Jessica Thulson Describes "My First Finals Week"

There are two words that make every college student stress and cringe just from the sound of them: Finals Week. This is a week filled with final projects, research papers, intensive studying, and often last minute scrambling. An A on the final could mean an A in the class and this is ultimately the goal that every college student shoots for. This year, I experienced my first "Finals Week" at the college level. I was of course a little intimidated by it, but I feel like I met the challenge and showed my true potential to my Professors. However, there always seems to be distractions looming right in front of us.

Purgatory opened a while ago, and one of the things on students' minds is hitting the slopes. Whenever the first snow falls, skiing fever spreads throughout the entire campus. I know that I myself caught the fever. This is one of the reasons that we live in Colorado; to hit the slopes any weekend or day that we have free. It is a great feeling, skiing down a mountain, feeling that you are conquering the mountain itself. So, we are always grabbing our skis or boards and driving toward a fun-filled day. My father, Jeff Thulson, graduated from Fort Lewis in 1978. He always told me that he and his buddies would joke around and say that if Purgatory got eight inches of new snow, they would strap on the skis for the day instead of lacing up their shoes to walk to class. He told me this wasn't always the case, but it epitomizes what Ski Fever is all about.

The idea of a long holiday break was also a huge distraction during Finals Week. With Christmas just around the corner, students can't help but get excited about snow falling, opening presents, and listening to Christmas Carols. What is a holiday season without a little childhood fun? Green and red take over in people's homes and the tree stands majestically in the corner, lighting up the living room. Christmas seems to bring everyone together, and this can make it difficult for students to focus on their studies. The holiday break is the reward for working hard and surviving Finals Week.

College so far has been an experience for me. I love being able to focus on myself and my future, and I know that other college students feel the same as I do. College is a time for students to grow and learn. I feel that attending Fort Lewis was one of the best choices in my life. The class sizes are small and very intimate. All of my professors know me by name and I always have the opportunity to go and speak with them if I need help or have any questions. The campus is absolutely beautiful and since I grew up in Durango, I couldn't leave the spectacular view and the fresh mountain air. I have already grown as a person here and I am learning so many great things to help me with my future. There are and will always be distractions that take our minds off of school work, but there is a way to balance out fun with work. Finals Week proves to our professors and ultimately the college that we are ready to go out into the world. I feel blessed that I had the opportunity to face Finals Week because this time will fly and I will have to face the real world. I will, of course, feel stronger with a Fort Lewis College degree in hand!