

DAVIS RESEARCH PROJECT

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A message from Su Yeong Kim, Chief Researcher

We are very pleased to have you continue with the Davis Research Project. In our previous newsletter, we shared information that may be helpful as students finish high school and transition to the next phase of their lives. We continue with these themes. We highlight tips on choosing college courses, provide information on how to join a fraternity/sorority, provide information on hazing issues in a fraternity/sorority, and a just for fun recipe.

Please note that the project is now housed at the University of Texas at Austin. We look forward to your continued support and participation in the project! We can be reached by e-mail at projectfamilies@yahoo.com, by phone at (415) 271-0390, 1-(866)7-FAMILY (toll-free), and on the internet at <http://www.geocities.com/projectfamilies/davis/>.

We are very excited about the continued participation and interest in the project from the families!

Tips on Choosing Classes

Students should find a good mix of challenging as well as manageable classes in a given semester. For variety, students should avoid doing all math problems one semester and only writing papers the next semester. The degree of difficulty for a course depends on the material itself as well as the style of the professor who is teaching the course. If students are uncertain about taking a particular course, they can seek the advice of peers or inquire with upperclassmen who have taken the classes.

Many colleges offer the option of paying a flat tuition to take a set number of units in a given semester. If a student is on track or ahead of their degree plan, they may consider taking advantage of non-academic courses offered at their colleges. Some fun classes to consider may include courses in dance, nutrition, or a sport such as bowling or golf.

“By visiting Reviewum.com and RateMyProfessor.com students can view evaluations of professors and distribution of grades given by various professors.”

“If students want to further their education and anticipate attending graduate school, it helps to volunteer in a professor’s research lab.”

Students often consult online websites as a resource when selecting courses. Popular websites include Reviewum.com and RateMyProfessors.com. On these websites, students can view evaluations of professors and distribution of grades given by various professors. Students can even read reviews to determine if a professor’s teaching style is compatible with a student’s own learning style. These websites offer reviews for free, but a major shortcoming of free websites is that there is a limited amount of available information. As an alternative, students can visit PickaProf.com, a pay site that has a more comprehensive listing of professors and grade distribution for various classes. This website is linked with the popular social network site Facebook.com, so that students can sign up for classes with their friends.

Lastly, have fun and enjoy the learning process. Take advantage of different opportunities on campus and develop relationships with your peers and professors. Students are encouraged to visit professors during office hours. If students want to further their education and anticipate attending graduate school, it helps to volunteer in a professor’s research lab. By doing so, students develop a personal relationship with a professor, and they can more easily ask professors for letters of recommendation that are required by graduate schools and professional schools.

How to Join a Fraternity / Sorority

When a student is interested in joining a fraternity or sorority, the person usually attends information sessions and events of that particular fraternity or sorority, commonly known as rushing. Each sorority and fraternity usually passes out flyers printed with time and location of rush events. Also, the rush events will be listed on their official websites.

After taking part in these rush events and getting acquainted with the members of a sorority/fraternity, a person may or may not be extended a bid of acceptance. One is invited to start the pledging process only after receiving a bid of acceptance.

During the pledging period, one will be assigned a Big Sister/Big Brother for guidance throughout the entire process. One is required to participate in various projects to show a strong commitment and dedication to the fraternity/sorority. Individual growth as well as team work is expected to be promoted by completing various challenging tasks.



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The pledge process typically lasts between six to ten weeks, depending on the pledge class. Some possible pledging activities may include fundraisers, community service, or social hang-outs. After pledging, the person gets initiated into the organization as a member for life. Active members of organizations usually initiate only a few pledges into their organization, typically choosing those who show the strongest commitment throughout the pledging period.

“One is required to...show a strong commitment and dedication to the fraternity/sorority. Individual growth as well as team work is expected....”



Fraternity, Sorority, and Hazing

Advantages

- Networking opportunities
- Volunteering opportunities
- Leadership opportunities
- Friendship establishment
- Fun activities

Disadvantages

- Possible hazing
- Possible alcohol abuse
- Possible drug abuse
- Negative stereotypes

“It is important to carefully evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of joining, because once a person has joined a fraternity/sorority, he/she will be a member for life.”

A widely publicized component of the pledging period involves hazing and alcohol abuse. Hazing may start off as harmless pranks and humiliating tasks, but many people have died due to hazing, with alcohol poisoning being one of the leading causes of death.

Most fraternities and sororities impose secrecy of their organizations, and most do not openly publicize their rituals. Thus, hazing usually goes undetected. Because alcohol abuse directs a negative light on fraternities and sororities, some fraternities and sororities have implemented strict alcohol-free policies to alleviate the negative reputation of their organizations.

Despite some negative publicity of fraternities and sororities, these organizations also have much to offer as shown in the table on the left. It is important to carefully evaluate the potential advantages and disadvantages of joining a fraternity or a sorority, because once a person has joined a fraternity/sorority, he/she will be a member for life. In other words, it is important to take the time and not make a hasty decision that might affect the rest of a student’s college life or beyond!

Reference on Hazing:

http://www.stophazing.org/fraternity_hazing/index.htm

Davis Research Project



Are you Moving?

Please update your address and phone number with us! We would like to keep in touch with you for a follow-up project in the future.

Update your information:

By Phone:

(415) 271-0390

By Phone:

(866) 7-FAMILY (This is a toll-free number.)

By E-mail:

projectfamilies@yahoo.com

By Web:

<http://www.geocities.com/projectfamilies/davis/>

Just for Fun: Let's make Cookies !

Here is an easy and quick recipe (car baked cookies) specifically designed for a busy individual. This recipe not only saves you money and time, it is also quite fun and easy to follow!



Cost: \$2-3.00

Time: 2 – 3 hours

Difficulty: Easy

Material (per serving):

- A car
- Cookie dough cut in pieces

Procedure:

- Put the cut cookie dough on top of the dashboard of your car, then close the car door
[***Only works when the outside temperature is greater than 95F or 35C***]
- Come back a few hours later, and eat the freshly baked cookies!

The University of Texas at Austin

Su Yeong Kim, Ph.D.

Davis Research Project

Department of Human Ecology

1 University Station, A2700

Austin, TX 78712