

# FRESHMAN FOOTNOTES

An e-Newsletter for First Year Students at Georgia College & State University

Fall 2009, Issue 1 – August 21, 2009

## STUDY SKILL OF THE WEEK: *USING YOUR COURSE SYLLABI*

Want to get off to a great start in each of your classes? Carefully review the syllabi you received on the first day of each class. Be sure to look for:

- Course outcomes, or what you are expected to learn in the course
- How to prepare for each class, particularly what you need to read and prepare before each class session
- Dates that assignments are due
- Dates for exams and quizzes
- Your instructor's attendance policy
- How your course grade will be calculated. For instance, are tests weighted more than assignments? Is a portion of the grade based on participation in class?
- Your instructor's name, office hours, and office location in case you need help outside of class. Remember, your instructors expect you to stop by if you need assistance.

You should refer back to your syllabi frequently throughout the semester to make sure that you remain on track in each class. It's also a good idea to save the syllabi from every one of your college classes. If your syllabus is shared electronically, print a copy to keep in your files. Store them in a binder as you complete each course. If you later go on to professional or graduate school, transfer, or simply need to demonstrate that you've met specific learning outcomes, these will be an invaluable resource.

## ADJUSTING TO COLLEGE: *YOUR FIRST CAMPUS WEEKEND*

You've just about completed your first week of college classes and you're headed into the weekend. What are your plans? Hopefully you'll be staying on-campus during these first few weekends of college – it's a critical time when new friendships are forming and you don't want to miss any opportunities to meet new people and strengthen those budding relationships. The concept is simple, really – the more often you are around other students on campus, the more likely you are to receive invitations to various gatherings and events, and therefore stay “in the loop.”

A great advantage of living in university housing is that you can always find plenty of people with whom to share some leisure time and fun activities. And GCSU and Milledgeville offer plenty of things to do. For example, you could ...

- check out the current exhibit at the university museum;
- take a stroll and explore the Oconee Greenway;
- tour the Old Governor's Mansion;
- dive in for a refreshing swim in the Centennial Center pool;
- work out in the Wellness Depot;

- attend the Milledgeville Player's production of *Annie Get Your Gun* in Russell Auditorium.

Those are only a few suggestions. Of course, students like to get creative and find their own fun as well. You're in a new town, and you and your new friends have a lot to explore in Milledgeville and Baldwin County. Why not get started this weekend?

## **SPOTLIGHT ON CAMPUS RESOURCES: *THE BOBCAT CARD OFFICE***

You are probably quickly learning that your Bobcat Card is used for just about everything at GCSU! In addition to serving as your official identification card (*be sure to carry it at all times -- administrative offices will use it to retrieve your records*), the Bobcat Card is an essential key to campus life and a handy tool for managing your money. In summary, the Bobcat Card gives you access to food, facilities, services, and fun.

Deposits in any amount can be made as desired. Cash, checks, money orders, and credit cards (MasterCard, Visa, Discover, and American Express) are accepted. If you need to add more funds to your card, you can do so in a variety of ways:

- **VISIT** – the Bobcat Card Office (lower level of the Maxwell Student Union located in the PawPrints Bookstore) - OR - the Business Office (first floor of Parks Hall)
- **CALL** – (478) 445-CARD (2273) and add value from your credit card
- **MAIL** – a check or money order to the Bobcat Card Office
- **INSERT CASH** – utilize any Value Transfer Station located around campus (instant cash deposit kiosks)
- **GO ONLINE** – pay using your credit card at the Online Card Office on the web at <https://bobcatcard.blackboard.com>

Helpful Tip: For new students, it is important to remember the difference between the “Dining Dollars” and “CatCash” that is stored on your Bobcat Card. Dining Dollars funds can only be used at on-campus dining venues, whereas CatCash can be used on-campus AND at participating off-campus retailers. For on-campus locations, Dining Dollars are always used prior to CatCash funds. But no worries, the system keeps up with your balances and automatically debits the appropriate account.

## **FUN FACTS: *CAMPUS TRADITIONS***

Did you notice the flame that was lit by the flagpole during Convocation last week? That flame sits atop the Olympic Column, which was first used on July 13, 1996 when the Olympic torch made its way through Milledgeville on its way to the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta. A tremendous crowd gathered on the front lawn that day to celebrate its arrival. Today, the column symbolizes the Olympic spirit of excellence, and its flame is lit for special campus observances – such as YOUR convocation and YOUR graduation.