Proper Preparation Precedes Proficiency!!!!

The start of a new semester is a great chance to take a moment and make some conscious choices that can really make a difference in how your semester ends. Setting up a system now can save you the last minute nightmares that we all want to avoid! Here are a few tips that will make this semester a success—and considerably less painful in the long run.

**Buy your textbooks intelligently:** If you buy them in advance you may save some money and will be sure to have them by the first day of class. You can buy your books online through the university bookstore and many websites, such as www.direct textbook.com, sell discount used textbooks.

**Use your planner:** Make sure to get a calendar or planner of some type. Print or write out your daily class schedule and attach it. As your professors go through the syllabus on the first day of class be sure to note test dates, project dates and so on so that you can plan your social life and extracurricular activities accordingly.

**Get your supplies:** Get some paper and writing implements, of course, and you will probably need a binder or folder for each class. Color coding may seem like overkill, but it is a sure fire way to prevent showing up at class with the wrong binder. If you are taking courses where content memorization is intensive get some index cards to start making flash cards from the get go.

**Set up a study space:** Before classes begin, arrange a space (in your dorm, apartment, library, or Education Dept.) that will be comfortable, provide good lighting and where you can spread out stuff (but not lie down and take a nap!). If at home set up your supplies so that your study space is ready to be used.

**Pay attention from the beginning:** If you have a hard time staying focused during lectures, find a seat up front and consider buying an audio recording device (if allowed by the professor). Take notes then check your friends notes; if you missed something fill it in and review them often.

**Schedule time to relax:** You will have a hard time being a successful student if you are not mentally and physically healthy. Take some time for yourself; schedule some social activities and get some exercise. The Clemente Center has fun, free classes including dancing and martial arts. Find the schedules at: http://www.fit.edu/ClementeCenter/.
Faculty Update

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Layne to the Department. She will be teaching the new Educational Psychology class offered for the first time this semester. The class is a classroom/online hybrid course designed to give education students experience as an online learner.

Dr. Layne has taught online at BCC for the past four years and says that she “is amazed at how personality comes through online.” Online courses are fast becoming a key component of the education system, especially with the growing trend in homeschooling, and she feels that it is important for education students to be familiar with the medium.

Dr. Layne is originally from Youngstown, Ohio where she taught high school. She received her Ed.D. at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Not only did she complete her formal education there, she had one of her most interesting job experiences as the head resident in the Woman’s Residence Hall. The experience was “24 hour excitement” and gave her real insight into the psychology of young adults. She has worked as a college counselor and Dean of Student services and has 30 years experience in the Florida Community college system.

When asked how she feels about her new position, she said that she is “eager to embark on this new learning experience because I honestly believe that those who choose teaching as a career are just really special people!”

We are lucky to have her and are really excited to offer Ed Psych in such an innovative format.

Grand Alumni Celebration a Success!

Over 70 alumni, students and faculty participated in the alumni reunion, held July 11th and 12th 2008. The weekend included a welcome mixer, a sunset/eco cruise on the river with the Dolphin Girl and a grand reunion dinner.

The keynote speaker for the reunion dinner was alum Tracey Bailey, Class of 1995, who traveled from Fredericksburg, VA with his wife and their nine children to be with us. After completing his Master’s degree in science education at Florida Institute of Technology, Mr. Bailey went on to win the Brevard County Teacher of the Year, Florida Teacher of the Year and the National Teacher of the Year awards. Keeping up his reputation, and always the teacher, Tracey demonstrated a physics “party trick” that can be performed inexpensively in the classroom.

One graduate student summed the meal up as “scrumptious, included many courses and best of all free.” It seems all left the event well fed, entertained and maybe even a little more educated.
**FEA Update**

One of the great things about our department is that, not only do we work together; we get to play together, too. Last year, our Future Educators Association (FEA) organized some great events. This year, we have lots of exciting opportunities to discuss, including a possible name change, conferences to attend, and activities to plan. We hope that everyone in the department, undergrad, graduate and faculty alike, will get involved. We would also like to extend a special invitation to all our new students. FEA is a great way to get to know some of the great people in our department.

There will be an organizational meeting on Thursday, Aug 21 of the first week of classes at 7:00pm in the Shephard Building Tech Lab. Everyone interested in attending the meeting or helping out should watch their email for reminders. Contact Mrs. Blenis for more information.

**FCTE News . . . .**

As I’m sure you all know, the Florida Teacher Certification Examinations (FTCE) are a graduation requirement. The FTCE General Knowledge exam must be taken and passed during your freshman or sophomore year - before registering for the Junior Sequence of Education Courses (EDS 3033, 4051 & 3095). This year’s Registration Bulletin is available in the Department Office, and flyers are posted everywhere. Two additional test dates have been added this year, and you can now register online at [http://www.fl.nesinc.com](http://www.fl.nesinc.com). Please make sure that you don’t let the deadlines slip by, as it may cause major headaches and additional money down the road. The EdSpread always lists the upcoming test date and relevant deadline, so keep an eye on them. The next test is scheduled for October 25, and you must register by September 5 to avoid a $30 late fee.

In addition to posting information online and allowing you to register, some of the FCTEs are now available to take on a computer at one of the local testing centers. This is a great convenience as you can schedule them for times that are convenient for you, rather than wait for a scheduled test date. Mrs. Blenis has study guides in her office for the different exams (please return them if you have them out and don’t need them anymore.) Good Luck!

The tests available online include:

- The General Knowledge subtests excluding the essay
- Biology 6–12
- Chemistry 6–12
- Computer Science K–12
- Earth/Space Science 6–12
- Mathematics 6–12
- Middle Grades General Science 5–9
- Middle Grades Integrated Curriculum 5–9
- Middle Grades Mathematics 5–9
- Physics 6–12
- Technology Education 6–12
- Professional Education Test

**Save the Date . . . .**

You are cordially invited to participate in these upcoming events . . . So mark your calendars and get involved!

- Department Picnic 8/23
- Research Rules 9/20
- Not So Formal Formal 9/27
- 50th Anniversary Homecoming Reunion 10/17
- Walk for Education 10/25
- Pumpkin Carving 10/31
- American Education Week 11/16
Annual Department Picnic

This year’s annual picnic is going to be a blast, and everyone will want to make sure they mark their calendars and save the date.

We have tons of fun activities planned, great food, and of course, it is the perfect way to reconnect with friends and get to know new faces in the department. I’m sure there are some great stories about exciting summers to share. Anyway, can there be a better way to kick off the school year than with a good, old-fashioned picnic?

Everyone is welcome, so bring along friends and family. Just make sure to RSVP to Christie in the department office (cgates@fit.edu, 321-674-8126), and let her know what kind of hot dogs you would like! Your choices are Brautwurst, All Beef Hotdogs, and Poultrydogs. Bring along a veggie, a bowl of fruit, chips, or a dessert to share. Along with the hotdogs, drinks will be provided.

Annual Department Picnic
Saturday, August 23, 2008
11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Goode Park Pavilion
1300 Bianca Drive NE
Palm Bay, FL 32905

DEPARTMENT CALENDAR

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<td>First Day of Classes</td>
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<td>Charlane Browne’s Birthday</td>
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Every student can learn, just not on the same day, or the same way.
- George Evans