



CASE

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

Colloquium, What's that word mean anyway?

By Don Yungher

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The Academia

By now, someone has probably told you “You’re not in school because you’re Greek, you’re Greek because you’re in school”. The saying holds true, especially at Case. In addition, we must remember that the bespectacled man or woman at the lectern at 8:30 every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday is actually one of the world’s leading experts in whatever field he may be discussing.

As members of Greek organizations, we have the unique opportunity to pool the resources of a few dozen individuals, with the eventual result being the improvement of various aspects of our lives. In the case of scholarship, this often manifests itself in scholarship dinners, in which a fraternity or sorority – or even better, a fraternity and a sorority combined – host a dinner for invited faculty. While this is a suitable environment for mixing with professors, these dinners don’t always reveal the depth of the faculty Case.

Another option for the use of fraternity or sorority funds is a colloquium. Rather than have a table full of undergrads interrogating professors about their research, as might happen at a scholarship dinner, a colloquium allows a professor to prepare a presentation on

their research and deliver it to an audience. Professors are already accustomed to this practice, and yet a colloquium can be a more familiar, informal forum for presentations.

Organizing such an event is intimidating, but can be broken down into a few discrete tasks:

Invitations: Figure out how long you want this colloquium to be, as well as how long you expect each professor to present. Also consider whether you want all the presenters to be from the same department, or are you looking for an assortment of topics? No one wants to present to a room full of empty seats. So invite everyone – the rest of Greek life, other faculty, and even open it to the general public if you can accommodate that many people.

Room reservation: Try to reserve an auditorium – Hatch, Schmidt, and Strosacker are old standbys – or if not, get creative and try somewhere like Carlton Commons or a room in Thwing. Reserve it as early as possible out of respect for the busy schedule of our excellent Professor’s. Remember to get a sound system if necessary, and don’t forget to feed your brothers or sisters and your guests.

Developing a Good Study Environment

By Bryan Hickman

Every undergraduate comes to college with one purpose in mind: getting a degree. However, every undergraduate is also acutely aware of the vast number of distractions available to a student. Dorm life, Greek life, athletics, social activities and relationships all add to make the experience of being an undergraduate so fulfilling. However, all those activities can work against the undergraduate’s goals.

In order to be successful in academic pursuits, an undergraduate needs to have an established study space. To this end, a fraternity or sorority can be very helpful, particularly if you’re already in Greek Housing. A good study space should have all the following characteristics: 1. Be open to members at all hours of the day. 2. If study space is shared with living space, partition the two spaces off if possible. 3. Have a filing cabinet or drawers available with

old class notes on hand, offering extra study material. 4. Put up a white board for impromptu tutoring sessions. 5. Put a clock somewhere visible, so those studying late will know when to quit, and people cramming before tests won’t overdo it. 6. Establish quiet hours on certain nights, so that everyone gets a chance to study quietly.

The established study area is also an ideal place to prepare for standardized testing, such as the MCAT, LSAT, or GRE. If the area can be blocked off, then practice tests can be administered. As demand for the study lounge increases around midterms and finals, more frequent quiet hours and alternate study locations for group work can be set up temporarily. The most important thing is to foster an environment that is conducive to learning and getting in the habit of working in a place in which you are comfortable with good resources.

Spring 2004 Grades

Fraternities:

	<u>G.P.A.</u>	<u>ALL MEMBERS</u>	<u>#</u>
1	3.409	SIGMA NU	53
2	3.392	PHI KAPPA TAU	51
3	3.32	PHI KAPPA PSI	31
4	3.247	DELTA TAU DELTA	63
5	3.241	SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON	48
6	3.193	ALPHA EPSILON PI	23
7	3.149	ZETA PSI	54
8	3.139	DELTA KAPPA EPSILON	16
9	3.108	PHI KAPPA THETA	20
10	3.107	SIGMA PHI EPSILON	40
11	3.104	THETA CHI	27
12	3.058	BETA THETA PI	23
13	3.055	DELTA UPSILON	21
14	3.039	ZETA BETA TAU	59
15	2.996	SIGMA ALPHA MU	11
16	2.828	SIGMA CHI	37
17	2.773	PHI DELTA THETA	40

Sororities:

	<u>G.P.A.</u>	<u>ALL MEMBERS</u>	<u>#</u>
1	3.419	PHI MU	74
2	3.271	DELTA GAMMA	38
3	3.221	ALPHA PHI	66
4	3.197	SIGMA PSI	40
5	3.189	ALPHA CHI OMEGA	61
6	3.087	PHI SIGMA RHO	21

ALL FRATERNITY AVERAGE :	3.15
ALL SORORITY AVERAGE:	3.26
ACTIVES:	3.17
NEW MEMBERS:	3.08
ALL GREEK:	3.19
ALL MEN:	3.17
ALL WOMEN:	3.28
ALL UNDERGRADUATE:	3.22

Time's up. Pass the tests to the Front.

Clearly ignoring the previous statement, dozens of students frantically fill in bubbles, circle answers, and write down the last three sentences in their head. Upon leaving, nearly everyone can think of nothing but the test: what answers they got, how wrong those answers are, how badly they failed, and variants there of. We've all been there, and we've all thought, "What about midterms and finals?! Oh god..." With those dreaded midterms coming up in less than a month, its easy to get wound up in them. however, there a few things you can do to make the whole process easier to digest.

Know when your midterms are. Prepare well ahead of time. Cramming half of a semester's worth of knowledge into two day's time is not the path you want to take. Not only does the information leak out in only a few ours time, but your mind can only handle so much work before it fizzes out. A short-circuited brain will not get you far in college. Hence, prioritize accordingly. Budget your time so that you don't end up studying for three midterms within the same night. Allot ample time to study for each subject.

Also, remember that you are not in this alone. Not only do you have your fellow students, but professors, TAs, SIs, and other tutors to help you through the ordeal. Contrary to popular belief, not everyone is out to fail you. If you supply them with questions, they will supply you with answers. Knowing that people are around, essentially at your disposal, is key to doing well. Do not get into the mentality that no one will help you, or be too proud to ask for help.

Following this advice will not make everything fit perfectly. However, it will make the chaos that is the middle of the semester slightly easier to manage.

Visit the Greek Life website at <http://greeklife.case.edu>

There you will find up to date information about the fraternity and sorority community at Case Western Reserve University. There you can also sign up for a weekly email keeping you aware of the upcoming events on campus.

In addition, you can look at the grades for all our chapters for at least the last 5 years.