Secrets to studying revealed

By Dana Lynn Flateikvaln
Staff Writer

With the last week of classes come the dreaded finals and the hours of studying or cramming that might make or break a grade point average.

Study habits obviously differ from student to student; however, most never really learn the “right” way to study.

Some people prefer the quiet, others prefer groups, but what it all comes down to is just working with your information and learning it.

“I try to take good notes during the semester,” said senior elementary education and English major Denise Onderisin. “The most important advice I would give if you are struggling would be to manage your time and learn to be responsible.”

Senior John Daleandro, a second- ary education and English major, said that he needs quiet.

“Anytime I try to work in groups, it ends up becoming a social gather- ing,” he said. “I definitely need it to be quiet and I need to be alone and comfortable.”

What does working with information and learning it mean?

According to Kendall Anderson Friedman, director of the Rider Learning Center and Tutoring Services, it is important to do more than just read notes over and over again.

“Hopefully you’ve all been diligent students who have to class, taken notes and started studying,” said Friedman. “However, if you haven’t you can’t just cram. You must use your senses and plan.”

But many students across the country say that they don’t come close to following that study regimen. Results from the latest National Survey of Student Engagement, released last year, found that only 12 percent of last year’s freshmen at four-year residential col- leges reported spending 26 more hours per week preparing for classes while the majority, 63 percent, said that they spend 15 or fewer hours on class preparation, which the survey defines as “studying, reading, writing, rehearsing and other activities related to your academic program.”

“I study at least two days before my exams,” said senior Erin Moore, an English major.

Some give themselves extra time to study, like sophomore secondary education and English major Christina Carroll.

“I get gifts that are functional and that I know my friends will enjoy,” said junior Alyson Sherby.

Rider students seem to be pleased for the most part with the gifts they buy for their friends and family.

“I gave an ex-girlfriend a box. Inside was a poem I wrote for her and a ring,” said freshman Christopher Mattie. “I definitely need it to be quiet and I need to be alone and comfortable.”

But seniors have advice for incoming freshmen who don’t know a thing about taking a final or are scared out of their wits.

Concentrate on what needs to be done immediately, even if it is not the most fun. Don’t wait until the last minute to work on things. Do a little each day, according to Jeanine Puglisi, a senior elementary education and communications major.

“Remember that you have three years ahead and GPA isn’t everything,” said Daleandro. “Just try your best.”

Making memories during the gift-giving season

By Jordana Tusman
Staff Writer

December may be the holiday season of spend- ing time with friends and family, but it’s also a time when people scramble for scraps of money and rush to the malls. Presents are by far an important holiday element.

Ever since people were of a young age, it has been drilled into everyone’s heads that it is better to give than to receive. This is when the trouble comes in: deciding what gifts to purchase. Many factors must be considered, such as how much money to spend on each particular gift, the quality of the item, which gift is right for whom.

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“I like wrapping gifts with bows and ribbons,” said Kriston. “I like wrapping them more than unwrapping gifts myself.”

The final stage after giving presents to friends and family is receiving them in return. Most people would agree this is one of the best parts.

“My favorite gift was my GI Joe headquarters set I got when I was eight,” said Mattie. “Sometimes the most appreciated gifts cannot be bought in stores. Making a gift is always a thoughtful idea.”

“My grandfather made me a nice necklace,” said Mattie. “She opened it and cried.”

“A lot of people who like to buy and receive gifts often participate in Pollyannas. This is when a person gets a box. Inside was a poem I wrote for her and a ring,” said Kriston. “It’s nice.”

Don’t forget to save your class notes paper and then study from those,” said junior Matt Popilowski, a political science major and law and justice minor. “Good notes and a quiet environment help me study.”

Sophomore French and Spanish major Esmeralda Juncal said that she finds study groups to be helpful in craming.

“When I study for a test I try to get a few friends together that I have in that class and study with them because sometimes it helps when other people are there to organize ideas and important points,” said Juncal. “It also helps you when someone doesn’t know something. By explaining it to someone else, it helps you to remember it as well.”

There are professionals at the Rider Learning Center located in the Academic Annex next to Daly’s who can help students prepare for exams and help with study habits.

It has professional tutors available for private one on one sessions which are free of charge. Students are welcome to go to the Annex for more information or help.

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