



SEPTEMBER PARENT UPDATE

Hello folks,

These updates come from the College of Textiles and are written for parents as a means to communicate to you important information as well as provide you another perspective on what your students are experiencing. Both Liz and I have input in these updates, although I am the one who actually writes them. Please feel free to email us with your questions. Ask your student which one of us is their adviser, if you are not certain, and then email the one of us who advises your student.

Thanks for all your support so far. Philip

What We Are Hearing in T 101 and What We Hope They Are Hearing

Most of them are settling into a routine but that has been a challenge. The erratic schedule of classes and times is very different from high school. They are definitely more tired than they thought they would be. One of the results of all this adjusting is fatigue. I assure you they tell us all the time how tired they are. They are experiencing a host of new issues such as living in a residence hall in a room with two people that is smaller than many of their closets at home, sharing a bathroom with more people than most of them had in their entire home, walking more than they expected just to get to classes, finding the right bus to come to Centennial Campus, learning how to navigate the internet based technology used in many classes, meeting new people, trying to remain physically active, trying to avoid H1N1, and on and on this list of challenges could go. We hear this and constantly are encouraging them to be patient and realize everyone is dealing with this.

We also encourage you to expect what you are likely already aware is happening. They are going to exhibit some changes as they return home for the breaks. Of course these changes will vary greatly with the individual student but all of them are starting to inch toward becoming adults. For some of them the freedom of being in college has already expressed itself in ways they would not have expected. You may have concerns about this as well, but the truth is that you've basically done all you can to "raise them right" at this point. Sure, you will always be their parents, but all of us know letting them grow up is part of parenting that is the scariest.

In T 101 we are discussing major academic policies that affect all students. If you would like to see these policies, you can find them here <http://ncsu.edu/uap/resources/index.html>. We are also discussing plans for graduating in a timely manner, etc. So your student is already being encouraged to think for their own academic success. Part of that academic success is making certain they have good time management skills and that they seek out help if needed.

We have structured our College of Textiles tutoring program to make it completely available to students in T 101. Our tutoring program information can be found at the following site. <http://www.tx.ncsu.edu/academic/advising/tutoring.html> The tutors in this program are textile students who are carefully selected for their academic ability but more importantly, for their

ability to explain concepts and interact with their peers. I frequently hear our students say how much more they appreciate our tutors when they have tried other tutoring services on campus.

The tutoring services are free and on a walk in basis. The program runs Monday through Thursday from 3:00 to 6:30. T 101 is either from 2:20-3:10 or 3:50-4:40 which makes it totally reasonable that a student could go to tutoring after T 101 or before. This prevents them from needing to make an additional trip to Centennial to access this service. We have stressed this to them and hopefully they will take advantage of this proven successful service.

Finally, we are already hearing from students who are not certain they want to remain in textile degrees. This is fine and we will do everything we can to help them with that transition. One major factor in that transition will be their fall GPA, so please, if you know your student is considering changing to another college, encourage them to be very conscientious about their performance this fall. Many colleges require a 3.0 to transfer and most at least a 2.6 or higher.

Your Help Would Be Appreciated

The students in the College of Textiles are amazing in their outreach and service from our own community in Raleigh to countries throughout the world. On Saturday August 22, 140 students from our College helped package meals for Stop Hunger Now, www.stophungernow.org. That day NCSU and ECU together packaged over 500,000 meals with NCSU packing over 300,000. One meal is enough food for a family of 4.

We have an opportunity to help an orphanage for mentally and handicapped children in Haiti called Wings of Hope. I visited this facility in early August. They operate a remarkable facility on a very limited budget. They need 250 diapers for the children.. They cannot afford disposable diapers and the directors of the orphanage also do not want to add to the problems of garbage in the landfills.. So this is where the College of Textiles comes into the picture. The diapers they need can be made by ours students. I intend to start with this project after Labor Day. The diaper needs layers of terry cloth inside it, in other words, layers of towel material. The terry cloth can be from any kind of towel.

Used towels and other terry cloth items are fine. We do not want white towels. Any color is fine. They do not use bleach on these diapers. If you wish to help, please do not feel it necessary to purchase new towels. If you have old towels or any kind of terry cloth material items that you can send back with your student that would be awesome. They can bring them to T 101 when they return.

Thank you for reading this. We look forward to any questions you may have.

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