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FREETIME

The first week of school gives students the opportunity to get ahead in classes and have fun

By LINDSEY FIELDER
THE BATTALION

The first week of school is enough to give anyone an anxiety attack.

There are plenty of ways to calm the stress of the prospect of another school year and start off right. The first thing to do this week is hang out on campus.

Glenda Garcia, a senior marketing major, said the first week of school brings activities to campus that happen only during that week.

"There are cheap T-shirts and free Koozies being handed out everywhere," Garcia said. "When I was a freshman, I couldn't believe all the people in the MSC who just wanted to give me free stuff."

Gig 'Em Week is one example of the activities on campus. The Department of Student Life provides this opportunity for students to become familiar or reacquainted with A&M. Aggies can attend educational and social events to learn more about the campus.

Monday night is All-U Night at Kyle Field where students will be welcomed to the University. All-U Night will be followed by a concert with a live band and an opportunity to meet the varsity sports teams. For more information about Gig 'Em week events, visit the student life Website at <http://studentlife.tamu.edu>.

Another thing to do this week is look around for attractive people on campus.

Don't just look — scope them out. Scour that 8 a.m. class for a reason to get up in the morning. Find someone in each class who makes it worth going. A lot of students look better during the first week than they will the rest of the semester.

Matt Krocka, a senior agricultural business major, said many people get up and ready for class during the first week of school. After that, they tend to sleep in and take less care with their appearance, he said.

"You end up wearing shorts and flip-flops because it's not worth losing the extra sleep to get up and look nice just for class," Krocka said.

Austen Thompson, a junior forestry major, said meeting the opposite sex in a classroom environment can possibly lead

to a study partner or a fun date.

"Studying together can be a pre-date," Thompson said. "There's no pressure when you're just studying together and you can get to know the person better."

Students can take advantage of the light homework load of the first week. Go out at night and have fun with your friends, but avoid partying so hard that you start skipping class.

Jennifer Kezar, a sophomore general studies major, said staying out late the first week of school can turn into a bad habit during the school year. If you skip class at first, it becomes easier to skip more often, she said.

"Once you get in the habit of going out a lot, class becomes less important," Kezar said. "Going out is fun, but people should

realize that school is really why we're all here in the first place. I know firsthand, because I started out as a business major, and now I'm in general studies."

Kevin Tannahill, a senior accounting major, said he likes to go out to Northgate the first week of school to see all his friends who have been gone all summer.

"Northgate is a place that everyone should go to during the first week of school," he said. "I always see people I know, and we catch up on what we did all summer."

Another way to spend the first week of school is preparing for the semester ahead. Make sure you have the required texts and materials for every class. Being prepared for class can be a key to success for many Aggies.

Eric Moore, a senior construction science major, said he buys his books after the first day of classes so he can get exactly what the professor requires.

"Sometimes professors

don't require a book the bookstore gives and it can save an extra trip back to the stuff you won't need," he said.

Always get everything you need for a before the first week is over. The books may run out of a certain book, and it can be difficult to come in. A professor can give quizzes and homework during the first week so having books can be useful.

Kezar said if she does not get all the required materials in the beginning of the semester, it is easy to forget and unprepared.

Starting a new school year does not have to be a dreaded thing. Take advantage of the excitement on campus. It is contagious. Enjoy the first week, because it only gets harder from there.



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