Off to College 101 (For Anxious Parents)

Susan Rebstock Williams
rebstock@georgiasouthern.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/savannah

Recommended Citation
http://coba.georgiasouthern.edu/pdf%20files/2010_08_13_Williams_Off_To_College.pdf

This article is brought to you for free and open access by the Business College Publications at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in Business in Savannah Articles by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.
Off to college 101 (for anxious parents)

For many readers, mid-August will mark a significant milestone — sending a child to college. For the entering freshman, it is a time of great excitement and anticipation. For first-time college parents, it is a time of pride and joy mixed with anxiety over “letting go” of that beautiful person who has been the focus of your daily life for some 18 years.

If you find yourself in that position, you undoubtedly have many worries rolling around in your mind. Will she be safe? Will he get himself up to class on time? Will she get enough sleep? Will he have clean clothes to wear? Eat properly? Make friends? Party too much? Manage a checkbook or credit card properly? Eat enough? Will he have many worries rolling on his/ her own.

And, when problems arise — be it with academics, a less than wonderful roommate, homesickness, physical illness or emotional distress — you can take heart in knowing that most universities provide a myriad of resources and services available to them on campus. Most universities also require new freshmen to participate in a “first-year experience” program to help them adjust to college life and make them aware of the multitude of resources and services available to them on campus.

So what can you do as a parent to ensure your student’s success? Here are a few tips:

• Communicate with your student frequently, but don’t overdo it. In today’s world of instant communication, cell phones, text and instant messaging, it is all too easy to become a “helicopter” parent. If you regularly find yourself talking with your student multiple times each day, gradually reduce the frequency of communication and temper expectations of immediate replies.

• Help, but don’t routinely rescue. Unless doing so would truly cause harm, allow your student to solve problems and deal with consequences of poor decisions on his/her own.

• Recognize that grades might not be as good as they were in high school. College is more demanding than high school. Not all students who made the honor roll in high school will be on the dean’s list in college.

• Step in quickly if you see that your student is in academic difficulty. Talk to your student about time management, class attendance and your expectations. Be aware, however, that by federal law, professors cannot discuss grades or performance issues without your student’s written consent.

• Encourage your student not to come home every weekend — especially at first. Many university-sanctioned activities designed to ease the transition to college life, overcome homesickness and build friendships take place on the weekends.

• Don’t push your student too soon into a choice of major. Allow reasonable time to explore options and find his/her true passion. With passion comes the greatest likelihood of success.

• Be safe! Will he get himself up in time for class or daughter will get enough to eat, learn to do laundry and make new friends. Party too much? Manage a checkbook or credit card properly?

The college years will fly by quickly. Believe in your student, the values you have instilled and the transformative power of a college education.

Before you know it, the tears you fight back as you leave your child in strange new surroundings will be replaced by those in your eyes when your blossoming young adult walks across the stage to receive a college diploma.

Susan Williams is associate dean and professor of information systems in the College of Business Administration at Georgia Southern University. Contact her at rebstock@georgiasouthern.edu for information on its internship program.

Savannah
Creating Generations of Happiness

Savannah, one of Coastal Georgia’s most popular lifestyle communities, is thriving in the current real estate climate. Sporting a breathtaking Signature Greg Norman Golf Course, an exclusive 29,000 square foot clubhouse, a cool 270,000-gallon resort style pool, Har-Tru tennis courts and fitness workout rooms, this 2,600-acre community is right in your backyard. Located near I-95 and I-16 at Exit 155 and a short 12-minute drive from historic downtown Savannah, this award winning community is also minutes from the airport and beaches. Within the three residential quarters — Westbrooke, Easthaven, and The Village — there are homesites, townhomes, single family and estate homes to suit any lifestyle. This outstanding community welcomes its new residents with active and exciting events.

The Savannah Quarters community gives its members and Westbrooke residents the opportunity to live life now by providing gourmet dining experiences at the Club, wine tasting parties, cooking classes with the chef, Friday night Happy Hour, Book Clubs, and a variety of other events and activities. Our Annual 4th of July Weekend Celebration had record breaking attendance with 390 members and guests enjoying a variety of events including a Golf Tournament, a community Patriotic Parade, an All American Pool Bash, live entertainment with a spectacular dinner at the Club, and a grand fireworks finale.

Janice Hoffman, sales manager for Savannah Quarters Realty, reported that the advertising team for the private gated community of Westbrooke generated nearly 1,000 new customer inquiries within the last 12 months resulting in 29 new contracts. Savannah Quarters in total has sold over $7.3 million in real estate since January. “Our dedicated and talented Savannah Quarters sales team also travels to New England in the winter months to attend real estate shows to promote Savannah Quarters where we meet with hundreds of prospects looking to move to the south,” stated Ms. Hoffman. “We love promoting our gorgeous historic city and our beautiful neighborhood. The City of Savannah and Savannah Quarters is a great place to live, work and play! Where else can you find convenience, affordability and security all wrapped up in one community?” Savannah Quarters offers homes for many lifestyles. Hamilton Grove at Savannah Quarters offers homes from the $140s. The Gates at Savannah Quarters offers homes from the $170s. Behind the gates of Westbrooke, homes are from the $240s. Homesites are from the $50s.

Close enough to touch downtown... far enough away to relax.