It's that time of year where the typical Bona student is just scrapping by. The Christmas money is long gone, semester books have all been paid for and students are doing their best to make it to their next birthdays.

This time of year, money management is on every student's mind, whether it's saving money by not eating out as much or renting textbooks instead of buying them. “The bookstore offers options when it comes to textbooks. Students can either buy books or rent them to save money,” says Connor Grome, a sophomore. “The used versions of the book offered at the bookstore are always in good condition, and by renting my books instead of purchasing them at full price I save a ton.”

Parents can visit the bookstore, located inside the Reilly Center, when they're on campus or check it out online at http://www.bkstr.com/stbonaventurestore/home.

St. Bonaventure University offers other aid to students trying to live on a budget. Students who eat at the Hickey Dining Hall may not realize that it offers “to-go” boxes for bringing food back to a student's room. For $5, a student receives a plastic box which can be filled with food for later snacking. If the student returns the box at the end of the year, the $5 is refunded.

A second way that the University helps students manage their money is the Bona bus. The bus allows students to get to Walmart and other stores without having to spend money on gas. The bus returns every thirty minutes to take students back to campus.

It is the University’s goal to make the students’ experiences the best possible, including helping them conserve their cash.
It's the time of year for Student Government Association (SGA) elections. Positions which will be voted on include class presidents, vice presidents, secretaries and treasurers; SGA president, vice president, secretary and treasurer; and senators at large.

Alex Noguerola, a senior political science major and SGA president, encourages everyone to apply.

"It is nice to have a contested race," Noguerola said. "It gives students a chance to show what they can do for their class."

The roles of the class officers are to focus on their specific class years, Noguerola said. Freshman and sophomore class officers focus on bringing their classes together and fundraising for the future as well as donating money for worthy causes such as the Genesis House, a shelter for the homeless people in Olean and cancer societies. The junior class officers plan junior events such as junior prom and help raise money for the events in their senior year. The senior class officers focus on raising money for the annual senior gift plus planning senior week, 100 days, 200 days and other senior activities.

The roles of SGA officers are more general, Noguerola said. They focus on SGA initiatives in general such as March of Dimes or the SPCA.

To apply, your student must view the SGA section of MySBU to get a petition. The petitions have room for signatures of Bonaventure students who support the candidate. Officers must reapply each year. Each office has a different requirement regarding signatures.

Class and SGA president/vice president applicants need 100 signatures in order to run. Class and SGA secretaries as well as treasurers need 50 signatures, and SGA senators at large need 50.

The applications are due March 25; voting will open and reminders will be sent to students on April 6. It will close April 10.

When asked about his favorite part of being on SGA Noguerola said, "I get to work with a dedicated group of student leaders who put their hearts into the things they do for their classes. I also get to work with faculty, staff
During the summer, students may have more time to complete internships and start gaining experience for their upcoming careers. Internships help students prepare for their futures, and those who decide not to do an internship can lose opportunities that may leave them behind in the professional workplace.

Taking the initiative to start doing internships is important for students’ professional development. For many, internships are required to graduate and help improve the possibilities of getting a higher paying job. Patrick Vecchio, Internship Coordinator for the Jandoli School of Journalism and Mass Communication, believes that by trying different internships, students may be able to find areas of interest in their fields and explore different areas of the job market.

“Generally speaking, I think students should do more than one kind of internship,” said Vecchio. “If a student wants to work, say, at television news, she graduates and goes into a market where there are no television news spots available. If she had gone into newspaper, then she might be able to get that job in that department while she waits for a TV news spot to open up. You get the experience, and you may wind up dabbling in things you didn’t think you were interested in.”

At St. Bonaventure, The Career and Professional Readiness Center (CPRC) helps students search for internship and employment opportunities using SBU’s BonaLink, the job and internship posting website that was launched last October. The CPRC counselors also help students investigate web based resources by industry and major, provide personal guidance in searching for career and internship opportunities, help develop students’ résumés, offer options to participate in on-campus recruiting and fine-tune interview skills.

Sometimes financial difficulties can make finding and accepting internships more difficult. Vecchio encourages parents to remember that even an unpaid internship will benefit the student in the long-term.

“Sometimes it is challenging from a financial point of view because many students have to work over the summer so they can afford school,” said Vecchio. “I guess I would just ask parents to keep that in mind. If the students can only work part-time because of an internship, then perhaps financial accommodations can be made. I would hope that parents see an internship as an investment that will pay off along the road.”

A general lack of interest on the part of students can also create problems for their future careers. Introducing students to areas that interest them can create a better outlook for the future.

Parents can help students find an internship, Vecchio said.

“If possible, parents should keep their ears open and think about people they know who might be able to offer the student an internship or who could refer the student to somebody else who might need an intern. They tend to overlook these things. Eighty percent of jobs are not advertised due to networking, and very often parents are in a network that they never really stopped to think about [as a potential internship source].”

Encouragement from parents can often help give students the confidence they need to succeed.

“I think parental interest in what a student is doing, particularly in extra-curricular activities, is very important,” Vecchio said. “It’s so powerful when a kid says ‘Yeah, I’m doing this, and my parents are proud of me!’ It really helps with their self-confidence.”
Joyce Tristan, a freshman accounting major, used the TLC earlier this year and said she would use it again.

“I used them for help with a resume when I applied to be an orientation leader,” Tristan said. “Then I used the resume for a job interview at a bank, and I got the job.”

Hannah Pingelski, a freshman business major, said she was unhappy with her midterm grades, and was considering using the TLC after hearing other students’ positive experiences with the program.

“This semester I could have done better. I need to work harder to get better grades,” Pingelski said. “I think I should look into a tutor because they can be helpful, especially in classes I’m confused in. That could be really beneficial to me.”

Madeliene Feddern, a freshman elementary education major, said, “I wasn’t too upset with how I did, but there’s always room for improvement. My advice for people who are unhappy with their grades is to talk to their professor and seek preparation opportunities.”

Midterm grades have been posted, but they aren’t final.

Students who are unhappy with their grades still have a chance to improve.

One option available for students is the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC). Located in the basement of Doyle Hall, the TLC is a campus resource invested in the academic success of students.

The TLC offers several services to students who request them. One service offered is tutoring. Students can apply for a peer tutor to meet with either one-on-one or with a small group of students. Peer tutors encourage students to maintain academic accountability and independent learning, according the university’s website. The Writing Lab is another service available to those who need it. Students at any stage of writing a paper for any course can meet with one of two assistants to request advice on a paper.

The TLC’s Academic Restoration Program (ARP) and Academic Intervention Program (AIP) are also available for student use. The ARP is designed for second-semester students who are in danger of being unable to stay at Bonaventure due to low academic standing. ARP students meet twice to discuss studying strategies as well as behavior analysis. ARP students also meet weekly one-on-one with a staff member to design a plan for achieving success.

The AIP is focused on upper-level students who, like ARP students, could potentially be dismissed from Bonaventure for academic reasons. ARP students meet weekly one-on-one with an academic counselor and are required to maintain perfect attendance.

Graduate assistant Madeliene Gionet has worked with the Teaching and Learning Center for two years and said she has seen students’ work improve.

“I’ve worked with students on academic probation who are required to meet with me,” Gionet said. “And I’ve seen them jump immensely in their GPAs. [The TLC] is not only showing them support, but giving students the tools and teaching them the tactics to be successful.”
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