New Year, New Attitude

Making the Most of 2013

Welcome 2013!!

The coming of the New Year traditionally prompts discussion of the celebrated New Year resolution. Resolutions are made for the purpose of self-improvement and can take many shapes and forms, from the generic (“I resolve to be a better person in 2013”), to the more specific (“I resolve to spend more quality time with parents, grandparents and other loved ones.”)

So, EOP Student, the question of the day is What can you do to be a better student in 2013?

Determining how to improve academically usually requires self-assessment. Look at your academic performance in 2012. What types of success did you achieve as a student? What failures? What attitudes, behaviors, habits contributed to your grades?

Reflecting on these questions will require some soul-searching. If you performed well last year, how can you maintain or improve your performance? If you did not, what changes in your lifestyle do you need to make to become a better student in 2013?

Here are some tips to consider to start the new year right:

Take charge. Develop a detailed weekly schedule, including class hours. Be sure to assign 2-3 hours of study time for each class. Include hours for extracurricular activities, family time, travel time, personal hygiene, etc.

Be resourceful. Sign up for a tutor for the most challenging course. Utilize resources like the Dr. Lewis and Mr. Kranendonk to help with writing and math.

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Milwaukee Common Council President Willie Hines poses with Sande Robinson Emerging Leaders and other MU students at his Soup With Substance presentation in October. Hines is an EOP alum.
**TIME TO SAY GOODBYE**

**PARTING WORDS OF WISDOM FROM EOP DECEMBER 2012 GRADUATES**

Twenty-seven EOP students participated in MU’s Commencement a few weeks ago. Prior to graduation, several offered a few parting words of advice for their peers. Below are some of their responses.

The journey is hard and long but if you stick with it and focus, it will all pay off in the end.

Joseph Alaka

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Study hard, get as much real world experience as possible (through service learning, internships, etc.), be a part of a student organization or club. Enjoy college.

Tim Allen

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Really take the time to smell the roses along the way. The journey to wherever you are going doesn’t mean as much if you don’t enjoy it...all of it. The good, bad and ugly.

Ivy Awino

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These four years go fast, don’t rush through them. Enjoy the experience—knowledge fades to make room for more knowledge, but memories live with us forever.

Toby Baker

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You don’t have to be smart to survive college. You only have to master the concept of time management.

Hiriam Bradley

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Enjoy college - they are the best years of your life.

Gustavo Correa

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No matter how difficult life may seem, do not give up because the reward will be much greater in the end. All your personal problems will fade away. Live and learn for your future because you will be more prepared to handle life when it gets rough.

Sara Emanuele

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Time Management! Always learn from your mistakes. Take college very seriously.

Claudia Guerrero

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Stay on top of your reading and work ahead if possible. Try to be as involved on campus as much as possible. Work hard, play hard!

Le’Ashia McDaniels

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Get involved with the Marquette community. Start studying for midterms and finals from the first day of class.

Faviola Munoz

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Stay up-to-date on everything, on top of your school work, if you need help don’t be afraid to ask.

Diana Pathammavong

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Always strive for the best. Even if you think it is impossible. With hard work, dedication and perseverance anything can become possible.

Jelanny Ramirez Pavon

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Time management is crucial academically and in any area of life. Make sure that you keep track of deadlines in an organized manner in order to be on time and do things at the best level possible. Also, take advantage of the academic support EOP provides.

Maria Roque

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Start strong academically. Set up a schedule that will allow you to have some flexibility to be involved in school/internships.

Raquel Roque

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“Work hard now, Play harder later,” Anything is possible if you have the will and passion to work hard and get it done. Try not to procrastinate—it puts more stress on you than what you already have.

Keonia Stovall

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Always put your studies first and never hesitate to ask for help. Also, keeping in contact with you professor really helps.

Laura Vaca
**TRIO Update**

You have a story and we want you to share! The *I’m First Project* is a new initiative of the Center for Student Opportunity. *I’m First Project* wants you to take a pledge and share your stories about being the first in your family to attend/graduate from college.

**Why you?**

Your stories will help inspire and encourage the next generation of students who will also be first-generation college students.

**So how do you get involved?**

First, visit: [http://beta.imfirst.org/](http://beta.imfirst.org/)

Second, **take** the pledge!

Third, **share** your personal story! The Center encourage you to upload a short video or a written testimonial. The *I’m First Project* website has tips and suggestions for creating and uploading videos. The Center also asks that you also share the good word and ask other people to share their stories.

This project can inspire future students and has the added benefit of showing the world what amazing students we have and that TRIO is a successful government program that really works.

As always, federal programs face looming budget cuts. Although there is a hasty fiscal cliff deal in place for a few months, there is still the real possibility that TRIO programs like ours will lose funding. We ask that you tell your legislators, your friends, your families, anyone who listens that TRIO is a vital part of the higher education community. The *I’m First Project* is a great place to start but there are many avenues to get the message out.

Contact Claire Dinkelman or stop by and MH 405 if you are looking for ideas! Also see Greg Nelson, EOP Technology Support Specialist, with support for your video vignette.

Finally, National TRIO Day is February 23. Be sure to wear your TRIO/EOP shirt proudly!

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**Financial Aid Corner**

It’s time to begin applying for financial aid for 2013-14!

All incoming and continuing undergraduate students must complete and submit their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the upcoming academic year. Beginning January 1, 2013, you can access the 2013-14 FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov.

You and one parent will need a federal pin number in order to electronically sign the FAFSA. To apply for a federal pin or reapply for a duplicate, go to: www.pin.ed.gov.

**Don’t Wait, Estimate!**

Do not wait to file the FAFSA until your tax returns have been filed. Use income estimates and file no later than February 15, 2013 to meet Marquette’s March 1 priority deadline.

If the FAFSA is filed after the March 1st Priority Deadline, financial aid will be reduced or eliminated due to limited funding.

**Apply for Scholarships!**

Now is the time to begin your scholarship search for the 2013-14 academic year. As you identify scholarships that may not have opened up yet, bookmark or print the webpage and file the printout in your scholarship folder for future reference. There are innumerable sources of outside assistance. Click here to start your search.

**Submit all Requested Documents On Time!**

Access and read your Marquette Email frequently. Important notices are sent out by our office and the Office of Student Financial Aid about deadlines and additional forms and documentation you may need to

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submit. Students lose financial assistance when requested documents are not submitted when requested.

Review your CheckMarq To Do list regularly for documents you need to submit or other actions you need to take.

**FAFSA IRS Data Retrieval**

We recommend you and your parents complete your 2012 Federal Tax Returns early and electronically. If your application is selected for verification, you will need to transfer your 2012 tax data from the IRS website to your 2013-14 FAFSA.

You can begin using the 2013-14 Link to the IRS Data Retrieval Tool at www.FAFSA.gov starting February 3, 2013 to complete the Data Retrieval process. Click here to view an excellent video that walks you through the IRS Data Retrieval process.

Welcome 2013/ Continued

**Prioritize.** Look at your non-academic time commitments. Set priorities on what's important and scale back on those commitments that are not essential.

**Get a second opinion.** Talk to people who know you best – your parents, your college advisor or mentor, your EOP advisor – to help with your self-assessment.

Finally **manage your stress.** Exercise regularly, eat healthy, and be sure to get enough sleep If you need to, take an occasional power nap to reenergize.

As you prepare of the upcoming semester, take the time and steps to make 2013 your best year ever.

Graduating senior Sara Emanuele and EOP Financial Aid Assistant Kathy Falk smile for the camera at the EOP Graduation Celebration in December.

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Financial Aid/Continued

**Educational Opportunity Program**

Dr. Joseph Green, Director
Jessica Hernandez, Senior Associate Director

**Student Support Services**

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Laiya Thomas, Assistant Director
Florie Greenhill, Counselor/Recruiter
Jackie Walker, Financial Aid Counselor
Kathy Falk, Financial Aid Assistant
Claire Dinkelman, Admin Coordinator
Judy Koerner, Secretary
Ethel Woods, Secretary

**McNair Scholars Program**

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Mary L. Jennings, Secretary

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