs (dramatic presentations, interactive learning sessions, and structured conversations with faculty, other students, and guests on campus) that focus on the three goals of the FYE program and help first-years continue their academic and personal growth.

4 peer leaders
are carefully selected student-mentors who share their knowledge and experiences to help you achieve greater academic and personal success. Each Seminar is assigned a Peer Leader.

5 helpful links
- computing
- medical
- housing
- landscape
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5. helpful links
   - [Computing](#)
   - [Medical](#)
   - [Housing](#)
   - [Landsea](#)
## Participants

### Professors and Peer Leaders

#### 398 Students

(Accounts unused for more than 180 days are automatically unenrolled)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First name / Surname</th>
<th>City/town</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Last access</th>
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<td>kalamazoo</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>186 days 22 hours</td>
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welcome to the "k" college first-year program

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- make choices that lead to a balanced life
- learn to relate to people and cultures different than your own

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5. helpful links
- computing
- medical
- housing
- landscape
Start a conversation, join a conversation, follow a conversation

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Discussion</th>
<th>Started by</th>
<th>Replies</th>
<th>Lastpost</th>
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<tr>
<td>Intro- &quot;ME&quot; (Julio)</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Bonifacio Contreras Sat, 9 Sep 2008, 16:33 AM</td>
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<td>I'm late (I suppose that's kind of obvious, haha)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Katherine Banghart Wed, 30 Aug 2008, 10:14 PM</td>
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<td>Work Study</td>
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<td>Travis Smith Mon, 21 Aug 2008, 10:44 PM</td>
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<td>LANDSEA!!!</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Lauren Boland Mon, 21 Aug 2008, 07:06 PM</td>
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<td>Ilana Kresch: about me...</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Ilana Kresch Mon, 21 Aug 2008, 07:24 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Another random question!</td>
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<td>Lauren Boland Fri, 19 Aug 2008, 02:36 PM</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>Lauren Boland Mon, 14 Aug 2008, 03:29 AM</td>
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<td>every important question</td>
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<td>Catherine Herzog Thu, 10 Aug 2008, 12:20 AM</td>
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<td>Emily Ackerman Tue, 8 Aug 2008, 12:59 AM</td>
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<td>Erik Guntzsch Sun, 6 Aug 2008, 10:54 PM</td>
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<td>Who am I?</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Lauren Boland Mon, 14 Aug 2008, 03:30 AM</td>
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</table>
PLs do the dorms come with a desk chair?
by [user] - Friday, 14 July 2006, 06:07 PM
I know we get bed, dresser, and desk but desk chair?

Re: PLs do the dorms come with a desk chair?
by [user] - Friday, 14 July 2006, 09:58 PM
Yup, desk chair's included.
welcome to the "k" college first-year program

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helpful links
- computing
- medical
- housing
- landscape
introductions, comments, musings...

Blog Author: [name] | Back to the Blog List

the tip of the iceberg...

Posted by: Barret Myers | Date: July 5, 2006 (8:49 pm)

So I realize that there is probably a relatively unlimited space to write an introduction here, and at the same time realize that pretty much everyone has a short attention span for these sorts of things... so I will do my best to keep this informative and not-too-long... I could shoot for profound, but wont promise anything... You may have already figured, I like ellipses... (there they are again!) See, it saves me having to think of what the proper punctuation would be in any particular case. I'm planning on being a biology or health sciences major, and never was big on English grammar rules - or spelling checking while typing... so sorry if any of you are offended by glaring mistakes... they weren't intended, I promise! Anyway, I live in Rochester, MN and graduated from high school in 2005. And then I spent the 2005/2006 school year at a folk school in Norway. Basically, I was at a small school in southern Norway (not kinder, mind you) for any of you with knowledge of Norwegian anything. I studied Norwegian, kind of, and learned other random things, like how to salsa dance. The school didn't give out grades or tests or anything, so it was self-motivated learning... and unfortunately, more students than not were self-motivated drinkers... so yeah, you can imagine that I have my fair share of horror stories. But with the negative came the positive and I learned something new from every situation and that's what counts I guess. I won't go into anymore detail here (to avoid boring you to death), but I have pictures on facebook and will willingly share stories with anyone interested! Other little things before I wrap this up, I'm a swimmer!! YEAH! and will be swimming for KI in the fall... so if you are a swimmer too, let me know! If your not, thats great too, I still like to talk to people! Im going on LandSea as well and will be on the extended canoe trip... so if any of you want someone to talk to about that, Ill be on that trip, so let me know on that one too! I know there are important things I am leaving out, so if you happen to want to know any of them... post something! I like this whole moodle blog thing, and will be checking it regularly! Can't wait for the fall, to meet all of you and start our experience at KI!

-Barret Myers

You are logged in as Suzie Student (Logout)
June 2006

Dear members of the class of 2010, transfer, and international students,

We are writing to tell you about our eighth annual Summer Common Reading experience, which we believe is an important first step in building a cohesive, dynamic, educational community. Together, all new students, seventy-five professors and administrators, and all the Peer Leaders will be reading Jonathan Safran Foer’s *Everything Is Illuminated*, a novel that will serve as a gateway to your liberal arts education.

*Everything Is Illuminated* is narrated by two young men: Alex, a Ukrainian translator, and a character named none other than Jonathan Safran Foer, who hires Alex on a trip to find the woman who may have saved his grandfather from the Nazis. Their search will include Alex’s grandfather, who has his own harrowing memories of the war, and will lead them to an elderly Jewish woman, one of the few survivors of the Jewish village (in Yiddish, shtetl) of Trachimbrod, as well as through two hundred years of the shtetl’s history. The novel – a *New York Times* bestseller, the *Los Angeles Times* Book of the Year, and the winner of numerous awards, including the Guardian First Book Prize, the National Jewish Book Award, and the New York Public Library Young Lions Prize – traces the difficult negotiations, translations and imaginings necessary to engage the truth of anyone’s history. We hope its treatment of identity, cross-cultural friendship, love and forgiveness will resonate strongly as you begin your own imaginative and actual journeys, both away from your homeland and into a more conscious relationship with it. Reading *Everything Is Illuminated* together will be one of your first experiences in K’s community of learners intent on engaging the world. It will initiate you into your own process of educational searching.
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Ignore Death, death is only part of the large amount of Loss in this book
by Travis Smith - Friday, 29 July 2006, 10:18 AM

(Everything I said about death goes here) Than add Grampa Alex’s “loss” of his site, Jon’s “loss” of the box Lista gave him, Yankel’s loss of his 1st name, Jon’s loss of his fear of dogs, I think there’s a lesson in all this loss crap just too dumb to figure it out.

Re: Ignore Death, death is only part of the large amount of Loss in this book
by Ha - Sunday, 30 July 2006, 09:41 PM

Ha. Figuring out the Loss Lessons is the hardest thing of all—within books and without. I’m glad you framed the novel this way. I’ll be sure to raise the subject of loss, and how the imagination contends with it, in our discussion of the book when you all are on campus.

Re: Ignore Death, death is only part of the large amount of Loss in this book
by Scott Davis - Saturday, 12 August 2006, 02:46 PM

Honestly I think what this says about loss is that something is only a loss to you if you choose to see it that way.

The most obvious example would be Grandfather’s “loss” of his sight. He was so traumatized that he found a way to let the pain handicap him (I personally see it as a sort of cop-out).

Jonathan never chose to lose the box, but he chose whether or not he was going to be upset over it. In the end, what was in the box wasn’t what was important. The things that happened leading up to (and following) the acquisition of the box were the things that really mattered. The contents of the box were never as important as the emotions surrounding its contents.

Yankel changed his name out of grief. I think it was a sort of coping mechanism. I see it as a way for him to bring himself closer to that which he had lost (namely, his wife) because he just didn’t know how to let go. He wanted so badly the be the man his wife loved that he did the only thing he could do to become that man: he changed his name. I’m not saying this is healthy, it’s just the way it happened.

Jon eventually lost his fear of dogs (or at least Sammy Davis, Junior, Junior) because he saw that he wasn’t threatened as he previously thought he was. Just as Jonathan changed the perspectives of Alex and Grandfather, his experiences in the Ukraine also shaped him. Here’s an example of how loss isn’t always a bad thing.

I think that loss, when self-motivated, is a either a coping mechanism or an adaptation of our views.

When it “happens” to us, the only control we have over it is how we deal with it. People can’t “undo” things but they can choose how the loss will affect them and whether or not they’ll deal with it in a healthy manner. I think this is part of what JSF was getting at, or maybe that’s just how I interpret it, I’m not sure.

btw, Travis, you’re not dumb. 😊
summer common reading

Website
JSF on Everything Is Illuminated

Interviews with Jonathan Safran Foer:
identitytheory.com
The Morning News
Powells

Reviews of Everything is Illuminated:
Salon.com
SF Chronicle
New York: The Word

Profiles:
NY Times Magazine
The Jewish Week
LA Weekly

Little Essay by Foer

Last modified: Thursday, 20 July 2006, 10:25 AM

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Helpful Links

- computing
- medical
- housing
- landscape
seminar and course registration resources

- Seminar descriptions
- First year course descriptions
- First year forum schedule
- Online Preference form (pre-registration)
- Online placement exams
FALL 2006 First-Year Courses

What is this list? Courses appropriate for K students in their first term. If a course is suitable for a first-year student, it is on this list!

ART/MUSIC/THEATRE

Why study art, music, or theatre?
"The arts are the condiments of the sandwich of life. Without them everything would be left dry and unsavory."
Tim, R’07

ART: Introduction to Documentary
Strauss
Designed to introduce students to the basics of documentary storytelling and production. Students will individually produce, write, shoot and edit several video projects that are intended to develop their narrative and technical skills. They will also watch various documentary films and critique them as to style, content, and narrative structures. Ethical issues pertaining to the films’ subjects and approaches will also be examined. While technical skills on camera and editor operation will be taught, emphasis is on the development of ideas, artistic approach, and storytelling.

ART: Basic Drawing
K. Brady
Study of drawing fundamentals, with emphasis on line, value, and shape organization as instruments of precision and expression. Students planning to major or minor in art should take this course by the spring quarter of the sophomore year. Core course AOS (CE)

CHINESE: Chinese Culture Motifs: Characters and Calligraphy
Chu
Chinese scripts are windows to East Asia cultures. This course traces the etymology and introduces the cultural background of Chinese scripts. It also provides hands-on practice of Chinese calligraphy. This course combines aesthetic training and language learning. Students learn the Chinese scripts not only as linguistic symbols but also as cultural motifs and art forms. Learning the etymology and cultural and acquire the artistic skill of creative expression.

MUSIC: Introduction to Music
STAFF
Study of the language, power, and communicative properties of music in the Western tradition. Selected works, both popular and classical and ranging in time from the Middle Ages to the present, will be listened to and discussed with an emphasis on their musical style and cultural-social context. Students will also acquire basic skills in music literacy, theory, and aural comprehension. Class activities will include guest performances, concert attendance (on and off campus), and behind-the-scenes looks at what goes into making music. Aural comprehension will be reinforced in a required lab, meeting for one hour a week, time to be arranged. CR
welcome to the "k" college first-year program

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discussion forum: start a conversation!
blog: introduce yourself!
Update your profile and photo

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welcome letter from the SCR faculty team (June 2006)
about Everything is Illuminated
Summer common reading discussion forum
resources on the web
August Talk from the SCR faculty team

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Welcome Students!

The UConn Library Commons is truly a student-centered facility, designed to support you in your academic pursuits. Our public services are centralized on the 3rd floor and easily accessible, and staff are available to help you with your questions. More about the library. Come in and check it out!

Mon-Thu: 8am-10pm
Fri: 8am-5pm
Sat: 8am-5pm
Sun: Closed

Information Services: Resources for First Year Students

Employment Opportunities
UConn NASC Study students who have experience and/or interest in computing, media or technology.
Students will learn marketable skills and build relationships with their peers.

Contact: Lori Young

B.Y.O. Classroom
All students bring their own computer. There is one computer lab per dorm. Students should contact their Hall Advisor for the lab locations. Located in the residence halls is a computer lab, which is open during the academic year. Lab hours are posted on the bulletin board.

Bringing a Computer to Campus

Many students bring their own computer and find it useful for writing papers and lab reports, accessing the Internet, retrieving library resources, and communicating with professors, friends and family.

What personal computer do I recommend?

Each student needs a different computer. If you need a computer for homework, a desktop computer is fine.

What software do I need?

You may wish to consider purchasing software that is compatible with computers. Software for computers include Microsoft Office and Norton anti-virus. Microsoft Office and Norton anti-virus software are available at educational pricing from the manufacturer. Some software, such as Norton, is available for free on the Internet. Always check hardware and operating system requirements before purchasing or downloading software.

Password Help

Network accounts
Your student network account and password will be mailed out along with your admission letter, weeks before classes begin.

Recommended Computer Configuration

PC Computer:

- Operating system: Windows XP Professional (IP address from the account administration)
- Recommendation for MC: 150 MB minimum
- Ethernet Card: at least 10/100 Mbps
- Cable: Ethernet cable
- Printer: Laser or Inkjet

Mac Computer:

- Operating system: Macintosh OS X 10.0 or later
- RAM: minimum of 256 MB
- Ethernet Card: at least 10/100 Mbps
- Cable: Ethernet cable
- Printer: Laser or Inkjet

Additional hardware to consider

USB Flash Drive: There are small, portable storage devices that plug directly into the front or back USB ports of Mac and Windows computers. USB flash drives are easy to use, reasonable in cost and reliable, and come in many storage sizes.

Wireless Network Card: If your laptop doesn’t have a wireless network card, you may want to purchase one. This is a wireless card that can be installed in any computer. Wireless cards are available at the Bookstore or technology stores. Because of the wide range of wireless adapter equipment available, Kohl’s and Kohl’s Computer Information Services is able to offer only limited technical support and testing services.

Printer: A low cost, inkjet printer is a recommended investment for light use. Some students like the convenience of printing in their room; rather than going to a computer lab to print. Color printing is available in the Center for Visual Media Design for a fee.

Surge Protector: A power surge strip is required.

Welcome to UConn Library Commons!
Kalamazoo College Financial Aid
information for current students and their parents

2007-08 Award Information
Financial aid awards for our current students are being mailed
to campus boxes on a rolling basis beginning May 25, 2007.
Those students who have complete files will be in the first
round of awards.

The following documents contain important information
intended to help you understand the terms, conditions and
requirements related to financial aid. The information is general
and may not apply to each individual. Please contact the Office
of Financial Aid if you have specific questions about your aid
package or email us at finaid@kzoo.edu.

- Financial Aid Policies (p45)
- Terms and Conditions (p45)
- Notes and Steps to Follow (p46)
- Types of Financial Aid (p66)
- Satisfactory Academic Progress (p86)

Federal Direct Stafford Loans
- Entrance Counseling
- Exit Counseling

Alternative Loan Options
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Loan Chart (p47)

Financial Planning & Budgeting
- 2007-08 Billing Calculators
  - for First-year Students
  - for Continuing Students
- Valus and Goals Questionnaire (p46)
- Credit card budget presentation (PowerPoint)
- Off-Campus Living Budget Worksheet for
  Upperclassmen (Excel Spreadsheet)

External Scholarships for Returning Students
- Scholarship Search Tool (Student login required)
- Foundation Scholarships for Undergraduate
  and Graduate Studies

Tax Information
- Tax Filing Tips for Financial Aid Recipients
  (p46)
- Information on IRS Tuition Deduction (p46)
- IRS website on tax information for students

Useful Links
What you need to know about

About your MET

Contact Us
(888) 337-7182
(800) 632-5760
finaid@kzoo.edu
**FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE : PEER LEADERS**

**THE PEER LEADER GUIDE TO KALAMAZOO**

As the t-shirts the locals wear proudly proclaim, "Yes, there really is a Kalamazoo." But you’re never gonna see if you’re holed away playing Snood on your laptop in Trow all the time. There are ways to spend your free time (yes you will have some) that don’t involve the K-College campus. The options are varied, virtually endless, and easily accessible, even without a personal motor vehicle. And now they’re compiled on one handy flyer. So you have no excuses. Check ’em out...

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**FOOD**

**WHERE TO EAT ON A STUDENT BUDGET**

**Jimmy John’s:** Pest the menu for this sub sandwich shop on your wall and call for delivery - they’re open until 2. Or better yet, save money on tipping and walk there yourself. It’s so close it’s practically part of K’s campus. 1128 W Michigan. 381-8400

**Papa John’s:** Tasty, down delivery makes this the college student pizza of choice. The crust-dipping sauce is addictive. Try the cheese bread. 1710 W Main. 381-PAPA

**Rice Kitchen:** Chinese food with cheap lunch specials. They deliver or just cross West Michigan and you’re there. 811 W Michigan. 388-6083

**Burdick’s:** Popular downtown restaurant with burgers and other bar & grill style entrees. Bring your student ID every Sunday for half off your meal (II). 100 W Michigan. 343-0032

**Qdoba:** Fast Mexican food that’s not Taco Bell. Their student cards automatically get you a free drink with every purchase. Big portions. I mean BIG! 4403 W Main. 345-3000

**Theo & Stacy’s:** Cheap Greek diner with two locations: one on Westbridge (on your left side heading south) and one downtown. Bring a Greek friend and maybe you’ll even score free food. 243 W Michigan. 388-9025. CR-4311 W Westbridge. 363-3495

**Pasta Passion:** Italianate cuisine just a few blocks from campus. Their pasta and pasta is what they're known for. 762 W Main. 345-6755

**The Roadhouse:** Bar and grill with very student-friendly service. 1332 W Michigan. 345-7960

**WHERE TO EAT WHEN YOUR PARENTS ARE PAYING**

**Food Dance Café:** Trendy, healthy, fresh food with lots of options for vegetarians. It’s pricey but worth it for taste and atmosphere. 15 minute walk downtown. 161E Michigan. 382-1888

**Martin’s:** Never mind the name, it’s not a bar but a pizza joint, one that pulls off the amazing feat of being both upscale and quaint at the same time. Try the calzone. 832 S Westbridge. 388-8883

**Saffron:** Buffet lunch of yummy Indian food. 1710 W Main

**Cosmo’s Cucina:** Classy restaurant, and if you’ve got money, great place for a date! Fancy pastas, salads, and pizzas. On the second floor above O’Duffy’s bar. 804 W. Pine. 344-5666

**Old Peninsula Brewpub:** Downtown brewery with occasional live music and non-smoking lunch hour. 200 E Michigan. 343-2739

**Zazio’s:** New trendy Italian restaurant in the renovated Radisson downtown.

**WHERE TO GET BREAKFAST**

**Maggie’s Campus Café:** A college favorite, and the waitresses call you hon. Across from Video Hits Plus. 2715 W Michigan. 381-1212

**Blue Dolphin:** Mediterranean decor and a very affordable menu. Just south of the downtown Walking Mall. 502 W Burdick. 343-4993.

**Nina’s Café & Carousel:** Get the Ultimate Breakfast and you won’t need to eat for a day. Just a few blocks up W. Main from campus and on the right. 1710 W Main. 373-6462

**Klein’s Bagel Beanery:** Not the cheapest bagels in Kalamazoo but by far the tastiest. Next to 4th Coast. Good coffee too. 812 S Westbridge. 385-4400.

**WHERE TO STUDY/GET CAFFEINATED**

**Ravenwood:** Just at the bottom of Academy Street across from campus. Good place for great coffee, a quiet chat, or some study time.

**Rocketstar Café:** Very cool coffee shop close to campus. You can find local artists work on the walls, and they even have wireless Internet W Michigan.

**Winter Street Coffee Joint:** Right underneath 2nd level coffee shop in Michigan. If coffee’s not your thing, try the pastries. Hearty, atmospheric, and right next to fantastic bakery. 4200 S Winter St. 333-2840.
prosblems (challenges)

• Timing of user account creation
• Faculty engagement over summer
• Faculty resistance to online communications
• Timing of seminar group assignments
effects and outcomes

- we really don’t know if it positively affected summer melt or winter retention
- we do know:
  - Almost all FY students used the site
  - Faculty and Administrators benefited from the two-way conversation
  - Potentially fewer paper mailings
  - Orientation week was easier for IT
  - First year students became familiar with our LMS before having to use it in Fall classes
  - Some peer leaders really got into it
What else we learned

- Timing is everything!
- Critically important to engage upperclassmen in leadership roles.
- Incoming students want to know all sorts of things
future plans: K’11

welcome to the "k" college first-year program

1 summer common reading

is an important first step in building a cohesive, dynamic, educational community. To share a book review, we all begin 'on the same page' literally. To then meet and hear from the author enriches the dialogue between reader and writer, first and witness, that will be crucial to your educational experience over the next four years. We hope that, through reading this book attentively, discussing it with peers and faculty, connecting it to other academic disciplines at the college and making it relevant to yourself in surprising ways, you will see the Summer Common Reading experience as a microcosm of, and a model for, a liberal arts education.

summer common reading discussion forum

resources on the web

To prepare for your experience of the book and the authors visit, we would like you to consider these things as you read.

2 first-year seminars

involve faculty from many different departments, who develop special topics courses that introduce students to the critical thinking and writing skills required in college. Seminars help new students find and develop a voice through writing, speaking, analytical reading, discussion, and critical thinking. Seminars are small and feature through an exploratory discussion format.

They begin during orientation and are the only class taken by all FYE students. Students will have frequent, short papers, with much opportunity for revision. Seminars include projects that foster intercultural understanding and hone information literacy.

3 first-year forums

see specific programs (dramatic presentations, interactive learning sessions, and structured conversations with faculty, other students, and guests on campus) that focus on the three goals of the FYE program and help first-years continue their academic and personal growth.

4 peer leaders

are carefully selected student mentors who share their knowledge and experiences to help you achieve greater academic and personal success. Each Seminar is assigned a Peer Leader.

5 helpful links

- course catalog
- academic advisors
- financial aid
- orientation
- registration
- current semester
- academic calendar
- student services
- campus map
- campus news
- contact us
future plans: K'11 and beyond

- Assessment
- Momentum
- Training
- Timing