

Six College Students Tell Faculty Audience "How I Learn Best"

Six College of Agriculture undergraduate students sat before a roomful of faculty members in October and talked about how to teach. The 90-minute session, titled "How I Learn Best," was one of four seminars for teachers sponsored last semester by the college's Instructional Improvement Committee.

The other seminars featured a faculty panel, college administrators, and a university dean from another state. The Instructional Improvement Committee has 10 faculty and six student members.

The students on the "How I Learn Best" panel praised well-organized classes taught by professors who are responsive to student questions, who use a variety of supplementary teaching aids, and who give frequent quizzes rather than relying on one or two examinations for the semester.

"I learn best when I know where I'm going," said agribusiness senior Tammy Anderson from Peoria. She was the panel's moderator. Denise Stratikas, an interior design major from Portland, Oregon, agreed that a good

outline of the course and of the student's responsibility in it is helpful.

Agricultural education junior Elin Duckworth added that, when beginning a course, "the students are interested in what the professor does and what his background is."

The value of organizing each lecture into a complete unit by itself, with an introduction and useful repetition of main concepts, was stressed by animal science junior Richard Murphy from Tucson.

Panel members said that the teacher's attitude was one of the most important factors in learning. Sharon Freidell, a senior in nutrition from Santa Barbara, California, said, "Unless students respect a teacher, they are not as willing to put time and energy into a course. The respect comes about by seeing a teacher be enthusiastic about the material and about the students' learning."

Agribusiness junior Howard Morrison from Gilbert described one of his plant science professors as an example. The teacher encourages questions from students and asks some in return. "He comes back the next day with answers to questions he had not answered or had answered wrong the day before. That impresses me."

Moderator Anderson added, "I appreciate it when a teacher is open. By that I mean being receptive to students and having specific office hours. I have to commend the Ag College for being the best in that area on this campus."

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Students Howard Morrison, Elin Duckworth and Denise Stratikas (left to right) tell about 30 College of Agriculture faculty members what ways of teaching help them most.