Making College the Right Fit for You…

As high school students we were told time and time again that good grades and impressive SAT scores were the best indicators of how successful we would be as college students. The Director of Admissions at Landmark College, Ben Mitchell, has a few additional things he believes students should be told are just as important. According to Mitchell, there are five foundations that can assuage a student’s successful transition from high school into college. As a new college student, being vigilant and receptive to the acquisition of these skills will help you tackle the common difficulties that you might face as a new college student.

1. **Academic skills**: Two of the most important skills a student should have fine-tuned before college are good note-taking and test preparation abilities. Finding a system that works for you will allow you to successfully summarize and synthesize the large amounts of information we are bombarded with in the classroom daily. Furthermore, being able to write skillfully on your own by clearly, accurately, and concisely communicating the concepts you have read and learned about are paramount.

2. **Self Understanding**: Knowing how you learn best is critical to your own success. Everyone has their strengths and weaknesses, and it can be beneficial for you to be tested by qualified personnel who can profile your learning. For those with learning disabilities such as AD/HD, this is often a very important step to facilitating your transition into college.

3. **Self-Advocacy**: Knowing what support services are available to you as a college student can help make your college experience less daunting, yet the majority of students never utilize these helpful resources. Find out what’s available to you in the event that you need assistance.

4. **Executive Function**: Being able to stay organized in college and manage your time well, given the amount of work that is required of you, is critical. Mitchell reported that those who struggle with executive functions are less likely to succeed in college than a student who cannot read. Prioritize your assignments and tasks, and make good use of your time!

5. **Motivation and Confidence**: Having the belief that you are a capable individual who has the ability to succeed in college can have major impacts on your overall success. Visualize success, and a diploma with cap and gown will be yours!

To find out more about fine tuning these skills and further assessing your college readiness, check out Landmark College’s free guide at www.landmark.edu.
Alumni Updates

Zerique Zapata, BS, Biology Ed '05 is teaching 8th grade science at Kitty Hawk Middle School in San Antonio. She stopped by with boyfriend Derek to say “hi”.

Nicole Weiler, BS, Biology Ed ‘06 has been given the position of the department lab teacher for Southwest Middle School. All 7th and 8th grade science teachers will rotate their students through her class for their labs.

Cory Aripotch, BS Biology Ed ‘08 is living in California with plans of teaching Biology this year.

Tamara Baker-Drayton, BS Biology Ed ‘04 was promoted to Dean this year at Wekiva High School in Apopka.

Heather Novak, BS Biology Ed ‘07 is now the lead middle school science teacher and teaches 7th & 8th grade science in Palm Bay.

Jennifer Dixon Sampson, BS Math Ed ‘02 writes & edits mathematics textbooks for Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in Orlando.

Cassie Gonyer, BS Biology Ed ‘08 is a science teacher & soccer coach at Sebastian River High School in FL.

Ashley Limbo DiFabio, BS Gen Science Ed ‘06 is really enjoying teaching science in New Jersey.

Jennifer Rodriguez, BS Earth/Space Ed ‘09 will be teaching middle school science in Osceola Co.

Jessica McKeever, BS Chemistry Ed ‘09 is teaching chemistry in NJ.

Newlyweds from our Department...

Michelle Denito, BS Biology Ed ‘08 and Russell Hall, BS ‘08 were married at Adventure Aquarium in Camden, NJ on May 15th. They honeymooned in Alaska.

Christine Wrolson, Chemistry Ed and Jeff Pollard, Ocean Engineering, were married in Williston, ND on August 1. They honeymooned in Jamaica! They are returning to campus for Christine’s junior year & Jeff’s final year before grad school (at FIT of course).

Caroline Horst, BS, Chemistry Ed ‘08 and Josh Horst, BS, Earth/Space Ed ‘03 had lunch with Mrs. Blenis at the Mighty Mushroom in Melbourne. Caroline is in her last year of graduate school at FIT, continuing as an INSTEP fellow. She is looking forward to getting back into the classroom next year. Josh is now a Melbourne Police Officer.

Chi-jung Huang, PhD Computer Education ‘08 was recently hired as a research analyst for the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.
Upcoming Informal Education Workshop…

The Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) is hosting an informal marine education and research workshop focusing on the Indian River Lagoon! The workshop is being funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and will take place in Fort Pierce, FL from September 11-13th, 2009. Applications are $25, and the deadline for submission is August 26, 2009 by 5pm. Lodging will be provided and a stipend of $200 will be given to selected applicants to help cover travel and food expenses. Those chosen will be selected based on their ability to provide the information they are given in the workshop to young adults in education programs.

Well known researchers and marine specialists will be leading the workshop and instructing participants about Florida’s coastal ecosystems and marine life. One of the goals of the workshop is to help participants develop a stronger repertoire of field and classroom-based activities for future instruction. More information can be found at http://florida4h.org/projects/marine/COSEE.shtml.

Save the Date. . . .

Don’t forget to mark your calendars so you don’t miss out on these upcoming events… come join us and get involved!

Department Picnic  8/22

Research Rules  9/19

Not So Formal Formal  TBA

Walk for Education  10/17

BFEA Conference  12/04

FFEA Conference  1/22 - 1/24

News from the Library…

Check here every month for helpful information!

Welcome! I’m Cheryl Davis, Librarian and Information Advocate for the Science and Math Education program here at Florida Tech. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you where you can find many of the wonderful library resources and services available to you as a student at Florida Tech.

The Library’s homepage, known as the Library Information Network (LINK) at (www.lib.fit.edu) serves as the starting point. Many of the databases and online resources will require you to log in with your Florida Tech TRACKS username and password.

Some notable items include: 360 Search - a search engine that allows you to search up to 50 library databases simultaneously. A-Z Journal List – provides access to over 32,000 electronic journals and other publications. Catalog – provides information on or access to books, government documents, e-journals and e-books. Databases/Indexes - over 150 databases and indexes which provide access to journal articles and other scholarly publications. Our Interlibrary Loan Service allows you to request items that are not in our library’s collections or databases. RefWorks is an online citation management tool for importing and exporting references from online databases, organize references into folders, and create bibliographies instantly in a variety of styles (MLA, APA, and more).

I hope that this summary of the Library’s resources and services peaks your interest. Research and reference assistance is available at the Service Desk Mondays – Thursdays 10am – 9pm; Fridays 10am – 5pm; and Sundays 2pm – 9pm. Appointments for a one-on-one consultation can also be made, or be in touch through Ask-a-Librarian, email, or Comment System all available on our website. Call (321)674-8021 to speak to a reference librarian, or you can reach me directly at (321) 674-8766 or cdavis05@fit.edu. Can’t wait to work with you!
Annual Department Picnic

Mark your calendars and get ready because it’s time to come out to Goode Park for this year’s annual picnic! New and returning students are encouraged to come and partake in this fun, belly-filling kickoff event of the Fall semester. Please feel free to bring friends and family; all are welcome to enjoy a cookout of delicious Bratwurst, Hotdogs, and Poultry dogs. Drinks will be provided, and we would love it if you could bring something to share: veggies, fruit, chips, or a homemade dessert.

Our annual picnic is a great way for new students to start building relationships with faculty and students in the department. Moreover, returning students and alumni always find it fun so they can catch up on what’s new and exciting regarding their classmates, and welcome all new additions to the department.

Don’t forget to RSVP to Christie in the department office (cgates@fit.edu, 321-674-8126), and let her know that you’ll be attending and what kind of hot dogs you would like!

Transportation is provided!