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AN ADVISEMENT NEWSLETTER  
FOR UNDERGRADUATES

# Advising *connection*

May 2007 graduates of Georgia State University share their words of advice .

## Parting Words to the Class of 2011

Marik Xavier (B.A. Sociology '07) - Georgia State University Graduate  
Stefani Cook (B.S. Urban Policy Studies '07) - Georgia State University Graduate

### Q1: How did classes at Georgia State University differ from classes in high school? How did you adjust to these differences?

**Marik:** The biggest difference would obviously be the classroom sizes. I think everyone is a bit overwhelmed the first time they walk into a lecture hall with 250 people in it. It's a bit daunting. Taking classes in a big university allows students to either make connections with fellow students and teachers or to remain unseen and pretty much unheard. In high school you can't avoid interaction with the teacher and like it or not with the other students, opposed to college where autonomy is very easily obtained. College also teaches students that they actually have to open a text book and go to class. I know with my high school, the need to study wasn't there. I was able to make A's without putting the time or effort into my classes and it wasn't until I got to college that I felt challenged and realized I had to study to make good grades.

**Stefani:** I found that I did a lot more participating and a lot less note taking. It was more important to me to stay interested in my classes than it was to regurgitate information. Learning that in some classes there is no "right" answer – only a right way to articulate your answer – is important. When you can, spend an hour or two after class to let it all just kind of "soak" in – think about your subject outside of class, not when you have to read or do homework, but just in some down time try to explore the area in more depth.

### Q2: What are the most important things for freshmen students to accomplish in their first 30 days at Georgia State University?

**Marik:** First: find your classroom. Second: GO TO CLASS.



For the incoming freshmen attending INCEPT this summer, thoughts of graduation and the year 2011 might seem far off in the future. It isn't! Regularly meet with your academic adviser to stay on track and help unleash your academic potential.

**Stefani:** I would say to get to know your way around campus. It is a wonderful urban sprawl but can be scary at times if it is unfamiliar. Spend a day just walking around without trying to get anywhere on time – just to get to know the area. And don't be afraid of homeless people – they are people, too, and will not hurt you. Being respectful to them is the least you can do.

### Q3: Did you have a close relationship with an academic adviser, faculty member, or mentor on campus?

**Marik:** I was fortunate to have found an amazing professor early...

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on in my academic career. She is an outstanding teacher and her passion for her students and for her work is extremely inspirational. I think this definitely contributed to my success throughout, because I wanted to prove to my professors and myself that I could achieve greatness.

**Stefani:** Since Georgia State is a commuter college and I, like most students, had a hectic schedule balancing work, family and school, I wouldn't say I had a close relationship with any of the above, but found that everyone was professional and made themselves available to help at a moments' notice, as if that close relationship were there. Several classes I took were taught by graduate students who were always willing to take some extra time to talk about their subject or area of interest. Some of these classes were better than those taught by professors! Getting to know them helped me refine my own interest in graduate school and life after college.

**Q4: What major behaviors contributed your academic success at Georgia State University?**

**Marik:** I feel that being a good student is very different than just being a student. For me that meant studying, attending classes, and sometimes putting my personal life on hold. I feel it is necessary to make sacrifices for anything you want to thrive at, yet not view it as a sacrifice,

because then you end up resenting that thing and often bitter, both which are unproductive. I reminded myself that no one was forcing me to go to class or do my homework and it was *my* decision to be there, so it was up to be to decide if I wanted to excel or just do the minimum to get by. I made the decision that I wanted to be there, so I needed to apply myself and find avenues that interested and challenged me.

**Stefani:** Class participation was probably the greatest factor. I would recommend speaking up in class and providing input every chance possible, as well as listening to others' comments. Also do not be afraid to utilize your professors as a resource outside of class. It's what they're there for and they probably would enjoy some company during office hours! Another factor would be a relaxed exam-taking stance. Stressing over a test never made anyone score higher, so do the work ahead of time and then just relax! Lastly, doing well at the beginning of the semester was crucial for me. If I scored high and did well before mid-terms, the last half of the semester was a cake-walk. Otherwise, I spent the last half stressing more and learning less.

*Marik and Stephani were identified by advising staff members for their academic success and outstanding accomplishments while completing their undergraduate degrees.*

## DID YOU KNOW?

### NEW TELEPHONE SYSTEM

Starting July 1st 2007, Georgia State University will officially complete its transition of using analog phones to VoIP phones. Please update your contact information.

Student Advisement Center  
404-413-2300

Offices of Academic Assistance  
(students with 42 or more earned hours)  
Arts & Sciences.....404-413-5000  
Business.....404-413-7115  
Education.....404-413-8000  
H&HS.....404-413-1000  
Policy Studies.....404-413-0021

Frequently Dialed Numbers  
One Stop Shop.....404-413-2600  
Counseling Center...404-413-1640  
Testing Center.....404-413-1749  
GSU Operator.....404-413-2000

Campus Police— Emergency  
404-413-3333



### Element K "E-Training" Courses

eTraining is also referred to as web-based training, or

just-in-time training. It consists of modularized training courses, available over the web, anytime of the day or night, anywhere you have access to the Internet! Since the Student Technology Fee funds it, eTraining is FREE (for personal use only, one account per person) to Georgia State students who are eligible to register and Georgia State faculty and staff.

Element K courses are self-study courses that you may take anytime, anywhere over the Internet or download to your laptop or local PC. Some courses are offered in multi-languages.

Georgia State University has licensed with Element K to provide over 400 self-study courses. To access any of the listed courses below, you will need to have an individual eTraining account. To create account, grab you Panther Card ID and visit <http://www.gsu.edu/etraining>.

For the past year (Oct. 1st 2006 to Sept. 30th 2007) participants are entered in a drawing to win a free iPod Shuffle, jump drive, and other additional prizes simply by participating. Log on now and get started!

**Sample Courses offered:**

FrontPage 2000, Word 2000, Access 2000, Excel 2000, PowerPoint 2000, Dreamweaver 3/4, Flash 5, Active Server Pages, Visual Basic 6.0, Photoshop 6.0, Project Management Fundamentals, Designing Business Solutions, SQL Fundamentals of Querying, Microsoft Project 2000, A+ Certification: Operating Systems, Oracle Fundamentals, and much more! Support for Microsoft Office 2007 will arrive shortly. For a complete list of all classes, visit <http://www.gsu.edu/etraining>.

"EVERY GREAT ADVANCE IN SCIENCE HAS ISSUED FROM A NEW AUDACITY OF IMAGINATION"  
- JOHN DEWEY

### THE ADVISING CONNECTION An Advisement Newsletter For Undergraduates

To make comments, suggestions, & contributions, contact the Student Advisement Center.  
255 Sparks Hall, 404-413-2300

## IMPORTANT DATES

July 2nd, 2007  
Summer 07 semester midpoint.  
Last day to withdraw and receive a "W".

July 4th, 2007  
University Closed—No Classes

July 9th & 10th, 2007  
Regents' Exam Offered. See <http://www.gsu.edu/testing> to register or for additional info.

July 23rd & 30th, 2007  
6 & 7 week classes end, respectively

August 10th, 2007  
Fall 07 tuition and fees due by 5pm.

August 13th, 2007  
All summer '07 grades available via GoSolar by 6pm.

August 17th—24th, 2007  
Late Registration

August 20th, 2007  
Fall '07 Classes Begin

August 24th, 2007  
Late registration tuition and fees due by 5pm (students dropped for non-payment after 5pm).