

The Collegian

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Letters to the editor are encouraged. To be published, letters must be verified, either with a signature or some other means of identifying the writer. All letters are subject to editing.

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LAS 499 replaced with new requirement



STEPHEN WOODBURN

Last year the faculty voted to remove the old capstone course, LAS 499, and replaced it with a new graduation requirement. It's called PREP 499, and it's not a traditional semester class. Rather, it attaches three hours of college credit to the process of preparing for the job market after graduation. Seniors have this whole year to focus on career preparation. They should use their time wisely and enroll

in PREP 499 the last semester before graduation. Other students should also start working on PREP 499 requirements. It's never too early to start planning for your career. Your advisor assigns your grade, based on a list of requirements from your major field. So the first step is to confirm that Self Service lists your advisor correctly. Some students have changed majors, but haven't updated their record yet. It's a very simple form, available on the Registrar's Office webpage. You need to get your new advisor's signature, and submit the form to the registrar to complete the change. Discuss your career plans with your advisor. Employers look for a combination of experience and skills. Discuss with your advisor how to gain experience and acquire skills to pre-

pare for the career you want. Then start doing the things you come up with. You need items on your résumé that show you're prepared for the job you want. Think about summer as a time to gain skills and experience, not just to make money. At any job, ask for more responsibility and try to learn everything you can. Ask your boss for a letter of recommendation describing what you accomplished. Planning for a career may mean seeking not a job after graduation, but graduate school, or an internship. For PREP 499, grad school preparation is career preparation. And in recent years a record number of interns are getting job offers from the same company or agency when the internship is over. Employers like to hire those who have prov-

en they can do the job. Getting experience and skills is important, but representing them on your résumé and cover letter are equally important. Representing yourself in an interview is also important. Mock interviews, résumé workshops, and job fairs are great ways to work on these things. SC offers them every year. Watch for "Backpack to Briefcase" events, and contact Dan Falk or the Office of Career Planning in Sutton for more information. We want you to earn a good grade in PREP 499, but more importantly, we want you to be prepared for a successful career after graduation.

Dr. Stephen Woodburn is an associate professor of history and the chair of the faculty this year. Contact him at stephen.woodburn@sckans.edu.

Time management mandatory for college



TAYLOR FINKE

If you're like me, at some point you have felt that there are not enough hours in the day to get all your work done. You have probably felt like you struggle to balance chill time with getting-work-done time. You wished that there was a way to travel back in time or to be at two places at once so that you could do absolutely everything you needed to get done. Unfortunately,

flux capacitors haven't been invented yet, and the Ministry for Magic doesn't loan out time turners to Muggles. So what can you do? As boring as it sounds, you've got to use your time wisely. There are plenty of great ways to do this, and I have condensed it down to three main points. First, prioritize. The human race has been prioritizing since the beginning of time. A caveman had to decide whether the more pressing matter was to check out his buddy's new cave paintings or to go kill a saber-toothed tiger waiting outside his cave. While society has advanced since then, the problems aren't all that different. Instead of cave paintings we have Facebook, and homework has replaced saber-toothed cats. Obviously, homework needs

to come before Facebook, because everyone knows unfinished homework always goes for your GPA's jugular. Next, plan. Write down long-term and short-term assignments on your phone calendar, or get a real calendar if technology hates you. Get the high-priority items checked off before you move on. Make a schedule of what you need to accomplish between classes. As equally important as planning work is planning relaxation. For example, my sticky-note schedule has six days filled to the brim with classes, homework/study times, catnaps, and chores. But under the seventh day all I have written is *Whatever*. As long as I get all my homework done by then, I have a day off to do whatever I want to do.

Finally, and most importantly, get stuff done. Plans and priorities are worthless if you never bother to do the work. In other words, do not, under any circumstance, procrastinate! As one of the worst offenders (I literally wrote a paper about procrastination the day it was due) I am speaking from experience. It really does nothing but make you crazy trying to finish everything and generally leads to very inferior work. In a nutshell, college requires us all to adjust our schedule and habits. When it comes down to it, we either do or do not, since trying is not enough. To summarize: sort out what really needs to get done, write it down in the order it needs to get done, and then just do it!

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