

THE GALEN TIMES

"There is no substitute for hard work." – Thomas Edison



Preparing Eagles to Soar

Milestones, Progress, and Dates

As we enter into the new semester, the Galen Family would like to welcome all new Eagles into the nest. Galen is committed to helping all Eagles soar towards their goals and achievements in life, and unto the next chapter. No matter where we end up, we will always remember our time spent with our fellow family members here at Galen University.

It is with great honor that we congratulate our graduating class of 2020. As they begin to soar, as eagles do, we are proud to have had the chance to have met and worked alongside them. One day, we will all have the opportunity to be where they are. They are truly an inspiring and exceptional example of what Galen University is and continue to instill.

In all, we should not let our current situation affect our opportunity to grow and prosper. There is nothing wrong with seeking advice or help from those around us. In the end, we are a family, A family that works together, prospers together while also always being happy for each other.

Important News, Updates, and Ideas

- **Preparing Eagles to Soar**
- **How to manage and deal with online classes.**
- **Tips and Tricks to online learning**
- **Back In The Saddle**
- **Events**
- **Important Dates**





Tips and Tricks to online learning:

- Log in 10-15 mins before the class begins
- Keep writing materials nearby
- Prepare for the session in advance
- Get enough sleep and eat before class
- Stay focus by limiting distractions
- Ask questions and participate in a class

How to manage and deal with online classes.

Keeping it Brief and Productive

In these times of uncertainty and pressure due to the ongoing pandemic, online classes might seem to be more of a hassle. We must try and learn to adapt to our new way of life while also creating new and fun initiatives to improve our success, both academically and professionally.

Some of the software that maybe be utilized this semester might be confusing to some, as it may be your first time using software such as Blackboard Collaborate. Online learning, in general, might also be a challenge to some; therefore, it is important to remember some basic tips and tricks that might make online learning a bit easier.



In order to have a successful team meeting and online class, keep the discussion focused, and always encourage participation.

Back In The Saddle

by: Dr. David Aguilar

Greetings, fellow Eagles!

Welcome, or welcome back, to Galen University for an exciting new year of classes. For those of you who have been here a while, you might remember that a year or so ago, I used to produce monthly articles for the University's newsletter, in which I discussed technology, society, and how it's sometimes hard to read the writing on the front of a shirt during bus rides. It made sense at the time.

I took a bit of a break from that, but I'd like to make a fresh start this year, and see if we can turn this into a regular thing. I've called this article "Back In the Saddle," and there are actually three different reasons for that. First, and most obviously, I am writing again. I think that in every human endeavor, and writing is no exception, inspiration comes and goes in waves. It doesn't necessary meaning something's wrong with you if you wake up and don't feel particularly motivated every now and then; moods are variable. One of the best (and worst) things about humanity is that it's always changing.

So that's Reason No. 1. Reason No. 2 is about you guys. Galen gets a number of its students directly from high school, and some transfer in from junior colleges. That's all great. Each of those has definite advantages. Coming in from high school gives you the earliest possible start to finding your place in the professional world, and represents a fairly smooth transition from student to, shall we say, pre-retirement.

Coming in from a junior college gives you a wider scope of what tertiary level education is like. You've seen a few different teaching styles and environments, and (since you are now here) have fortunately settled in the best place to learn in the region.

But the third type of Galen Student is worthy of special mention, and that's the student who has been out in the world, working for a while, and has decided to come back to school to complete a degree, or earn a new one. This individual likely remembers the challenges of being a student, and despite that, covets the rewards of overcoming them. Sometimes such students come with additional responsibilities: a spouse, a child, a job, and yet, in my experience these students are often content, appreciative of their opportunities, unlikely to complain... generally quite mature, and it's because they often have a clear vision of the goal they're heading toward.

I truly appreciate the students who come to my classroom, bringing with them experience, character development, and the occasional funny story from work, because I know it takes courage, and a certain kind of optimism, to get back onto that saddle. I hope that the rest of this article will serve to encourage you as you move one semester closer to your degrees.

This brings us to Reason No. 3, and yes, we are going to talk about Computer Science a bit here, but I promise it will be mostly painless.

I'm one of those fortunate people who finds that my work and my hobbies are pretty much the same thing. When I am preparing for a class, I am reading online documentation, writing programs, playing around with computer-generated art, and generally having fun.

When I am on vacation, or it's the weekend, I am... doing all those things I have just listed. I'm not a stereotypical anything... but I'm probably closest to being the textbook technology nerd.

Because of that, I'm not sure if all of you are going to be able to relate to what I say next, but here we go: writing a program is a rather involved procedure. You need to plan out the overall structure of your instructions, break it down into modules with specific tasks, and then write the code that causes the computer to do those tasks. As my CS students well know, this involves a lot of organizing ideas, making sure your spelling and the order of your statements is exactly right, sometimes making sure that you are writing your programs in the most efficient way so that they don't take up too much time or resources. And that's just the beginning. Then you have to test, and avoid the gremlins that cause your program to work perfectly well when nobody is watching, but fail the moment you try to demonstrate it to someone

else. I'm sure there's a universal principle here... the more important your audience (as determined by the cost of their suits/dresses and the lengths of their ties), the higher the chance of failure.

To deal with that, I like to encourage myself right at the very beginning. If I am working on a program (and my current project is replicating the well-known Minesweeper game for my Java Programming course) I tend to do the flashy stuff first. I work on the user interface, the bells and whistles, the graphics, before I do anything else. This gives me a pretty good idea of how it will look when it's done, and that gives me a push to get the calculations, computations, coding, calibration and consternation done as well. But there's another advantage that this approach has for me, which is where it ties in to the title of this article.

By poking away at the "fun" stuff, I am also reacquainting myself with the details of programming, which is particularly valuable if I haven't worked with that program or style of software in a while. I've noticed that if I haven't written a particular program for a while, and I'm contemplating starting or continuing a project, a different kind of gremlin raises its ugly little head. And it says, "Do you think you can still do that? It's been a while... and you're probably rusty." "You figured out a lot of those programs by luck; what makes you think you can do it again?" "Are you sure you want to spend your time doing something you might not even finish?"

It's a cruel little animal, and I am sure it has its cousins in every field of study.

But ultimately, by doing the graphics, sounds, and other fancy-looking aspects first, I find that those voices are just all in my head.

It turns out that if I was able to do it before, I'm able to do it now. It's fun, it's easy, because I know how to do this. I always did, and while it's easy to get caught up in various other activities before returning to my projects and programs, as I said, humanity is always changing. We're adaptable, and it may not be as hard as we think to pick up where we left off. It's not always that difficult to reassess, to regroup, and to get back on the path. Is being a student challenging? Certainly. But it was always challenging, and if you're a student returning from being away for a bit... you have tools and experience now that you didn't before. Of course, if you get your education here at Galen, you're going to find a lot of things are easier for you than for others (I had to get this plug in), but that is really only one of the factors. The other, and more important, factor is you.

You've got this. I've got this. We've all got this together. Let's do the things we do, and I'll see you next month.

Events:



Important Dates:

- **January 11-** Drop/Add period begins
- **January 23-** Last Day to 'Drop' a class without financial penalty
- **January 25-** Withdrawal period begins. The first day to withdraw from a class with a 'W' (withdrew) with a financial penalty.