'Twas the Night Before Finals . . .

"Twas the night before finals, and all through the college,
The students were praying for last minute knowledge.
Most were quite sleepy, but none touched their beds,
While visions of essays danced in their heads.

Out in the taverns, a few were still drinking,
And hoping that liquor would loosen their thinking.
In my own room I had been pacing,
And dreading exams I soon would be facing.

My roommate was speechless, his nose in his books,
And my comments to him drew unfriendly looks.
I drained all the coffee, and brewed a new pot,
No longer caring that my nerves were all shot.

I stared at the notes, but my thoughts were all muddy,
My eyes went a blur, I just couldn’t study.
"Some pizza might help," I said with a shiver,
But each place I called, refused to deliver.

I’d nearly concluded that life was too cruel,
With futures depending on grades made in school.
When all of a sudden, our door opened wide,
And Patron Saint Put-It-Off ambled inside.

His spirit was careless, his manner was mellow,
All of a sudden, he started to bellow.
"On Cliff’s notes, on Crib notes, On Last Year Exams.
On Wing-It and Sling-It and Last Minute Crams."

His message delivered, he vanished from sight,
But we heard him laughing outside in the night.
"Your teachers have pegged you, so just do your best,
Happy Finals to All, and to all a Good Test."

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Supplemental Grant Aide

Fall Supplemental Grant Aide checks will be calculated over post-secondary education (less than 65 credit hours).
Must be receiving a Federal Pell Grant.
Must attend ALL monthly advisor meetings.
Must maintain a 2.0 GPA.
Must complete IMPACT orientation within 30 days of acceptance.

Must complete at least 12 hours to be considered full time.
Must participate in one academic or cultural event each semester.
Must participate in either a career preview or transfer visit each semester.
December 2008

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Schedule of Events

- Dec. 3—Last day to withdraw from a second 8-week class.
- Thursday, Dec. 11th in the IMPACT Conference Room from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. CRAM FOR FINALS STUDY NIGHT Snacks and door prizes throughout the night! English and Math Specialist on hand for assistance.
- Sunday, Dec. 14th in the Brown Theatre at 2:00 P.M. CHRISTMAS VESPERS CONCERT
- Monday, Dec. 15th Come and go! Stop by the IMPACT Office between 7:30 A.M.—9:30 A.M. for pancakes and sausage to start your finals off right!
- Dec. 16-19 FINAL EXAMS
- Dec. 23—Dec. 31 CHRISTMAS BREAK
- Jan. 5-16 Spring Pre-session
- Jan. 19—College Closed for Martin Luther King Day.
- Jan. 21 First day of class

The Last Career Guide You’ll Ever Need

1. **There is no plan**—Go with the flow. Roll with change. You cannot plan the rest of your life today. Things change. Make smart choices. Do things because they are inherently valuable regardless of what it may or may not lead to. Take a job or join a company because it will let you do interesting work in a cool place, even if you don’t know exactly where it will lead.

2. **Think strengths, not weaknesses**—The key to success is to steer around your weaknesses and focus on your strengths. Successful people don’t try too hard to improve what they’re bad at. They capitalize on what they’re good at. What give you energy rather than drains it?

3. **It’s not about you**—The most successful people improve their own lives by improving others’ lives. Bring out the best in others. Give back.

4. **Persistence trumps talent**—The people who achieve the most are often the ones who stick with it when others don’t. They use their hearts and their butts. Practice, practice, practice. Persistence is like compound interest. It builds on itself over time. The world is littered with talented people who don’t persist. They did not put in the hours and they gave up too early. Intrinsic motivation is important. Doing things not to get an external reward like money or a promotion, but because you simply like doing it. The more intrinsic motivation you have, the more likely you are to persist, the more likely you are to succeed.

5. **Make excellent mistakes**—Too many people spend their time avoiding mistakes. They’re so concerned about being wrong, about messing up, that they never try anything—which means they never do anything. Their focus is avoiding failure. But that’s actually a crummy way to achieve success. The most successful people make spectacular mistakes. Why? They’re trying to do something big. But each time they make a mistake, they get a little better and move a little closer to excellence. Making mistakes might seem a little risky. It is. But it’s more risky not to.

6. **Leave an imprint**—Leave your companies, your communities, and your families a little better than it was before you entered it. Did I make a difference? Did I contribute? Did my being here matter? Did I do something that left an imprint?

On October 16, 2008, a group from the Grand Valley State University (GVSU) Meijer Campus in Holland, Michigan met at Wok In, Wok Out to assist students in making those oh-so-important life decisions. They came up with a 7th Lesson that is worth sharing. Visit www.johnnybunko.com to read the BUNKO BLOG.

7. **Be present. The quality of your presence now determines your future.** This came out of the conversation that so often people just show up, but aren’t really aware of where they are, who they are, or what they can contribute. Really being present—in the moment—allows you to learn more about yourself and the world around you and will help you see the possibilities! It is all about the power of NOW.
IMPACT Coordinator, Bev Manuszak, felt it was a privilege to set up four transfer visits for interested students. Our first transfer visit, in September, was to Wichita State University. While it was very warm and the walk a bit long, WSU showed us what they have to offer. At the end of October, we enjoyed a transfer visit to Pittsburgh State University. Pittsburgh offered many good faculty advising experiences for our students. It is a very compact and beautiful campus. The November transfer visit to Emporia State University seemed to be one of the best. Several who attended decided, that day, they would enroll soon. The faculty advisor meetings were well done and the campus is also compact and beautiful. Our final transfer visit for this semester was to Southwestern College. We chose to do something a little different, since the college is so close, by setting up two different days and times. Southwestern provided our first opportunity to consider a Kansas Liberal Arts School. These colleges are private colleges. The campuses and classes are usually smaller, there is a lot of time to speak with instructors, meet and network with people, and develop leadership opportunities. While these schools appear to be very expensive to attend, no one pays the sticker price. When Kansas Liberal Arts Colleges show all the financial help available, the final price is comparable with the state colleges and universities. Southwestern was named one of America’s Best Colleges in 2007, according to U.S. News. Several students are now considering transferring to Southwestern. There will be more transfer visits in the spring.

Free Tutoring with Kansas Library Card

Live tutoring for Kansas students 4:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. every day. Provided by the State Library of Kansas and Kansas Public Libraries.

Students must have a Kansas Library Card, or a temporary PIN in order to access HomeworkKansas. You can get your own library card from the front desk at the Renn Memorial Library. All you need is your full name and birth date.

Students can get help online with introductory college course homework in English, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Physics, Algebra I & II, Calculus, Geometry and Trigonometry with live tutors in one-on-one homework sessions. Once connected to a live tutor, you interact with a tutor through chat technology, a whiteboard and a variety of easy-to-use tools.

Most sessions last twenty minutes, though there is no specified time limit per session and no limit to the number of sessions a student may have.

All of the tutors provided by HomeworkKansas are either certified teachers, college professors or graduate students, and each is an expert in a particular subject field. Each tutor also goes through an extensive screening and background check, followed by training and ongoing evaluations to assure quality.

The service will also be available in Spanish Sunday - Thursday, from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Control Your Success

Have you ever said “I only failed that course because the instructor didn’t like me?” If you have, you are expressing an external locus of control. This behavior can be counterproductive to your success in college. Here are some tips for enhancing your internal locus of control:

* Focus on your strengths. Remind yourself of all of the things you do well.

* Realize only you can make yourself study. When you study, reward yourself. When you don’t study, don’t blame others for your bad grades.

* Accept the fact that success is a result of effort. The harder you try, the more likely you will succeed.

* Listen to yourself talk. Eliminate “they” from your vocabulary. “They kept me from succeeding,” should be replaced with “I” phrases such as, “I should have studied more!”
2 Minute Microwave Fudge

Ingredients
********************************************************
1 pound of powdered sugar
1/2 cup cocoa
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup milk
1 Tablespoon vanilla extract
1/4 pound butter/margarine
1 cup chopped nuts

Directions *****************************************************************************************************
Mix all dry ingredients together in an 8x8 inch microwave safe pan (important to use this size pan). Add milk and vanilla extract. Place chunk of butter/margarine in center (leave butter as whole do not chop up). Microwave on high for 2 minutes until bottom of dish feels warm. Stir vigorously and blend in chopped nuts. Put in mold or whatever and chill for 1 hour. *Use real butter for best results.

Check out this website during Christmas break
to find several recipes from Mrs. Claus’ Cookbook

http://www.northpole.com/Kitchen/Cookbook/

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