

# FRESHMAN FOOTNOTES

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

Fall 2009, Issue 2 – August 28, 2009

## STUDY SKILL OF THE WEEK: *Effective Notetaking – Part 1*

Georgia College has been referred to as the “public ivy” institution for the state of Georgia. Want to succeed just like an Ivy League student? The Academic Skills Center at Dartmouth College provides the following information for its students on effective notetaking. We have a very strong suspicion that these tips are just as effective at GCSU ... and you won't have to deal with all the snow!

Instructors usually give clues to what is important to take down. Some of the more common clues are:

- A. Material written on the blackboard.
- B. Repetition
- C. Emphasis
  1. Emphasis can be judged by tone of voice and gesture.
  2. Emphasis can be judged by the amount of time the instructor spends on points and the number of examples he or she uses.
- D. Word signals (e.g. "There are **two points of view** on . . . "; "The **third** reason is . . . "; " In **conclusion** . . . ")
- E. Summaries given at the end of class.
- F. Reviews given at the beginning of class.

## ADJUSTING TO COLLEGE: *TIME MANAGEMENT*

Freshmen quickly realize that the time demands of college are very different than those of high school, and the savvy student realizes the need to structure his or her time outside of class. Time Management is not more time, but better use of available time.

The basic building block for a college student is the school week. On Saturday or Sunday, plan for your upcoming week. Utilize some type of calendar or planner to organize your commitments and deadlines in one place. *Be sure to transfer all the important dates from your course syllabi to your planning calendar.*

Planning Sequence:

- "X-out" fixed commitments (classes, work, travel, or time you've promised to someone or something else).
- Identify (a) your single most important, have-to-get-it-done goal for the week, and (b) when you must have it ready.
- Estimate how many total hours it will take to prepare for that goal. (Do not plan in increments smaller than 1 hour.)
- Subdivide the total hours from step 3 into 1 and 2 hour blocks and fit them between your fixed commitments.

- Repeat steps 2-4 for second priority, third priority, fourth priority and fifth priority goals.
- DO IT (follow the schedule you planned in steps 1-5)!!! If something unexpected happens during that week, simply adjust your plan to adapt to the unforeseen time demand.

Rules:

- Allow at least 1 hour each day for you to do something you enjoy.
- In an hour of study, reading or writing, work hard for 50 minutes and break for 10 minutes.
- Never study/work on the same course for more than 2 hours in a row.

## SPOTLIGHT ON CAMPUS RESOURCES: *THE LEARNING CENTER*

Some people think that tutors are only intended to help weak students. WRONG! Many top students seek tutoring to make their healthy grades even stronger. The Learning Center offers tutorial assistance in many core curriculum subjects to any enrolled GCSU student and Fall 2009 is already off to a busy start!

The Learning Center is located in **Room 2-56** of the Arts & Sciences building. It provides students with a comprehensive program in academic support services. We understand the challenges students encounter when a learning situation arises in which they do not feel completely prepared to perform optimally. Our services aim to enhance the academic lives of those students seeking help in the areas of mathematics, science and economics. We offer resource materials as well as an inviting atmosphere for studying. For the Fall 2009 Tutoring schedule, please visit:

<http://www.gcsu.edu/success/schedule.htm>



### FUN FACTS: *The Pergola*

The dome structure between Atkinson and Terrell Halls – what is it? Many people have asked that question over the years and the general consensus among GCSU scholars is that the term “Pergola” is the closest definition for this GCSU landmark and symbol. A Pergola is a linear structure over a pathway, and its columns form something of a “colonnade.”

After your freshman convocation, you walked through the pergola, symbolically entering the university and its academic square. On your graduation day you will walk under the pergola in the other direction, processing out to the front lawn for your commencement ceremony, thereby symbolically leaving the university.