



"I do not agree with what you have to say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it." - Voltaire

## From the Well of the Wise Woman Looking Out the Other Person's Window

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Irvin Yalom, MD has long been one of my favorite writers and thinkers and has significantly influenced how I approach my profession. Recently, I was looking over a copy of Yalom's book, *The Gift of Therapy*, and I came across this story that I'd like to share with you.

Yalom writes: "Decades ago, I saw a patient with breast cancer, who had, throughout adolescence, been locked in a long, bitter struggle with her naysaying father. Yearning for some form of reconciliation, for a new, fresh beginning to their relationship, she looked forward to her father's driving her to college - a time when she would be alone with him for several hours. But the long-anticipated trip proved a disaster: her father behaved true to form by grousing at length

about the ugly, garbage-littered creek by the side of the road. She, on the other hand, saw no litter whatsoever in the beautiful, rustic, unspoiled stream. She could find no way to respond and eventually, lapsing into silence, they spent the remainder of the trip looking away from each other.

"Later, she made the same trip alone and was astounded to note that there were *two* streams-one on each side of the road. This time I was the driver, she said sadly, and the stream I saw through my window on the driver's side was just as ugly and polluted as my father had described it. But by the time she had learned to look out of her father's window, it was too late- her father was dead and buried."

Yalom concludes: "That story

has remained with me, and on many occasions, I have reminded myself and my students, "Look out the other's window."

Empathy, the ability to look out the other person's window, can enrich and deepen our connections to other people, and can help us to understand another person's viewpoint, even if we don't agree with it. Accurate empathy conveys to the other person that we understand where they are coming from, that we "get it". Stephen Covey, in his book, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* notes that successful individuals "seek first to understand, then to be understood".

Is there someone in your life whose window you need to try to look out of?



(Carmen Lentz. Picture courtesy of Rooney Coffman.)

## St. Andrews Students Attend 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Ethics Symposium

George Gilliam



(From Left to Right): George Gilliam, Kelly Russell, Ashley Lancaster, Kristin Russell, Andrew Hoffner. Picture courtesy of George Gilliam.

On November 2-4<sup>th</sup> several St. Andrews students and professors attended the 29<sup>th</sup> annual ethics symposium held in Hilton Head Island, SC. Participating were business students Ashley Lancaster, George Gilliam, Kristen Russell, and Andrew Hoffner. Also attending were education majors Kelly Russell, Nancy Cotton, April Johnson, and Tenille Inman. Leading the St. Andrews group was Professor of Economics Tom Dickey and Professor of Marketing Doug Glass.

The annual symposium on ethical decision making and moral values is sponsored by the Presbyterian Churches of Hilton Head Island, SC. The symposium is designed to give students a better understanding of ethics in the working world and in life. Students were accommodated at a Hilton Head Island hotel, and from there joined with national college students.

Before attending the symposium, students studied various cases on ethical decision making. During the symposium, students were placed in groups where they interacted and shared ideas with others on the case studies. Each student group was facilitated by a member of First Presbyterian Church. Groups studied various cases that encouraged them to examine their own ethical beliefs and decision making skills.

Keynote speaker at the symposium was Fred A. Manske, former vice president of FedEx. Manske presented students with his own leadership model, E.L.C. an acronym representing Manske's beliefs in Ethics, Life-long learning, and

Caring for others. Manske presented students with a copy of his book "Secrets of Effective Leadership." Manske was available to autograph each of the students' books.

First Presbyterian Church of Hilton Head provided attendees with wonderful meals throughout the symposium. On the evening of November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Hilton Head families hosted each group of students for dinner at their homes. St. Andrews students and professors also had the opportunity to experience the wonderful natural environmental of Hilton Head Island. Students and professors were privileged with a kayak tour of Hilton Head. A guide led students and professors around the Intracoastal Waterway and explained wildlife and natural resources unique to Hilton Head.

Students found the symposium to be a wonderful and rewarding experience. According to Andrew Hoffner, the symposium was "a phenomenal experience that allowed me to grow ethically and furthered my understanding of ethics and moral values in the business world." All students thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Hilton Head Island. Knowledge gained through the ethics symposium will be beneficial for many years to come. Ethics symposium attendees would like to thank the administration including the business department, and Professors Tom Dickey and Doug Glass for making this wonderful trip possible.



(From Left to Right): Thomas Dicky, George Gilliam, Kristin Russell, Ashley Lancaster, Andrew Hoffner. Picture courtesy of George Gilliam