

Cultural Voices

Monthly Observances:
September 2009

Ramadan

Sept. 21

Hispanic Heritage Month

Sept. 15—Oct. 15

Rosh Hashanah

Sept. 18—20

National Women's Health & Fitness Day

Sept. 30

A Short Course in Human Relations

The six most important words:

I admit that I was wrong.

The five most important words:

You did a great job.

The four most important words:

What do you think?

The three most important words:

Could you please...

The two most important words:

Thank you.

The most important word:

We.

The least important word:

I.

Rules for College Success

By Boyce Watkins, PhD (excerpted from Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About College)

1. Stay away from alcohol, drugs, promiscuity and gambling.

How you respond to the above statement depends on who you are. Some people think that a little drinking or sex in college is ok, some don't. The only thing that I DEFINITELY know is that too much of any of these things can be hazardous to your health or land you in jail. College is a breeding ground for all the little sins that tempt mankind. Enjoy yourself in college to the extent that you feel comfortable, but DO NOT get caught up in too much of anything.

2. Watch out for the credit card sales people - only get one card at most, and try not to spend more than you can afford

The credit card vultures wait every semester for those naïve, unsuspecting freshmen who come through campus for the first time. You have a clean credit history, and they want to offer you what looks like free money. If you get a credit card, be smart with it. You should only use it if you have to, and only spend what you can afford. Financial problems are a major reason for students dropping out of college.

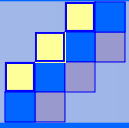
3. Don't pledge until you are done with your freshman year

Pledging for frats and sororities is fine, if that is what you want to do. But don't do it during your freshman year. Also, if you are having GPA problems, then don't do it during your sophomore or junior year either. You are not in college to join a fraternity or sorority, you are there to get an education.

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Academic and Career Resources

Every few weeks, the Director receives information about various scholarships, internships, student leadership conferences, and employment opportunities that would be of interest to (or are targeted towards) students from specific demographic groups (ie students of color, women, various religious groups, members of the LGBT community etc.). Here are a few with upcoming deadlines; you can find additional listings and details on the OIR website:

Xerox Technical Minority Scholarship Program

This scholarship is available to undergraduate and graduate students in recognition of their high academic achievement in the fields of science, engineering and technology. Scholarships are available in the amount of \$1000 to \$10,000 (depending on tuition balance, academic excellence and classification).

Eligibility: To be eligible to apply to the program, the student must

- be academic high-achievers (3.0 or better GPA)
- be a US citizen or visa-holding permanent resident of African American, Asian, Pacific Island, Native American, Native Alaska or Hispanic descent
- be enrolled as a full time undergraduate or graduate student in any of the following technical fields: chemistry; information management; computing and software systems; material science; printing management science; laser optics; physics; engineering (chemical, computer, electrical, imaging, manufacturing, mechanical, optical or software)

Deadline: Must be postmarked by Wednesday, September 30, 2009.

Application: Interested students must

- complete the top portion of the application (<http://www.xerox.com/downloads/usa/en/a/applca.doc>);
- have the Financial Aid Office complete the bottom portion of the application;
- attach a copy of your resume; and
- submit all of this information to the following address:

Xerox Technical Minority Scholarship Program
150 State St.
4th Floor
Rochester, NY 14614

For more information: http://www.xerox.com/go/xrx/template/009.jsp?view=Feature&Xcntry=USA&Xlang=en_US&ed_name=Careers_Technical_Scholarship

HORIZONS Foundation Scholarship Program

Women in Defense, A National Security Organization, established the HORIZONS Foundation to encourage women to pursue careers related to the national security and defense interests of the United States and to provide development opportunities to women already working in national security and defense fields. The scholarship program is intended to provide financial assistance to further educational objectives of women who are U.S. citizens either employed or planning careers in defense or national security areas. (This is **not** law enforcement or criminal justice.)

The Foundation focuses on the following preferred fields of study for awarding scholarships: security studies, military history, government relations, engineering, computer science, physics, mathematics, business (as it relates to national security or defense), law (as it relates to national security or defense), international relations, political science, economics. Others will be considered if the applicant can successfully demonstrate relevance to a career in the areas of national security or defense.

Eligibility: Applicants must meet the following criteria. **No exceptions will be considered.**

- be currently enrolled at an accredited university or college, either full-time or part-time;
- undergraduate and graduate students are eligible; undergraduates must have attained **at least junior level status (60 credits)**;
- demonstrate interest in pursuing a career related to national security or defense;
- demonstrate financial need;
- have a minimum grade point average of 3.25;
- be a woman;
- and be a citizen of the United States.

Deadline (Spring '10 semester assistance): Sunday, November 1, 2009

Deadline (Fall '10 semester assistance): Thursday, July 1, 2010

For more information: wid.ndia.org/horizon/scholar.htm

National Conference on Student Leadership

"Energy ... enthusiasm ... the desire to do great things. Student organizations are blessed with a tremendous asset: student attitudes. But there's more that's needed for your organization to fulfill its potential.

"This fall's **National Conference on Student Leadership** will take place in Washington, DC, and its theme is *The Power of a Student Group*. In it, we'll explore how to harness the passion and drive you and others bring to your organization. You'll get the tools you need to make your efforts count and get results."

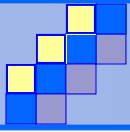
Dates: Saturday through Tuesday, November 21 – 24, 2009

Location: Washington, DC

Registration Deadlines/Cost: <http://www.ncslcollege.com/conf/november2009washingtondc/registration/>

(Registration deadlines are September 8th, October 9th and November 6th.)

Conference Website: <https://www.ncslcollege.com/conf/november2009washingtondc/>



Contact Us!

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A Sample of Upcoming Campus Events



**Diversity Thursdays:
Latin Dance Lessons**
Thursday, September 17
4–5 PM
Alumni Lounge

**Caribbean Student Association (CSA)
Meetings**
Tuesdays
8:30 PM
Moulton Lounge, Bartels

NAACP Meetings
Every other Monday (9/14 & 9/28)
8 PM
Meeting Rooms A & B



Black Student Union (BSU) Meetings
Wednesdays
8:30 PM
Meeting Rooms A & B

**National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)
Meetings**
Mondays
9 PM
Moulton Lounge

**Latin American Student Association
Meetings**
Details TBD

We're on the web!
[www.newhaven.edu/
interculturalrelations](http://www.newhaven.edu/interculturalrelations)

Rules (cont'd)

4. Don't move off campus until your senior year

Moving off campus creates a lot of new bills that will get in the way of your education. You have the rest of your life to live off campus. Stay on campus for now.

5. If you don't have a family yet, don't start one till you're both done with college

Having kids is great, but not during college. Get your education first, so that you can use the benefits of that education to support a family. If you have kids and a spouse too early, you are going to be forced to either jeopardize your relationships with them in order to reach your goals, or you are going to have to give up your goals altogether.

6. Leave your Play Station, Xbox or Game Cube at home. These are serious time-eaters

According to the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, students who spend a lot of time playing video games have lower grades than those who do not. Getting good at video games takes a lot of time, time you don't have in college. Leave the system at your parent's house, or only allow yourself to play your games after you've done a certain amount of studying for the night. Having that thing in your room is only going to distract you.

7. Never drop out of school for any period of time for any reason

There are a billion folks who have dropped out of school "for just a little while" only to find themselves never ever going back to college. Don't let yourself get caught in that category. Only drop out if there is no other option, and remember that even when you think there are no options, that usually means that you just haven't thought about all the possible solutions.

8. Don't go home too much, you will never get used to your new environment

It is always fun to go back home and kick it with the family. But the only way you are going to grow as a person is if you get out there, have new experiences and meet new people. Get out and live life. Don't spend all your time traveling home.

Dr. Boyce Watkins is a Finance Professor at Syracuse University and author of Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about College.