Some of us are not only First-Generation college students; some of us have a grandparent who could not read at all. Many first-generation college students are here because parents and grandparents, unable to enter college or, for some, graduate from high school, believe this college experience will open doors that they never had a chance of opening. Some first-generation students feel a responsibility and a moral commitment to use their education to help both younger and older family members satisfy their dreams of a successful life. Culture plays a large role in determining the connection between student and family; in some cultures people are raised to see the goals of the individual person as the guiding principle in what choices they make, such as choosing a major or deciding to drop out of school. In other cultures, the primary goal may be to strengthen the unity and survival of the family unit, to see the welfare of the group taking precedence over individual choice.

Teaching for thirty-three years I have heard and seen a wide range of parental expectations for their first-generation children. Here are those I have heard most often:

1) We’ve sacrificed in order to enable you to have this educational opportunity and we expect you to study hard and get A’s.
2) I’m not sure if you can measure up to those kids who’ve grown up in a highly educated family so just hang in there; you just need to get C’s and we’ll be proud.
3) We are so proud and happy that you were accepted by this school, but we need you to come home every weekend; the happiness of our family may be destroyed if you drift away from us.
4) It’s nice that you are going to college, but I started my own business without a college degree and you can too.
5) If you think you are going to major in “X” then you can just come home and work for your aunt.
6) We want you to study hard and be a doctor/lawyer because they make a lot of money; your life will be so much easier than ours and we want you to have more things than we have.

It is hard for a daughter or son to argue against any of these expectations; but some expectations carry a longer negative impact than others. I believe that the second expectation is the most dangerous; it implies that parents do not have confidence in their child’s potential. This expectation is insidious; the idea that those who love you believe you can’t “compete” is difficult for one to consciously recognize because doing so could imply you do not respect your parents. Such a lack of confidence becomes a deeply entrenched view of oneself that is hard to change even after one becomes aware of it.

My own experience has brought me to this conclusion; my parents were astonished if I got a B on anything. My illiterate grandmother, on the other hand, believed that with hard work and determination I could “fly into the stars”.

Kaarin S. Johnston,
Professor
The Math Skills Center

Looking for math help? Are you stuck on a homework problem? Have you forgotten how to do certain procedures and need a quick review? Do you want a place to study, work on math assignments, and get assistance when you need it?

Then come to the MATH SKILLS CENTER on either campus. At CSB it’s in the basement of the Henrita Academic Building, room 004. At SJU it is in PEngl 232. There you will find staff and student tutors available to help with concepts and skills used in 100-level math classes. It is open during the day, most evenings, and also on Sundays – hours can vary due to tutor schedules, but are posted at the website and at the doors.

You can just come in on a walk-in basis to get questions answered, stay and work for awhile and get help as needed, or have scheduled appointments.

Some of the things you can get help with are:

--meeting the MATH COURSE PREREQUISITE REQUIREMENT
  (preparing for and taking the Quantitative Skills Inventory (QSI) exam)
--reviewing math topics from algebra, geometry, trigonometry, pre-calculus
--studying/working on assignments for math classes or courses with other math applications
--preparing for the math sections of standardized tests
  (GRE, PPST, pre-employment tests, etc.)

Come by yourself, or get together and come with a friend or two from your class. Either way can help you achieve better results and be more successful on homework, quizzes, and exams.

www.csbsju.edu/mathskillscenter
**CSB Summer Housing Information**

**General Information:**

CSB and SJU students living on the College St. Benedict’s campus for the summer will be living in apartments in Smith, Sohler, Schumacher, Zierden or Wirth. Summer Housing is available at the rate of $63.00 per week for each resident.

A limited amount of temporary housing is available in Dominica at the rate of $49.00 per week for each resident. Students utilize temporary housing for a variety of reasons including short summer courses, completion of student teaching requirements, athletics, accommodation of travel plans, or preparation for the NCLEX exam. Temporary housing is available until June 4, 2010.

*Please note that there is the possibility of some external construction or internal renovation in or near buildings used for summer housing.*

There will be many events and conferences on both the CSB and SJU campuses this summer and some of the groups coming to campus will be staying in on-campus housing. Please be respectful to all people living, working or visiting our campuses this summer.

**Who is eligible for CSB summer housing?**

First priority for summer housing will be given to CSB students working or taking classes at CSB/SJU this summer and SJU students working or taking classes on the CSB campus this summer. CSB students who are taking classes at SCSU or working off-campus will be offered summer housing on a first come first served basis after those who meet first priority guidelines.

The priority application deadline is **March 31, 2010.** This does not guarantee you housing, rather it is your chance to have first priority if you meet the guidelines outlined above as space is available. After the priority deadline summer housing will be assigned on a first come first served basis until filled for the summer. **Space is limited so please apply early!**

Summer housing contracts will be sent out to you as assignments are made. If you apply on or before the priority deadline you should receive a notice of the status of your summer housing request no later than April 16, 2010. Your housing contract will be due back to the Residential Life Office within 2 days of receiving your notice of summer housing. **Once you accept the summer housing assignment by returning your contract there will be a $63.00 cancellation fee (equivalent to one week’s rent) assessed should you cancel your housing during the term agreed to in the contract.**

**Please Note:**

People who are staying the whole summer have priority over those staying for only a portion of the summer.

Applicants who have been documented for repeated or serious disciplinary/conduct issues may not be approved to live on campus this summer.
### Upcoming First Generation Events!

**Workshop: Undergraduate Research**  
Thursday, March 18, 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm  
HAB 107  
Presenter: Marcus Webster, Professor/Undergraduate Research

**Social: Bowling Night at El Paso**  
Tuesday, March 23, 8 pm to 10 pm  
Meet in Mary Commons Lounge at 7:45 pm to walk over or meet us there when you can!

**Workshop: Women’s Leadership**  
Thursday, March 25, 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm  
ASC 107  
Presenters: Institute for Women’s Leadership Staff

**March is Women’s History Month!**  
Watch for a weekly email about an important women in history!

### Upcoming Campus Events and Activities

#### March 2010

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