

Student Life

WORK, SCHOOL PROVES TO BE A BALANCING ACT FOR STUDENTS

By Ashley Geissinger

The average college student is faced with not only imminent assignments that relentlessly linger over his or her head each semester, but he or she is now bombarded with juggling a full time job and keeping up an appropriate GPA.

When a student is forced to work and attend college simultaneously, there is always the pressure of when to work hard and get paid and when to work hard and receive a high GPA. The challenge is finding a way to manage both equally. There are four key components to a working student's GPA success.

The first and most important is time management. Susie Brown 22, said, "Time management is something I deal with every day during a semester. If I know I have an assignment due, and I have a full schedule at work, I complete my assignment a little at a time during my breaks and begin them earlier than I would

if I didn't work." The key to time management is to know when things are due and creating the time to complete them, even if that means not attending the hottest party or going out with friends.

The second key to success is attending as many classes as possible. Before a semester begins the student must alert his or her boss as to when their classes will be held so he or she can attend as many classes as possible. If the student attends class, not only will he or she receive a class participation grade, but all of the information that was given during class time. Knowing what was said in class makes studying a much easier task because more information is being retained.

The next key is staying organized. An organized working student can stay on task at work, know when assignments are due, or when a test is without having to stress that they overlooked something. The best way to stay organized is to invest in a planner

and record everything that has a set due date, along with when you can work on each assignment or task. This step also coincides with wise time management.

The last step is to ask for help. If the student knows his or her grades seem to be slipping, he or she is less likely to work as efficiently at work due to stress. The best thing to do is either talk to his or her teacher about extensions on assignments or talk to his or her boss. Working is crucial to the survival of the

student, if he or she lose two hours of work each week to do assignments and pull up a grade, not only will he or she work more proficiently but he or she will not be losing too much pay. Jared 21, said, "I was working 44 hours a week and was having trouble finding a spare minute to do anything let alone study. So, I talked to my boss and asked him to make sure I only work 40 hours a week. He fully understood and I think I only lost \$40 a paycheck which was worth it."



SMART PHONES PROVE EFFICIENT FOR BUSY COLLEGE STUDENTS

By Brittany Ferebee

From simple to smart, cell phones have come a long way in the past 30 years. What was once considered a fancy item has now become a necessity for everyday life.

It is rare to find a student on a college campus without a cell phone and, most of these students would prefer a phone with the capability to check email, Facebook, Twitter or other social networks right at the tip of their fingers. These types of phones are called smart phones.

A smart phone is what people consider a true personal computer. Not only does the smart phone have the capability of doing everything your computer does, but it can also do more. "I was looking for a number to my hair salon, but not only did my droid find the number it gave me the address and a full picture of the store and the surrounding area that let me stroll up and down the streets to see how to get there," said a recent graduate from New York University.

With the growing demand of smart phones, cell phone companies have taken advantage and used the technique of supply and demand. According to the *New York Times*, Apple reportedly sold 3.79 million iPhones, retailing at \$399, in 2009. This was a dramatic jump from the 1.7 million in 2008. Beginning in 2011, Apple will start selling these phones at Verizon Wireless. Currently, they are only available at AT&T. "I use the iPhone because I can do everything with it," said a current student at Farmingdale College in New York. "I can do video voice calls, keep up with my schedule, and it even helps keep

me organized and prioritized with school."

Ironically, most teachers despise students using cell phones in the classroom. They are deemed disrespectful in the learning environment. However, a number of college students say a common reason for having a smart phone is for educational purposes. Students can manage everything from on-the-go contact with teachers and professors to checking email. In June of this year, Sprint and Blackboard teamed up to allow students to access their blackboard information via their mobile device. "The partnership is to turn the "everywhere" mobile device into an anytime learning option," reports Fierewireless.com.

Although iPhones and Droids are two very popular smart phones, they still don't top the charts like the Blackberry. In one fiscal quarter alone, RIM Blackberry sold 7.8 million smart phones, which gave them a profit of nearly \$643 million, reported gadgetophilia.com. Blackberry's are available through almost any phone company and downloadable applications for the phone are endless, which is a reason why many people choose this as their phone-of-choice.

With everything that the smart phone is capable of doing, there probably aren't many people who could not find the convenience in having one. From the ability to keep up with everyone, to the availability of the internet at all times, everyone can find some use with a smart phone, especially college students. It's not hard to figure out why smart phones have become so popular, so fast. With the way technology is growing, the demand is not slowing down.

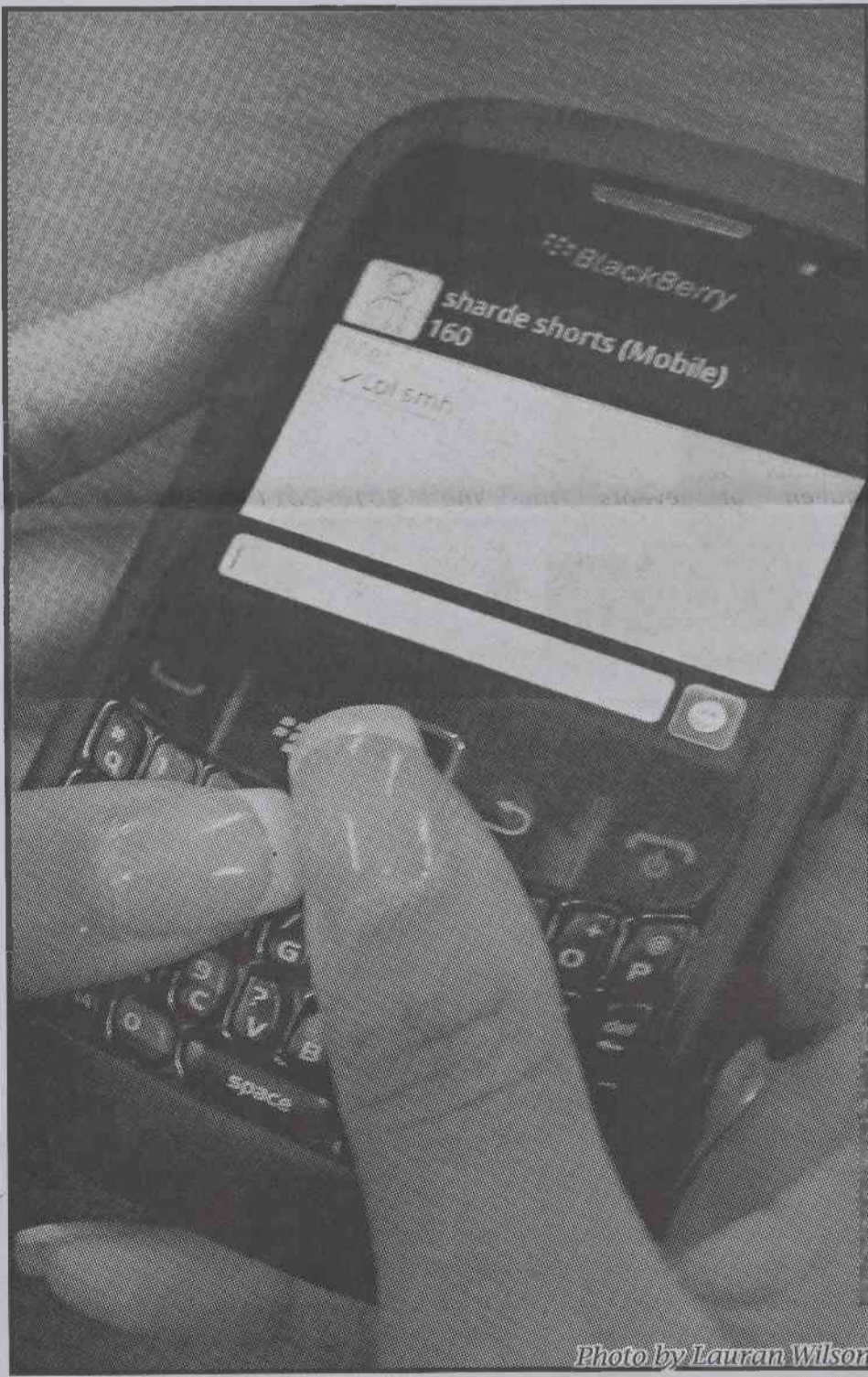


Photo by Lauran Wilson

FRESHMAN CLASS WELCOMED TO SCHOOL AT CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY

By D.A. Baker

Candles, those often overlooked lights of comfort, solemnity and peace took center stage in the Mickey L. Burnim Auditorium in late afternoon on Sunday, September 26 as more than 500 freshmen and transfer students held their small lights in celebrating their official induction into Elizabeth City State University.

"The greater light of knowledge represents a tradition of passing the flame of learning from one generation to the next," said Sherry Lewis, General Studies Coordinator and Candlelight Ceremony Chairperson. "That light, that flame, that torch is a symbolic journey to reaching your goals and becoming successful."

The Fine Arts Center was full as the class of 2014

was officially welcomed into the ECSU family and pre-alumni association. The candlelight tradition, nearly three decades old, is celebrated each year to welcome the new and transfer students to Elizabeth City State University. "The purpose of the ceremony is to induct the freshman class into the ECSU family," said Lucretia Williams, an academic advisor and member of the Candlelight Committee.

The evening began with an introduction by Dr. Ali Khan, welcoming students, staff, parents and the class of 2014. This year, ECSU had the unique opportunity to listen to a convocation address by Rear Admiral William "Dean" Lee, deployable Operations Group, U.S. Coast Guard. Lee talked about planting the seeds of success in each student, saying, "Success is not determined by GPA, or how successful you

were in high school... but an individual's integrity and morality." He went on to say that you must not let your past dictate your future.

"(Admiral Lee's) speech was very uplifting," said Dana Poole, a math specialist and member of the Candlelight Committee. "I was very impressed at how he spoke about planting the seeds of success."

The evening came to an end with the traditional Candlelight speech, separated into six parts emphasizing hope, beauty, truth, awareness, faith and love.

"I was so proud of the students," said Lolita Turner, Tutorial Coordinator and Candlelight Committee member, "They were so well behaved and represented the university well."