When the Goin’ Gets Tough

by Brant Nelson

College is hard. It’s rigorous academic boot camp. And many times the challenges we encounter stretch beyond that which we may face in the classroom.

For the first time we are faced with the difficulties of real world “adult” problems. Financial worries burden us. The future prospect of who or what am I going to be after I leave this place haunt us. For some it is the struggle to find acceptance, or that certain place where we feel like we belong. For others the challenges faced may be from being away from the comforts of home for the first time.

Now is not the time to give up. These challenges are important. They cause us to grow as individuals. Yes, in college you select a major and you take classes and some of the classes are difficult. Sometimes we are met with instructors who are less sympathetic to our woes. But that is only a fraction of what the college experience is about. This is a time for you to test yourself, to see what you are capable of. You are given the opportunity to see what obstacles you can overcome and also to discover exactly who you are as an individual, really for the first time outside of the influences of your family or lifelong friends.

So don’t be afraid to take on challenges and accept the ones that already lay before you! Do things that scare you! All the stress and anxiety is temporary and you will come out being better because of it.

You are now in the homestretch in finishing your first semester of college!

“You must expect great things of yourself before you can do them.”

—Michael Jordan