

FRESHMAN FOOTNOTES

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

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STUDY SKILL OF THE WEEK: COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR INSTRUCTORS

Have you had a really good discussion with any of your professors this term? If not, it's never too late ... faculty members appreciate it when you demonstrate interest in the course material, or their research, or perhaps improving your own performance in the class. The tips below are excerpts from English professor and blogger Michael Leddy, of *Orange Crate Art*:

- Check your professor's office hours listed on the course syllabus. If the hours are not compatible with your schedule, inquire with your professor when he or she can meet with you.
- When you arrive, knock on the door – even if it's open – and greet your professor by name.
- If the conversation involves your difficulty with a course, here are some sentences to avoid:
 - “Will this affect my grade?” Whatever you're discussing will most likely play a part in your grade. How much or how little depends upon the rest of your work.
 - “Can I still get a ‘B’?” This question indicates that your GPA, not learning, is your priority.
 - “I'm an ‘A’ student.” Your professor will not grade you based on your reputation.
- If you're having difficulty in a course, let your professor know that you realize it and ask what you can do to improve.
- If you want to talk to a professor in some other way — about a question that you didn't get to ask in class or an idea that you want to discuss — just do the best you can. Your professor will very likely meet your genuine interest with kindness and encouragement.



GCSU's “**Table Talk**” program is an excellent way to facilitate a discussion with a professor. A student and faculty member can enjoy a free meal when dining together. See program guidelines below.

COLLEGE TRANSITIONS: THE HOLIDAY TRIP HOME

What do you love most about your college experience so far? Most GCSU freshmen will respond with an answer that involves “freedom” and “independence.” You've most likely become accustomed to being on your own; and as a college freshman, you can basically do what you want, when you want, right? So, what will it be like if you're headed home for Thanksgiving ... and again for the longer winter break soon after that? You should mentally prepare yourself that your college model of independence might not match the expectations your parents or family members may have once you're back “under their roof.” Here are some tips:



- Talk to your parents in advance about their expectations so there are no surprises.
- Discuss the house rules and how they may differ from what you've experienced for the past four months. Even if they no longer

hold you to a curfew, respect your parents' feelings and be home at a decent hour. (Parents worry, and will worry about you no matter how old you are).

- Catch up with your high school friends, but establish family time, too. It may be helpful to ask your parents in advance what they have planned for you.
- Be a considerate guest and not tie up telephone or computer lines or hog the television.
- While you've been changing, your family members have, too. Share what has changed and enjoy what is new.
- Be sure to tell your parents what has been going well this fall semester, what you found challenging, and what adjustments you plan to make for the spring 2010 semester.

(Tips adapted from "10 tips for parents of college students: How to keep the holidays happy," K. Tuttle, Office of the Vice Provost for Student Success, University of Kansas)

SPOTLIGHT ON CAMPUS RESOURCES: *REGISTRATION*

How did you fare with registration on October 29? Did you get a full-time schedule of classes required in your Core curriculum? If not, keep in mind that registration is a fluid process. Various academic departments may be making decisions in the weeks ahead regarding seat limits and possible additional sections. If you are seeking to either add classes or make some schedule adjustments, it's important to monitor your Ecats student e-mail for any announcements, and also keep an eye on the online class schedule, C.A.T.S.

A TRADITION IN THE MAKING: *THE BOBCAT EMBLEM*

You may walk by it each week – the image of our Bobcat mascot crafted out of granite in the medallion in the center of our Front Campus lawn. What do you do as you approach it? Do you walk straight across it, or around it? Many GCSU students, faculty and staff have adopted an unofficial tradition of walking around the medallion, out of respect for the mascot. Here's another good reason to walk around – on rainy days, it's extremely slippery!



“Table Talk” program guidelines:

1. Your instructor (teaching faculty – not staff) will need to make sure the privilege has been activated for his/her Bobcat Card. The Bobcat Card Office (lower level MSU – inside PawPrints Bookstore) can assist your instructor in this regard (campus extension “CARD”), email (bobcat_card@gcsu.edu). Faculty should allow two full days for activation of the privilege before participating. **Teaching faculty who had the privilege activated last year are already signed up for this year. All currently enrolled students are automatically eligible and do not need to contact the Card Office to have the privilege activated.**
2. Table Talk is available for any **ONE meal per week**, Monday through Saturday. It is not available on Sundays. If you attempt to participate more than once per week, your card will be declined and payment will be required for the meal.
3. One teaching faculty member (faculty status - not staff) and no more than two students at a time may participate.
4. All participants (faculty member and student(s)) must check in at the cashier's stand at the same time (with Bobcat Cards) and let the cashier know you wish to take part in Table Talk. If you do not present yourselves as a complete group, or if you do not have your Bobcat Card, payment will be required for the meal.
5. The Table Talk program is NOT allowed for faculty members and students who are related to one another. It is also NOT intended for faculty to meet with their graduate assistants or other student workers.