

# THE HART BEAT

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

November 27<sup>th</sup>  
Hart Live

November 29<sup>th</sup>  
Chinese Program  
@6:30pm in the Lobby

November 29<sup>th</sup>  
Date Auction in the lobby  
@8:30pm

December 7<sup>th</sup>  
Hanging of the Green @6pm  
in  
the Curris Center

December 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>  
Finals Week!!!

December 15<sup>th</sup>  
Graduation breakfast in  
Hart's Lobby @8:30am

## How Are Your Grades?

### -Are you focused on you education?

Did you go to the basketball game? Did you see that movie last week? Did you win your flag football game? Have you been working out? How many hours did you work this week? Have you eaten at that new food joint yet? College can be an extremely exciting and wonderful experience that can sometimes distract you from the chief reasons you are here in the first place. Hopefully, you are at Murray State University for an education and to mature into a potentially successful adult. So, how are your grades?!

### -Does having a high GPA really correlate with getting a job?

Depending on your major, your GPA may not matter as much as you think. There is a threshold for highly sought after jobs; most thresholds are around a 3.2-3.5. As long as you have experience and you are knowledgeable in your field, there isn't a huge difference between a 3.5 and 4.0 from an employer's perspective. Obviously, this is different from field to field, and what your goals are after graduation. It is important to know what your plans are after graduation and to talk to your professors about what GPA goals you should have. For a general rule, if you are above a 3.2, you are in a good spot. So, are you reaching your GPA goals?

### -How can you go about raising that GPA of yours?

Raising your GPA might sound easy, but there are a few realities you need to face. First, the further you progress in your college career, the more likely it is that your upper level classes will be harder than the ones you have already taken. Second, one rotten egg can ruin the cake. If you have the opportunity to retake a class you have done poorly in, it could be extremely helpful in getting your GPA up. Also, classes are usually easier the second time around. There are some other tricks to help boost your GPA. There are certain classes that I refer to as "GPA boosters," these include volleyball, golf, and some lower level classes. Although these are what I consider "GPA boosters", what I think is easy may be difficult for you and vice versa. It is important to find classes that will be easy for you to boost that GPA.

The most important ingredient to boosting your GPA is **effort**. Taking a few GPA boosters isn't necessarily going to get you the GPA you want. Studying hard and work ethic are what will really raise your GPA. Murray State University offers tutoring for most classes so be sure to utilize this for those subjects you struggle in. Developing study habits that work for you is essential. Attempt to ask others in your field of study how they prepare for tests and if what they do is effective and efficient. Most of all, understand that the most important factor in your GPA is **yourself**.

## KUDOS to...

### MSU OUTSTANDING SENIOR MAN...

*Cole Hackett*

### HART'S SHIELD BEARER...

*Jeffery Frye*

### HART'S ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER...

*Lara Garrity*

### HART'S OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD WINNERS...

*Sean Cassidy*

*Katie Farmer*

*Rebecca*

*Grassham*

*John Michael*

### MSU (& HART) IDOL WINNER...

*Randy Box*

## A GREAT THANKSGIVING BREAK!!!!

# What should you be learning in college?

### Knowing *how* you learn

It isn't always about what you know, but how quickly can you learn and retain new information. Everyone has different learning styles; some people need to hear it, some need to see it and some need to do it. It is important for you to understand what works best for you.

### Applying theory to real-life situations

Memorizing definitions may help you pass a test, but it is important to be able to understand fundamental principles and how to apply and adapt them to your job. Of course, not everything is going to be like a textbook example, so it is extremely pertinent that you understand the fundamentals enough to be able to adapt them to the real world.

### Time management

Learning how to juggle writing papers, holding leadership positions, having a job, working out, and maintaining a social life is crucial in developing and maturing into a responsible adult. Knowing how to utilize your time is important for you when you have deadlines in your career.

### Relevant professional experience

Holding a position, having an internship, or participating in volunteer projects that relate to your field are indicators to employers that you understand your field and you know it is what you want to do. Moreover, you get to see what you need to improve on, what you're good at, your likes and dislikes, and if you truly want to pursue a career in that field.

### A portfolio proving you can produce work

Hold on to those projects you did well on to prove that you can produce results. Many employers want to see that you can make things happen. Make sure you keep things you want to show off.

### The ability to give and receive feedback

Being able to receive both positive and negative feedback is pivotal in furthering yourself as a person and in your career. One day, you will have employee reviews and it is important to be able listen to criticism and adjust accordingly so your job performance will improve. Also, it is just as important to be able to tactfully praise and critique colleagues and subordinates.

### Presentation skills

Know how to present material effectively and be able to convey ideas clearly. Work on speaking confidently and volunteer to be the speaker for group projects to gain experience and feedback on how you can improve.

### Writing skills

Writing skills are underrated by college students. In the real world, you will need to be able to effectively communicate via e-mail, reports, sales pitches, memos and much more. Volunteer to help write things in groups, try to hold a secretary position in an organization and most of all, practice!!!

### Your network

To a large extent, "it is 'who you know', not 'what you know'." This is truer than most people like to admit. Building relationships and networking can help get your foot in the door to start an amazing career. You never know who someone else might know, so don't be afraid to get to know professors and prominent community members. Getting a LinkedIn account could be useful in some career fields. Building a solid network of well-nourished relationships will give you more opportunities to develop professionally and to start a career. So, get to building!