

## **Parent's Corner – the Grey Zone**

### **Director's Notes:**

As parents of academy-bound students, I can imagine you are feverishly searching for an academic institution that will provide the necessary program your son or daughter needs to get them into the academy. It wasn't an easy task for my parents in 1976 when I was in need of a prep school and you're probably feeling it's still not an easy task...or is it?

As a result of the efforts of so many academy, education and military professionals to create Greystone, it is my hope that your task of finding the best prep school is now somewhat easier. Here are the facts:

- Total Program cost (room, board, tuition and all fees): **\$18,000**
  - "Board" refers to the 19 meals per week plan.
- There are payment plans available – see Admissions section.
- Greystone students are "full-time" college students and eligible for Federal/State/Local loan and grant programs.
- Students who earn scholarships can apply them toward their Greystone education – contact Schreiner Admissions for details.
- The priority deadline for application submission to Schreiner is 01 May, the fall back deadline is 01 August and students start class on 25 August.
- Students must pay for books (your choice - new or used – and can sell back).
- Students must have accident and health care insurance.
  - Students can purchase health care insurance thru Schreiner.
- Greystone students have complete access to all Schreiner facilities, programs, clubs and organizations.
- All Greystone students live in L.A. Schreiner Residence Hall.
  - Oversight is provided by live-in RD and RA.
  - Greystone offices are located in Hall.
- Campus is patrolled by Schreiner security force 24/7.
- Schreiner provides a certified nurse to oversee student health issues and make referrals to off-campus clinics if required.
- Greystone is not a "military" institution. Students are not required to wear military-style uniforms or drill. Our objective is to minimum distractions and maximize their focus on academic studies and physical fitness (they will learn about the real military properly when they get to the academy).
- The Greystone Character Development program is derived from the academies Leadership and Ethics courses as well as the academy honor programs. The intent is to introduce the concepts of honor, integrity, trust, courage, commitment, truth, responsibility and accountability to each student prior to their arrival at the academy. As a Naval Academy Honor Mentor, I witnessed first-hand how important character is to the success of each academy student.
- The Academic Survival Skills program is derived from similar programs offered at all the academies through their student center. Mastering the basic academic learning skills will enable students to maximize their Greystone experience.
  - Time management is equally important for a leader who will soon be responsible for others. Effective planning and scheduling is the mark of every successful academy student.
- Greystone students are required to participate in the Schreiner athletic program – just as they will at the academies.
  - Students will be enrolled in a customized Schreiner Physical Education course.
  - Students will participate in the varsity/JV or intramural sports program after class to maintain or stimulate their competitive spirit necessary for an effective leader.
  - Students will participate in a personalized physical fitness program Monday thru Saturday mornings at 0600.

- Raising the bar of excellence is a significant goal at Greystone. It applies to every part of the Greystone program – be it academics, athletics extra-curricular activities or individual maturity.
- Living on a college campus provides the right motivation to inspire students to excel – a requirement to attain that appointment.
  - The campus community is a more “mature” environment and will encourage students to grow as an adult.
  - The campus community is more focused on “career” ambitions and the achievement of their personal goals.
- As a former prep school student myself, I understand what these students are experiencing mentally, emotionally and physically. I can relate and have created a program to re-inspire their ambition.
- As an academy grad, career military officer and academy faculty member, I know what is expected of them from the academy perspective. Greystone is designed to assist each student as they strive to achieve the level of excellence expected by the academies.

That’s the “quick and dirty” analysis of Greystone. Should you have any specific questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at 888-561-6924.

The program was developed from your perspective as a parent in search of the complete academy preparatory education solution. My efforts focused on two objectives: make this daunting task easier for parents and students, and create an updated and improved approach to academy preparatory education. My motivation to “get involved” and “do something” was inspired out of my deep concern for the young men and women who desire to serve this country in the military as an academy graduate and as a commissioned officer. I strongly feel academy preparatory education should do more to support and motivate these very qualified students to stay the course in pursuit of their ambitions. It is the Greystone philosophy that as an academy preparatory school program, we will work to keep up with the academic, physical and ethical expectations of the academies and strive to maximize candidate competitiveness for the students who apply. As an academy preparatory school, Greystone “raises the bar” to a significantly higher standard of excellence.

Based upon research of existing prep school programs and numerous conversations with academy faculty, staff, alumni, parents, cadets and midshipmen, I feel Greystone offers the best mix of specialized college-level academics, athletic participation, physical fitness and character development to provide a total approach to academy preparatory education.

The program is, by comparison, less expensive than most other preparatory school programs, but when compared to what Greystone delivers:

- specialized curriculum for academy-bound students.
- courses matched to student academic ability
- customized athletic program
- unique character development.
- academic survival skills
- completion of their Schreiner University freshman year.
- up to 36 college credits.
- college education “back-up” plan.
- options to validate or retake courses upon arrival at the academy.
- growth and maturity derived from a college-level experience.

Greystone is, in my opinion, the best opportunity to maximize your return for the academy preparatory school investment.

**Within a few years, there will be Greystone, schools that want to emulate Greystone and schools who no longer offer academy prep programs.**

Some parents may have concerns about Greystone as a new academy preparatory institution. To ease your concerns, remember that Greystone is affiliated with Schreiner University who has been providing students with college education since 1917. Through this affiliation, Schreiner provides

the academic support (professors for instruction) required to support the core curriculum for the Greystone program. The University also provides Greystone with all facilities needed to sustain campus activities including academic support (classrooms, labs, library, lecture halls, etc.), housing, food service, athletic support (fields, courts, equipment, etc.), administrative support and infrastructure. As a prep school student, academy grad, career military officer and academy faculty member, I have spent the last 26 years of my life instructing, inspiring and motivating young men and women in military service to be more than they are. Whether my career took me aboard a ship or to the academy, I have been engaged in the education of young people. My experience as a senior officer (organization, administration, management, training, education and leadership) has prepared me to assume the responsibilities as Director of Greystone. Greystone is a new institution; however, because of the close relationship with Schreiner University, Greystone is an extremely stable program. Schreiner's proven record of success over the last 87 years, contributes significantly to Greystone's success now and into the future.

Greystone was created with the help and assistance from supportive academy faculty, staff, alumni, parents and students who agree that academy preparatory education must be improved. Essentially, Greystone was created by academy graduates and supporters expressly for potential academy graduates. The Greystone program is a total program and will meet and/or exceed the academy expectations as well as the needs of the individual student. Strong support from Schreiner University serves as the foundation from which Greystone draws success. An unlimited contribution from qualified supporters is the reason why Greystone is able to provide the best academy preparatory education for academy-bound students.

**At Greystone, our past and your future start now.**

### **Academy Admissions**

As part of the academy reapplication process, Greystone students are required to maintain close contact with their local academy recruiting officer who will be their primary contact for submission of their academy admissions package. Greystone cannot act as an academy recruiter, but will assist as necessary by tracking documents to ensure the information submitted to the academy is on time, up-to-date, complete and properly written.

Even though the Greystone Director and a Schreiner University faculty member (Asst. Professor David Smith) are trained Naval Academy Blue and Gold Officers, your "home town" academy recruiters will remain the primary source for answers regarding academy admissions. All students are asked to provide Greystone with contact information for their academy recruiter in order to establish liaison to provide assistance in the application process.

### **Parents Association**

As parents of a son or daughter in the Greystone program, you are an important member of the Greystone family and therefore, part of the success your student desires to achieve. Rather than playing the role of "Mom" or "Dad", you must now take on a larger and more complicated role of the "Student Life Support System". You will soon become the primary lifeline to your student – someone they will talk with over the phone (rather than the boyfriend or girlfriend), someone they will receive mail and packages from (rather than the boyfriend or girlfriend); someone who will send much-needed "spending" money (notice the lack of the "boyfriend" or "girlfriend" thing). You will remain the "Student Life Support System" from this point forward so long as they pursue their college education, therefore you should seek to improve your "support" skills right away.

As a former prep school student myself, I remember my time away from home like it was yesterday, but I also remember the joy and comfort I received from my parents as I went through the academy prep experience. For me, it was the beginning of a new and better relationship with my parents – it was something we shared. As your student progresses toward the academy, this new relationship

will bring you closer together. You are a much bigger part of your student's future academic success - the time to get involved is now.

To help facilitate the establishment of the Greystone Parents Organization, the first step is for you to get involved. I expect to hear from you and if I don't, you can expect to hear from me. The second step is to organize. I'll welcome any volunteers for the position of Greystone Parents Organization President, Vice President and Treasurer. Like the request for organization, if I don't hear from you, you can expect to hear from me. I would like this organization to have fun by putting together a "Parent's Weekend" on campus and a Graduation Ceremony to acknowledge the accomplishments of our students. I'm also open to anything else! Let's talk - I look forward to hearing from you all!

While surfing the Schreiner website, I was attracted to their parents section and have "captured" it here for you to read. I feel much of what is written is directly applicable to all Greystone parents as well - enjoy!

From [www.schreiner.edu](http://www.schreiner.edu) website:

Your daughter or son, along with two million other young adults in the United States, is about to begin an experience that will be both exciting and frightening, a period of joy, discovery and disappointments. These students are beginning an interval of important personal transitions, and you are entering this period with them. You will experience happiness and disappointment as they do. Some hints may help you and your student prepare for what lies ahead.

#### **HINT # 1**

##### **Write (even if they don't write back).**

Freshmen are typically eager to experience all the away-from-home independence they can in those first few weeks, but most are still anxious for family ties and the security those ties bring. Even though 99% of the freshmen won't admit it, they love news from home, however mundane it may seem to you. There's nothing more depressing than a week of empty mailboxes, but don't expect a reply to every letter you write.

#### **Hint #2**

##### **Ask Questions (but not too many).**

College freshmen are "cool" (or so they think) and have a tendency to resent interference with their newfound lifestyle, but most desire the assurance of knowing that someone is still interested in them. Feel free to give advice on particular majors but don't insist on your student declaring a major during the freshmen year. The educational system is designed to allow students to explore all sorts of alternatives to a life long plan and career goal. Try for the supportive, relief-giving style rather than the alienating nag effect.

#### **Hint #3**

##### **Expect Change (but not too much).**

Your student will change (This will happen drastically within the first few months, slowly over four years or somewhere in between.) It's natural, inevitable, and can be inspiring and beautiful. Often it's a pain in the neck! A pre-med major may discover that biology is not his/her thing after all. In addition, it's important to note that the average student changes his or her major at least three times during the four years of college. The main thing is to be patient.

#### **Hint #4**

##### **Don't worry about frantic phone calls or letters.**

Often, when troubles become too much for a freshman to handle (bad grade, deteriorated relationship, shrunken T-shirt all in one day) the only place to run is home. In such a "crisis", your student unloads the trouble or tears and returns to the routine, relieved and lightened, while you inherit the burden of worry.

**Hint #5****Do not tell them "These are the best years of their lives".**

Any parent who believes that all college students get good grades, knows what they want to major in, always have activity-packed weekends, have thousands of close friends and lead worry-free lives is wrong. Parents who perpetuate and insist upon "best year" stereotypes are working against their student's already difficult self-development. Those who accept and understand highs and lows of their student's reality are providing the support and encouragement students need.

**Hint #6****Trust them.**

Finding oneself is difficult enough without feeling that the people whose opinions you respect most are second-guessing you.

One of the most important things a parent can communicate to a daughter or son might go something like this, "I love you and want for you all the things that make you the happiest, and I guess you, not I, are the one who knows best what those things are".

**Hint #7****Visit (but not too often).**

Occasional visits by parents (especially when accompanied by shopping sprees, dinners out, etc.) are another part of first-year events that freshmen are reluctant to admit to liking but appreciate greatly. Pretended disdain of such visits is just another part of the first-year syndrome. Visits give students a chance to introduce some of the important people in both worlds (home and school) to each other. In addition, it's a way for parents to become familiar with (and more understanding of) their son's or daughter's new activities, commitments and friends.

Spontaneous surprise visits are usually not appreciated. Pre-emption of a planned weekend of studying or other activities can have disastrous results. With some notice, you may even enjoy the rare sight of a clean room.

**Hint #8****Water what you want to grow.**

If your first questions are always about dates, social activities or the score of the recent game rather than about books, ideas, classroom discussions and co-curricular activities (out-of-class lectures, seminars, concerts, intramural activities, etc.), you may send the wrong signal about what is really important at the university.

**Dates to Keep in Mind****September**

- Homesickness, loneliness.
- Excitement.
- Doubts about choice of school.
- Tendency to test new limits and boundaries.
- Frequent calls home.
- Anxiety about roommates and professors.
- First round of tests possible at the end of the month.

**October**

- Roommate problems begin to arise.
- Concerns about social climate (Do I fit in here?).
- Midterm exams occur.
- Romantic relationships from home still going strong.
- Students begin to realize that life at college is not as perfect as they were led to believe.

### **November**

- Roommate problems getting more serious.
- Academic pressure is beginning to mount because of procrastination, difficulty of work, and lack of ability.
- Economic anxiety, funds from parents and summer earnings begin to run out.
- First wave of campus wide homesickness.
- Anxiety about returning home for Thanksgiving (Will I still fit in at home?).

### **December**

- Extracurricular time strain; seasonal parties, concerts, social service projects, religious activities all drain student energies.
- Anxiety, fear and guilt increase as final examinations approach and papers are due.
- Pre-Christmas depression; especially for those who have concerns for family, those who have no home to visit, and for those who prefer not to go home because of family conflicts.
- Financial strain because of Christmas gifts and travel costs.

### **January**

- Post-Christmas depression.
- Loneliness for romantic relationship from home.
- Seeing this as a time to make a fresh start.
- Relief at being away from home or back at school.
- Worry begins about academy appointment.

### **February**

- Breakup of romantic relationships from home.
- Near Valentine's Day, feelings of loneliness, anomie (lack of purpose or identity...Everyone has somebody but me).

### **March**

- Disappointment for students who can't afford to travel over spring break.
- Anxiety over midterm exams.

### **April**

- End of semester pressure begins.

### **May**

- Anxiety over final exams.
- Apprehension about returning home for the summer.
- Sadness over losing touch with new friends.
- Sadness over losing contact with romantic relationship.

### **What kinds of things will students need while at Greystone?**

#### **Necessities**

- Social Security Card
- Financial aid documents
- Dictionary
- Thesaurus

#### **School Supplies**

- Highlighters, pencils, pens
- Textbooks
- Binders
- Day Planner, Day Runner, Day Timer or PDA for planning and scheduling of assignments

#### **Residence Hall Essentials**

- Hangers
- Lots of underwear
- Alarm clock
- Stationery, envelopes, stamps and address book
- Blow dryer, curling iron, hot rollers, comb, hair spray
- Shampoo, conditioner, soap , shaving cream, razor blades, cotton balls, nail clippers
- Contact lens solution and sterilizer, eyeglass prescription
- Laundry basket or duffel bag, detergent, fabric softener, bleach, iron, roll or quarters
- First aid kit with aspirin, cold remedies, medications, bandages, rubbing alcohol, thermometer
- Sewing kit with needles, thread, straight pins, safety pins, buttons
- Linens: sheets (twin extra-long), comforter or quilt, towels, blanket, pillow
- Desk lamp
- Extension cords
- Trash can

The **Schreiner Former Students Association (SFSA)** offers a service to celebrate your student's birthday, holiday, final exams or just to brighten up their day, by sending them a surprise cake or gift basket.

If you order a cake, your student will receive a delicious, homemade, two-layer, eight-inch round cake with your choice of flavor and frosting. It is also your option to personalize the cake for your student with his/her favorite hobby, sport, special interest or a favorite cartoon character.

A Tisket, A Tasket is a locally owned and operated gift basket business that is working in conjunction with the Schreiner Former Student Association to create wonderful baskets for your student.

Three different packages will be offered. They are:

**Package #1 - Food for Thought**

This basket contains a variety of snack items such as popcorn, pretzels, nuts, granola, chocolates and cookies.

**Package #2 - Quench Your Thirst**

This basket contains a mixture of coffees, teas, waters, cocoas and cappuccinos.

**Package #3 - Eat, Drink and Study**

This basket is a combination of the other two. Snacks and beverages that are sure to keep your student on their study course.

Want something different? We offer gift baskets for all occasions!

- \*Final Exams
- \*Welcome to your Residence Hall
- \*Birthdays
- \*Thinking of You
- \*Hang in There
- \*We Miss You
- \*College Survival Kit
- \*Balloon Bouquets

The Schreiner Former Students Association does not profit from this service, it is offered to make it simple and convenient for you to send your student a special gift.

The Former Students Association will be sending you information regarding the order forms. If you need another order form or have any questions, contact the Alumni House at (830) 792-7201

This program is only available for students who reside on campus.

### **Visits**

Schreiner University maintains an open campus policy regarding visitors. Greystone parents are **welcome at any time**. Visitors traveling by air are able to fly into San Antonio International Airport and then enjoy a leisurely 47-mile drive into the Texas Hill Country to Kerrville. If you are driving, Highway 10 passes through some of the most beautiful Texas Hill Country and directly by Kerrville. Once off the Highway, follow Texas Highway 27 to the front gates of Schreiner University. Should you have a few moments, I would appreciate the opportunity to make your acquaintance and discuss your son or daughter's progress.