



April 2008 Edition

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

The Academia

During the Fall recruitment period for fraternities, it's easy to overlook academics. Perhaps you are not sure how to show that the fraternity promotes academics, or are unsure about how to look for academically-minded members. As you head into the summer, keep a couple things in mind while planning your recruitment:

1. Improving your chapter's academics and GPA has the best results when you obtain the right members.
2. Publically demonstrate to potential new members that the chapter cares about academics (or is looking to strengthen its academics). Do you have a study night, faculty reception, offer a freshmen scholarship, or some other academic event on your recruitment event calendar?
3. Offer a freshmen scholarship as a way to meet academically-minded students. While your scholarship winner may not join the fraternity, the scholarship can help you meet many great students. The Greek Life Office, Greek Community Educational Consultant Chris Coy (cgc8), or IFC VP of Membership Peter Janki (pmj4) can provide advice on how to effectively offer a scholarship.

Be genuine about your chapter's academics. If the chapter has a great chapter GPA, then be proud of it and talk about it. If the chapter is not happy with its GPA, then be honest and say that you are looking to improve, and are looking for some bright men to help you get there.

It can be easy to overlook the importance of academics during recruitment. We are all here to get an education, so why not look for members who will try to get the best education they can?

A SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR FINALS

By Lisa Voigt, G.C.E.C.

The strenuous last stretch of the spring semester has arrived. This time of the semester comes a view of the light at the end of the tunnel, as well as final exams, papers, and presentation in our way of reaching that light. How will you survive finals?...massive amounts of caffeine and all-nighters, let's hope not. There is a smarter way to study for finals that ensures you perform your best. The best study tip I can give is to plan ahead! Write down your finals schedule, figure out what grades you need on these finals, and make a plan of attack as to how you are going to achieve these grades. If you are really motivated you can even make a study schedule although I find that I rarely follow the study guides I make so leave yourself some wiggle room.

The following are some more common-sense study tips. Take care of your body, this means get enough sleep, eat healthy foods, and exercise. All nighters are not effective, especially the night before an exam – you will be much more productive when your brain and body has had some rest. Furthermore, there is no way that you can critically think through an exam on no sleep! Also, as tempting as it is to eat massive amounts of candy and other junk food to deal with the stress of exams, this will just end up making you feel crappy. To be at your prime come exam time need to make an effort to eat healthier meals and snacks. Lastly, when I say exercise I don't mean you have to train for a marathon. Just getting up from your near-permanent study spot in the library to take a short walk will make you feel better. As obvious as these may seem, it is amazing how many people ignore them when the stress of finals kicks in.

Just a few more quick-fire tips: mix up your study techniques (reading, taking notes, watching lectures, flashcards, quiz yourself, have a friends quiz you, etc.), find a study buddy (they don't have to be in your class, just someone to keep you motivated and who you can vent to during your study breaks), and give yourself a break once and a while to do something fun! I leave you with one last piece of advice – have a positive attitude! If you think you can get the grade you want, you will be much more likely to succeed than if you start out thinking you can't. Good luck on Finals...the light (summer) is almost here!

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

By Jeremy Harchelroad, Beta Theta Pi

Do you find yourself working late hours into the night, rushing to complete assignments? Is it difficult to focus sometimes, as your mind wanders to Facebook or your email? Or do you feel as though you are intensely focused on the material, but just can't understand what the professor or textbook is talking about?

If you find yourself agreeing to any of the above, I may have a solution for you. This solution takes the form of group study. By group study I mean simply getting together with a group of your peers and working on a common project, whether homework, studying for an exam, or just reviewing notes from a previous lecture. There are many ways group study can benefit you – keep reading to find out more.

Imagine that each time you get stuck on a problem, or don't understand a concept, instead of struggling for an extended period of time trying to figure it out you can simply ask the person sitting next to you. If you get together to work with a group of people, the odds are quite good that if you don't understand something, someone else in your group does and can help. There is something magical about the ability of your peers to explain something as opposed to professors and teaching assistants. As students, we often have the ability to break through all the formalities and technical details of a subject that often overcomplicate it, and explain what is going on in a clear and concise manner. Professors and TAs are often times many years removed from the first time they encountered a subject and can easily forget what makes it difficult. Students on the other hand are still in the middle of wrestling with the material and can therefore provide a fresh perspective that may be just what you need. Further, friends may help you stay focused on the task at hand, or may convince you to get an early start on work that would have otherwise waited until a later date.

You may be thinking to yourself, "Yea, this sounds great, but where am I going to find this group to work with?" Luckily, I have a few ideas for this very issue. First, look no further than your very own Greek organization. See if any of your brothers or sisters are in your classes and find a mutually convenient time to work with them. You may be surprised to find that they are struggling with the same things you are struggling with, in which case two minds are always better than one. Another solution is to look around the room next time you go to class and take notice of the people you know. You'll be surprised at how many you find, even if some are just acquaintances, and they may be interested in working with you. It just takes someone to make that first move and ask. And if these first two options don't prove successful, I strongly encourage you to check out the services offered by ESS. Between SI and Peer Tutoring sessions, you should never have to struggle through a course alone. The main function of the SI program is to immerse students in a peer-driven learning environment that thrives on a group dynamic. You don't have to provide the group - you just have to show up. If you prefer a more personal dynamic, you may find Peer Tutoring to be more beneficial. Here you get one-on-one time to ask questions and the attention is centered on your needs.

At the end of the day, it really doesn't matter where you find your group to work with, but simply that you find a way to study comfortably. The group dynamic is not for everyone, as many of us learn better by ourselves. For those of you in this category, there are other techniques that may help you study more effectively. But for those of us who have ever been in a class and felt lost and alone, don't be afraid to make that first move, find yourself some friends to work with, and take advantage of the shared knowledge you will find in a group of your peers. The results may far surpass your expectations.

GREEK AWARDS CEREMONY– SCHOLARSHIP/ ACADEMIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR FALL	Becca Winarski,
OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR SPRING	Laura Ansley
OUTSTANDING FACULTY MEMBER	Nancy DiIulio, Biology Department
OUTSTANDING CHAPTER SCHOLARS	Becca Winarski, AXΩ
(Nominated by individual chapters)	Sarah Murphy, ΔΓ
	Marianne LaLonde, KAΘ
	Joe Dickman, ΦKT
	Marie Marinan, ΦΣP
	Ken Zhou, ΘX
	Nick Szugye, ZΨ