SEPTEMBER 2010

Smart and Safe Social Networking
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Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, etc. are all intended to provide people with an opportunity to interact with friends, family, and colleagues across the country and around the globe. It can be a great way to keep in touch, share stories, and network. What many people don’t realize is how quickly information can spread, and just how many people (your grandma, your boss, your teachers) can potentially access information that you may prefer to limit to a more select group.

Generally speaking, there are a few basic safety tips that social networkers are recommended to follow:

**Protect Your Reputation**
- Realize that the image you project via social media is the image that others may assume accurately reflects who you are. This is true in terms of the photos you post and the words you choose. While you may express yourself a little differently when with your close friends than when with, say, an employer, you should always post to your most conservative audience.
- Remember that the absence of body language, facial expressions, and tone of voice can make it difficult to perceive context of statements—what you may have posted jokingly may appear to others as a genuine statement.
- Be cautious of using Facebook, My Space, Twitter, or other forms of social media as a place to “vent.” *Any comments that imply a potential threat to yourself or the safety of others are socially unacceptable and will not be tolerated by Aurora University.*

**Secure Your Privacy**
- Do not share your password—not with roommates, not with your boyfriend/girlfriend, not with anyone
- Be aware of your privacy options and review them often to ensure that they reflect your level of comfort
- Be extremely careful about posting personal information, especially details that could be used to identify you or locate you offline, such as your address or telephone number
- Report any unwanted/inappropriate communications

In any community, there is a mixture of residents, often including senior citizens, families with children and single professionals. In the communities surrounding Aurora University, student residents are often considered to be representatives of the university, even at their off-campus residences. As a result, the University is concerned about the impact of students’ conduct in the community.

We ask students to be considerate of their neighbors. Students should recognize that their schedules may differ considerably from other residents’ schedules and be considerate of community issues such as noise, parking, trash, property maintenance and alcohol usage. It is the student’s responsibility to know and follow the City of Aurora Ordinances. These can be found at [http://www.aurora-il.org/](http://www.aurora-il.org/).

General expectations include the following:
- Check your lease to determine who is responsible for lawn maintenance and trash. It is important that you keep your home and yard clean and managed.
- Park cars in the street or in your driveway, not on the lawn; keep parked cars to a minimum and do not infringe on the ability of others to get in and out of their driveways without their view being obstructed.
- Be aware that loud music or cars, shouting individuals or increased traffic will disrupt your neighbors.
- Take care of your pets. Barking dogs or other wandering pets are disruptive and a safety hazard.
- Take responsibility for your guests and ask them to respect your neighbors’ property and quality of life.
The bags are packed and the car is full. The long wait is over. It’s time to move into the residence halls at Aurora University, your home-away-from-home for the upcoming academic year! While this is a new and exciting experience, it can be a little bit scary or intimidating. While some students have shared a room with a sibling at some point, others have never shared a room before. As you know, the residence halls are very full this year. This means that good communication with roommates will be more important than ever, since we might not have the flexibility to move students to other rooms when the road gets a little bit rocky. Building a strong relationship with roommates can take some hard work, but the results definitely can be worth it!

**OPEN COMMUNICATION**
The best way to set yourself up for a great relationship with your roommates is to talk openly about what you like and what you don’t like. Your roommates are not mind-readers, and won’t know your expectations unless you share them. In return, your roommates can’t expect you to know their preferences unless you speak with them as well! You will have the opportunity to complete a roommate agreement form with your Resident Assistant soon after you move into your residence hall. Please take this process seriously! Have a good, meaningful conversation about all of the topics raised on the form. Set your expectations up front. Taking the time to really work through these areas and come to agreement up front will help to avoid some of the most common roommate conflicts. Some areas to consider:

- What personal belongings can be shared, and what items can’t be touched?
- Is it ok to have TV or radio on in the background when you’re trying to study?
- Who cleans what, and how often?
- Early to bed? Night owl? Early to rise? Use of alarm clocks/snooze?
- How often is it ok to have guests? Is it ok if they stay overnight? How much advance notice must be given?
- Though we are a substance-free campus, are there any discussion points about alcohol/tobacco?
- Any other pet peeves that should be discussed?

**DON’T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS**
Be careful of judging based on first impressions! You might not have gotten the best feeling about your roommate after talking for the first time. Keep in mind, it’s hard to expect to feel like you have found your best friend after only one or two phone calls. Go into this with an open mind. After you get to know your roommate better, you might end up being great friends.

**REVISIT YOUR ROOMMATE AGREEMENT**
If you find yourself feeling as though you are experiencing conflict in your room, maybe it’s time to revisit your roommate agreement. Think about the conflict, and see if it is an area that could be fixed by sitting down with your roommates and clarifying your agreement. You may find that what you had first written down on the agreement was unrealistic or your opinions and tastes have changed now that you know each other better. That’s definitely ok! You can make changes to your roommate agreement to make sure that everything is clear between you and your roommates.

**WORKING WITH RESIDENCE LIFE**
If you have tried these tips and find yourself unable to resolve a conflict in your room, the next step would be to talk with your Resident Assistant. They have received training on mediation and navigating conflict. They can be a great resource for you in trying to work through any issues you may be experiencing.
As if you don’t have enough to worry about starting off the semester, we have to warn you to beware of some monsters lurking beneath the surface for most college students. You have to be vigilant. You have to TAKE CONTROL!

The beginning of the semester is the absolute essential time to vanquish these evils by creating your plan for the semester for how YOU will NOT fall into the time monsters’ traps. But first, you have to identify the monsters. That way, you’ll recognize them if they knock on your door.

1. **The Time Bandit!** This guy will suck away so many hours you’ll have no idea what happened. He takes the form of Facebook or video games, a cell phone, or thumbs texting on that cell phone. It’s amazing how much time in your busy schedule will be lost to this monster’s evil ways.  

   **How do you beat The Time Bandit?** Stay away! Create blocks of time every day which are social media/video game/cell phone-free. You’ll be amazed at how much studying you’ll get done. And you can laugh in the face of The Time Bandit!

2. **The Dillydally Don!** This guy lulls you into believing you’ve got plenty of time. “I’ll read the chapter tomorrow” or “I’ll get to my homework later.” He’s the king of the land of procrastination. Don’t let him into your life!  

   **How do you beat The Dillydally Don?** Write down assignments and tasks, carry them with you, review them daily and do them one-by-one right away. Don’t wait. Don’t put it off. Not only will you keep The Dillydally Don at bay, you’ll also feel pretty darned good about yourself for achieving goals each day.

3. **The Mad Ducker!** This guy is a cousin to the Dillydally Don. He’s all about taking you down a path of avoidance. “Gee, did we have an assignment due?” Ahhh, yeah! You would have read that in your syllabus or heard the professor tell you the due date if you hadn’t let The Mad Ducker infiltrate your mind. Keep him out. He doesn’t care about anything and he won’t care about you.  

   **How do you beat The Mad Ducker?** Stay in control of your own life. Follow the instructions given to you by the professors. Focus on the concepts you’re learning and a desire to keep progressing and growing. With that attitude, you’ll grow stronger and the monsters will stay away.

4. **The Airborne Avatar!** This guy tempts you into flying by the seat of your pants. Keep a calendar? He throws it away. Show up to every class on time? He blocks the door and laughs. Remember the duties you took on for the group project? He wipes away your memory. He is dangerous because he makes you think you can just float through life and through college and everything will just work out. Wrong! That’s his danger. He’ll leave you hanging in the air, and eventually you’ll hit the ground. Hard.  

   **How do you beat The Airborne Avatar?** Create a solid routine for yourself. Prioritize your responsibilities. Write out a detailed schedule and STICK TO IT.

**Conquer the TIME MONSTERS!!!**
Start with a semester-long calendar you can print out from this link: [http://www.aurora.edu/documents/student-life/counseling/fall-calendar-2010.pdf](http://www.aurora.edu/documents/student-life/counseling/fall-calendar-2010.pdf). Enter your assignment due dates, test and quiz dates, your work schedule, practice schedule, all of the important times you HAVE to remember throughout the semester. Then review your schedule daily. The Airborne Avatar won’t find you any fun anymore, and you will have won the battle.

5. **Shortterminator!** This guy is all about the short-term view. In September, he’ll make you believe you really don’t have that much work to do, so don’t bother to read during the week because you can do it on the weekend. Then he’ll want you to go out to parties on the weekend. A couple of weeks like this will roll by and suddenly, oops! You walk into a test totally unprepared! Then you’re playing catch-up for the rest of the semester. That’s stress!

How do you beat Shortterminator? Use your semester-long calendar to see the big picture. Shortterminator wants to block your view and keep you living for today. But that’s his evil – he has fun with you today but disappears when you’re faced with mountains of work to catch up on. Pace yourself in the same way the professors pace the work in your classes. Working on smaller chunks of reading, research, calculations, writing and whatever else is required in your classes will keep you on pace to learn and gain the most from the course experience. Your consistent efforts to manage your workload every week and every day will show the Shortterminator who’s boss.

6. **Tsunami Tsam!** This guy is in the same gang as Shortterminator. When the Shortterminator slows you down and keeps you away from your work, then sometime mid-semester or later, Tsunami Tsam steps in with a tidal wave. He loves to watch you become overwhelmed as you fall behind in your schoolwork, the laundry stacks up and you get sick from not sleeping enough because you’ve been out partying with Shortterminator. It’s not a pretty sight. You are overwhelmed and buried, stressed out and discouraged. Your confidence about making it through the semester, let alone graduating from college, is in the pits. And Tsunami Tsam just keeps on rolling over you.

How do you beat Tsunami Tsam? If you’ve read this far, you HAVE TO be getting the picture. YOU have to take control of your life. Create a schedule and a routine. Pay attention to it. Modify it if need be. Then stick to it. You’ll achieve something on a daily basis. You’ll increase your confidence by those achievements. And at the end of the semester, you’ll feel good about knowing you did your best.

Work before pleasure. Keep your priorities straight – school’s expensive, school’s valuable. It’s within your control to be successful. Slay the monsters! YOU are in charge.

Here’s a link for an assessment tool you can use to evaluate your study skills, for your own interest. Read it online or print it out for your use.


**WANT2KNOWMORE?**

If you need more assistance, or want to talk to someone privately about these or any other topics, call Counseling Services for an appointment: 630-844-5118.
Campus ministry has been an important part of life at AU ever since its founding as a seminary for Advent Christian ministers and lay leaders in 1893. Since that time, the mission and identity of the university have evolved considerably, but the commitment of students, faculty, and staff to nurturing spiritual values remains as strong as ever. For the last decade, this work has gone on without the support of a campus minister, but this year the university has signaled its strong support for the spiritual life of its students with the following new initiatives:

• The University has purchased a house on the southwest corner of campus and renovated the facility over the summer. The new building will house the Religion Department and the Wackerlin Center for Faith and Action, which includes the office of the University Chaplain.
• Two new full-time faculty have been hired, Dr. Jonathan Dean and myself, to teach religion and engage students with exciting new programs in campus ministry and service to the wider community. A full-time Program Director, Barb Calvert, has also joined the team.
• Continuing under the leadership of Prof. Martin Forward, the Wackerlin Center has been given a new and expanded purpose: “The mission of the Wackerlin Center for Faith and Action builds upon Aurora University’s Christian heritage by cultivating the religious and spiritual growth of diverse individuals and communities through campus ministries, service, and community engagement.”

As University Chaplain, my mission is to provide leadership and guidance for Campus Ministries at AU by serving as a focal point for religious life on campus, offering a ministry of presence for the spiritual care of our students, and by working with students and religious leaders in the local area to develop a diverse and thriving community of religious communities. Here are some important things you need to know about my work as University Chaplain:

• Aurora University defines itself “an inclusive community,” and I aspire to be everyone’s chaplain. I am a Christian pastor with roots in the evangelical tradition of American Christianity, and I make no apologies for this fact. I have no interest in a bland, lowest-common-denominator form of generic “spirituality.” My job is rather to help students discover and live more fully into their own faith—even if that faith is not my own!
• Whether you need help in a moment of crisis, someone to pray with, or simply a sympathetic fellow-traveler with whom to talk something through, I’m here as a resource for you. I offer free, confidential counseling for AU students by appointment, and I will make every effort to ensure a timely pastoral response in emergency situations. To schedule a routine appointment, email me at dfink@aurora.edu or call my office at 844-6867. For urgent concerns outside of normal business hours, call Campus Safety at 844-6140, and they will connect you with me or another member of the WCFA staff.
• I’m looking for student leaders. AU has a strong tradition of dynamic, student-led campus ministry, and I intend to build on this foundation to help students take charge of their spiritual formation and build authentic community. We already have an impressive student-led ministry in place for evangelical Christian students (InterVarsity Christian Fellowship), and I want to see this group continue to flourish. But AU draws students from a wide variety of faith backgrounds, including Roman Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh. Our common life on campus would be greatly enriched if we had student leaders who would take the initiative in forming groups to serve these constituencies. If you think you might be such a leader, get in touch with me, and I will give you all the support and encouragement you need to succeed.

These are undoubtedly exciting times at Aurora University. Momentum has building for some time to bring religious and spiritual life to the fore of our common life at AU, and I’m excited to be a part of these changes. Check in at our website (http://www.aurora.edu/student-life/wackerlin/index.html) for information on our programs as they unfold this year, and find us on Facebook at “Aurora University Campus Ministries.” In the meantime, stop by the new building and say hello!
Welcome to campus! Our community is your community and you have a place here. AU is where you will call home for the next few years, and we are excited that you joined us. Although there will be challenges, there will also be support. A professor who wants you to learn, problem solve, and be challenged will also have office hours to answer questions. Administrators and staff who want students to become their own advocate will also give you instructions to plan ahead. Advisors are here to help you explore and safely try new roles.

Challenge yourself, and Aurora University will provide you support.

**Your first challenge – join the community.** The RA can help resident students, but they also need you to be willing to share. Share your time, skills, and help to make the community better. The floor and hall only get better by residents making it a home. Commuter students can find great connections just like resident students through student organizations, visiting a classmate in the halls, going to the café to eat with new friends, and cheering on the Spartans at a sporting event.

Other things to build community connections include know and use names, show interest, do not make assumptions about motives, give the second impression a chance and be inclusive by asking others to join you. Associates become friends for different reasons. Give your classmates and floor mates an opportunity to become best friends.

**Your second challenge – get involved in the community.** There are organized activities, but the non-organized activities provide great sharing opportunities. Try to go to open gym, talk to the RA about programs and stay in the Spartan Spot after eating just to talk. Seek out people who challenge you to be a better person.

Participate by reaching out, be considerate and respectful of others time and feelings, cut back on TV, go up to a person and talk instead of relying on Tweeting, walk to class without automatically plugging ear buds in and lend a hand.

**Finally – live in the community.** Be inclusive, make connections, take a chance on people, go beyond asking, “How are you?”, support each other, respect everyone’s right to sleep, study, and be in the community. Do a favor, don’t keep to yourself, welcome new neighbors, invite people to go where you are going, join in when they ask you to go, embrace diversity, keep the person in mind, leave your community better than it was, respect different opinions, confront with compassion and care, and beautify your surroundings.

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**Tips for Getting Better Sleep**

**Tip 1. Create a better sleep environment**
Try to make your room as quiet and as dark as possible. Use good pillow with the right amount of support.

**Tip 2. Relax with a bedtime routine**
To prepare for sleep you may want to try reading a light book or magazine, listening to soft music, having a light bedtime snack, or making simple preparations for the next day.

**Tip 3. Get stress & anxiety under control**
To reduce anxiety, practice replacing worrying with more productive thoughts. Learn how to manage your time more effectively to reduce stress. Use relaxation techniques to wind down before sleep.

**Tip 4. Learn how to get back to sleep**
Do not become anxious if you wake up in the middle of the night. Instead, remain relaxed and avoid stressing about the sleep you are losing. You can perform a quiet, non-stimulating activity if you are not able to relax after waking up.

**Tip 5. Optimize your sleep schedule**
Try to make sure you are not going to bed too early. Set a regular bedtime and limit napping during the day.

**Tip 6. Improve your diet**
Try to make dinnertime earlier in the evening and avoid heavy snacks before bedtime. Also try to avoid drinking too much caffeine close to bedtime.

**Tip 7. Get regular exercise**
Regular exercise can make it easier to fall asleep and sleep better. It is better to exercise earlier in the day and not right before bedtime.
In Student Life, summer often means changes and this summer was no exception. Changes in staff and location occurred in several Student Life departments. We hope that you will seek us out in our new locations and meet some of the new faces that make up the Student Life team.

**Office of Residence Life:**

The Office of Residence Life has welcomed Imani Burks (AU ’10) to the staff. In her role as a Spartan Fellow, Imani will be serving as the Memorial/Davis Hall Director for the 2010-11 academic year. As a former Resident Assistant at AU, Imani brings direct personal experience to the position that will aid in her success.

In addition, the Office of Residence Life has moved to 423 S. Gladstone. Please contact the following staff members at this location:

- Matt Khoury, Director of Residence Life, mkhoury@aurora.edu, 630-844-4578
- Dana Ginnett, Residence Life Office Manager, dginnett@aurora.edu, 630-844-5446
- Jared Leifeld, Watkins Hall Director, jleifeld@aurora.edu, 630-844-4628
- Ian Klink, Jenks/Wilkinson Hall Director, iklink@aurora.edu, 630-844-4629
- Imani Burks, Memorial/Davis Hall Director, iburks@aurora.edu, 630-844-4627

**Counseling Services:**

With this move, the Office of Residence Life is now the neighbor of Counseling Services. Remaining at its location at 427 South Gladstone, a new staff member has joined this team. Becca Smith, a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, has been practicing in the field since receiving her Master of Arts in Community Agency Counseling in 1999. She has 2 cats and loves animals, got married in July to a middle school teacher, and grew up in Harvard, Illinois.

**Wellness Center:**

Please join us in welcoming Mary Jo Leggett, RN, to the Wellness Center staff. Mary Jo received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Master of Science in Community Health Nursing at Northern Illinois University. With over 30 years in the field, Mary Jo has provided patient-focused care in a variety of settings, including hospital, home health, and school nursing. Mary Jo joins Cheryl Block, Director of the Wellness Center, and Cindy Hapke, Staff Nurse. The Wellness Center is located in the lower level of Jenks Hall and is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**Office of Student Activities:**

Tabitha Nordlof (AU ’10) has joined the Office of Student Activities for a one-year stint as a Spartan Fellow. A former Peer Advisor, Tabitha will work closely with Aurora University’s student organization system, providing guidance to students and advisors. She will also work closely with the Director of Student Activities to support the overall mission of the department.
As students, faculty and staff make their way back to campus this week, they will see a few changes, such as a new parking lot and an addition to Alumni Hall nearing completion. They'll also be greeted by a group of 500 new faces — the incoming freshmen — during Welcome Week festivities that take place on the Aurora campus Thursday through Sunday. Peer advisors play a huge role in welcoming new students to campus. We asked a few of them what Welcome Week is all about:

**Emma Hill**
Senior, Health Science

**Why did you decide to become a peer advisor?** I really wanted to give incoming first-year students the same experience I had. I also wanted to share with them all the resources and opportunities our campus has to offer.

**What is the main piece of advice you give the freshmen?** The main piece of advice I would give to a first-year student has to do with time management — making sure they get involved with campus activities while staying on top of their coursework. It is really important that first-year students take the time to meet new people, thus increasing a healthy social life while also keeping up with their coursework.

**Why is Welcome Week so important for incoming freshmen?** It is a great opportunity for first-year students to meet each other while doing fun activities.

**Tracy Swain**
Junior, Special Education and Elementary Education

**Why did you decide to become a peer advisor?** Because it looks like they all have so much fun meeting and helping all the incoming students.

**What is the main piece of advice you give the freshmen?** Make sure you make time for yourself to unwind every day so you don't get too stressed about school.

**Why is Welcome Week so important for incoming freshmen?** It gives them the chance to get to meet other incoming freshmen and make connections. It also allows them the opportunity to learn about themselves, other students and the school that they may not have known before they got here.

**Tom Hart**
Junior, English/Secondary Education

**Why did you decide to become a peer advisor?** I wanted to become part of the most vital period in a college student's life: freshman year. It's the time when you discover college life along with its ups and downs in comparison to the days as a high school student. To make this period of discovery easier on incoming freshmen and help them learn lessons from both my past experiences and their own is very rewarding for me.

**What is the main piece of advice you give the freshmen?** To get to know their teacher personally. Not only are chances good you will get that instructor again, but it also builds good professional sources for when you graduate.

**Why is Welcome Week so important for incoming freshmen?** It is an excellent way to get information that will be vital for the next four years of school. Welcome Week also gives them an opportunity to get a good idea of building locations on campus through various activities. Most importantly, it gives incoming students a great opportunity to make new friendships, which end up lasting a lifetime.
Register to vote @ Phillips Library

**DEADLINE: OCTOBER 5, 2010**

See Amy Schlumpf Manion
Information Services Librarian & Deputy Registrar for Voting
Monday though Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
or by appointment

Be sure to
BRING
TWO FORMS
OF ID

**AU Students:**
Start on the Road to Career Success — attend these free events!

**Monday, September 20**
Deadline to submit resumés for Illinois Small College Placement Association Interview Day.

**Wednesday, September 22 • 5:00–6:00 p.m.**
“Writing Personal Statements that Get Attention”
*Presented by Donette Considine, Assistant Provost, George Williams College of Aurora University and Aurora University Woodstock Center*
University Banquet Hall • Pizza provided

**Monday, September 27**
Graduate Entrance Testing I
*Presented by Lisa Piemonte, Graduate Products Manager, Kaplan*
LSAT • 2:45–5:30 p.m., Institute for Collaboration 318
GRE • 3:30–5:00 p.m., Institute for Collaboration 316

**Thursday, September 30**
Graduate Entrance Testing II
*Presented by Lisa Piemonte, Graduate Products Manager, Kaplan*
MCAT • 3:00–6:30 p.m., Dunham Hall 101
GMAT • 4:00–7:00 p.m., Dunham Hall 102

**Saturday, October 9 • 10:30 a.m.–noon**
Saturday Success Series — Resumé Writing and Cover Letter Composition
Perry Theatre • Aurora Foundation Center
To register, call 630-844-5482, e-mail alumni@aurora.edu or visit www.aurora.edu/alumni.

**Friday, October 15 • 8:45 a.m.–4:45 p.m.**
Illinois Small College Placement Association Interview Day
Ashton Place, Willowbrook, IL

**Wednesday, October 27 • 5:00–6:00 p.m.**
“Say What?: Graduate Interviewing”
*Presented by Brenda Barnwell, Assistant Professor of Social Work*
University Banquet Hall • Pizza provided

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