Freshman Friendly Teaching

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Finding your inner freshman...
They have never used a card catalog to find a book.
Text has always been hyper.
The European Union has always existed.
Women have always outnumbered men in college.
We have always watched wars, coups, and police arrests unfold on television in real time.
Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Latvia, Georgia, Lithuania, and Estonia have always been independent nations.

About 90% of the FY students were born between 1990-1994
Millennial Generation
Top 5 answers: “What makes your generation unique?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Millennials</th>
<th>Gen X</th>
<th>Boomer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tech Use (24%)*</td>
<td>Tech Use (12%)</td>
<td>Work Ethic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music/Pop Culture</td>
<td>Work Ethic</td>
<td>Respectful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberal/Tolerant</td>
<td>Conservative/Trad’l</td>
<td>Values/Morals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smarter</td>
<td>Smarter</td>
<td>“Baby Boomers”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothes</td>
<td>Respectful</td>
<td>Smarter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: www.pewsocialtrends.org

*Highest rate of response to a single question
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey Item</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drank Wine or Liquor (occasionally/frequently)</td>
<td>44.4</td>
<td>43.3</td>
<td>41.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drank Beer</td>
<td>39.5</td>
<td>38.4</td>
<td>35.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Came late to class (occasionally/frequently)</td>
<td>57.5</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>54.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Took Notes During Class (frequently)</td>
<td>66.5</td>
<td>67.0</td>
<td>60.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6+ hrs/wk Spent Studying/Homework</td>
<td>34.7</td>
<td>37.3</td>
<td>39.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expectations for College…</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Very Good Chance” of Discussing Course Content with Students Outside of Class</td>
<td>46.5</td>
<td>46.9</td>
<td>48.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: www.heri.ucla.edu
Those reporting they are “frequently overwhelmed by all that I had to do” remains high (28.5%).

Parent rates of unemployment add to students’ stress.

CARE stands for Campus Assessment, Resource, and Evaluation.
» Helps us identify students' perception of their engagement

> Academic Challenge
> Active learning
> Student-Faculty Interaction
> Enriching experiences
> Campus environment

NSSE
We need to help freshmen adjust affectively, cognitively, and socially
Growing Dendrites = Learning

Smilkstein. http://facweb.northseattle.edu/RSmilkstein/
What we can do...

» Tap into what they know...
» Hold them accountable for building and retaining knowledge
» Require them to draw from other disciplines
» Watch for signs of emotional distress
» Connect students to peers – use heterogeneous grouping
» Be transparent about course/assignment design & assessment
1. Who is in the class – get to know your students
2. Frequent assessment (multiple forms)
3. Use writing to learn (reflection)
4. Draw on students’ prior knowledge
5. Ask about common courses (encourages transfer of learning)

My Top 10 List
6. Team work – intentional & transparent in design
7. Ask “See if you can figure this out...”
8. Use acceptance (affirmation/respect)
9. Build community
10. Safety – it must be OK to fail

* See Rita Smilkstein, http://facweb.northseattle.edu/RSmilkstein/