

Son of D.C. Cook employee authors guide on surviving college

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James S. Parker

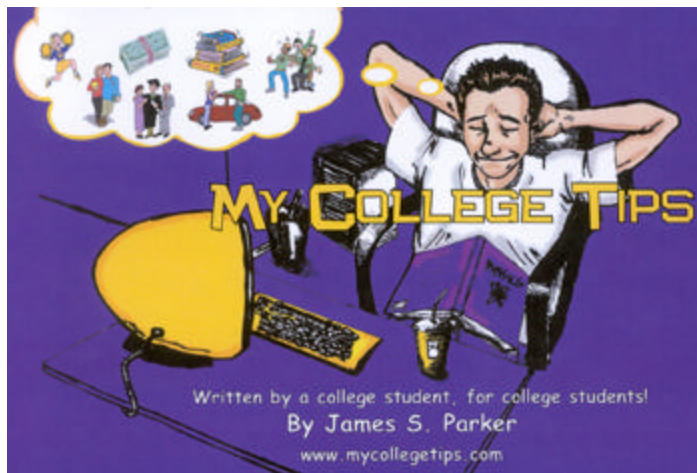
Parents of college-aged children: if you are bemoaning the cost of higher education while counting the days until Junior graduates, remember it could be worse. Just ask D.C. Cook employee James B. Parker.

It took Parker's son, James S. Parker, eight years in five different universities before he finally earned a degree in computer science from the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga in 2003. Along the way, he changed majors numerous times, changed relationships numerous times and went through what some people might view as a small fortune. But in the end, he got what he was after -- an education. One not found entirely in books. As Mark Twain wrote, "I have never let schooling interfere with my education."

Parker learned both in class and out of class, and he used that knowledge to author and self-publish a college survival guide. Under the title *My College Tips*, Parker offers hope to those uninitiated in the perplexities of academic life.

There are chapters on "Roommates to avoid," "Places to go for a cheap spring break," and "Ways to improve your social life" in addition to the more predictable "Ways to study and do well in class" chapter.

For example, in the chapter titled "Good jobs to have while attending college," Parker gives the pros and cons on being a dorm resident assistant. "Free stay in your room with meals provided," he writes. "Down side is you have to bust freshmen every once in a while and it makes you look like a jerk."



In a chapter on social life and dating, Parker warns against dating the first person you meet. "Make friends with as many people as you can at first. Then meet their friends and their friends' friends. Too many people rush into relationships with the first person who shows an interest in them, and they miss out on excellent opportunities."

UTC professor Dr. Kitrell Rushing says *My College Tips* "provides realistic answers to many of the challenges that confront freshmen."

Parker himself calls it "a roadmap to success in both the academic and personal world."

Parker admits sales of his book have not produced a windfall profit. He still has his day job as a data analyst for the Tennessee Valley Authority, but what is most important is that his parents are proud of him.

"He's turned out to be a nice young man who is out there chasing the American dream," said James B. Parker. "His mother and I could not be more pleased."

For additional information on Parker's book, visit his website at www.mycollegehints.com
