APRIL 2009 TOPICS

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* KU Parent Association
KU Parent Assistance Line (785) 864-5872

* Please address your questions or comments to parents@ku.edu. Please do not use the "Reply" key to send e-mail messages.

SELECTED DATES

May 8       Stop Day
May 11-15   Final Examinations
May 17      Commencement
June 9      First day of Summer Session
July 31     Last day of Summer Session
August 20   First day of Fall Semester
September 7 Labor Day (No classes, University offices closed)
September 26 Family Day and Band Day
October 15-18 Fall Break (No classes, University offices open)
November 25-29 Thanksgiving Break (No classes, University offices open on 25th)
December 11 Stop Day
December 14-18 Final Examinations
January 14, 2010 First day of Spring Semester
January 18   Martin Luther King Day (No classes, University offices closed)
March 15-21  Spring Break (No classes, University offices open)
May 7       Stop Day
May 10-14   Final Examinations
May 16      Commencement 2010

LEASES - WHAT STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW

Legal Services for Students (LSS) has declared 2009 the “Year of the Tenant” and is striving to educate students about landlord and tenant issues. Far too often, at move-in, during their tenancy, and at move-out, students come to the LSS office about their rental problems in Lawrence. Then after-the-fact, LSS tries to help remedy the situation through a “band-aid” approach of legal advice and representation in court.

Instead, students at KU should make Legal Services for Students their first stop when they are considering leasing. LSS can review their lease before signing, and remind them that they (and their roommates) are bound to its terms, as are their parents as guarantors, when everyone signs on the dotted line. Typically, leases contain a “joint and several” clause, which means that any one who signs may be held responsible for the entire amount of rent and damages due under a lease. Before guaranteeing a $3000 a month lease for a year for 5 or 6 “friends” of your son or daughter, keep in mind that you are really guaranteeing up to $36,000 and more for possible damages if problems develop and your son’s or daughter’s roommates cannot live under the same roof!

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As a parent, you need to be aware that the Lawrence rental market is somewhat unique in Kansas, in that most leases literally turnover overnight from July 31 to August 1 every year. Thus, the busiest time of the year at Legal Services for Students, when it comes to tenant issues, is summer and early fall. During that time, students come to us with the majority of their rental problems. These include: failure of the landlord to return security deposits within 30 days; apartments not clean and ready for move-in; and the automatic renewal of leases that "roll-over" for another year and lock students into places they do not want to stay.

In addition, throughout the year in some older parts of Lawrence, students often face rental choices that include housing that is not up to minimum maintenance and fire codes. When these students come to see LSS, the student is always encouraged to contact the City of Lawrence Code Enforcement inspectors.

In this "Year of the Tenant," LSS encourages every parent to read their KU student’s lease and to learn more about how Legal Services for Students can help students with landlord and tenant problems by going online to their web site at www.legalservices.ku.edu.

ACADEMIC DEADLINES

Do you wonder about important academic deadlines? You can find deadlines on the University Registrar’s web site. Visit: www.registrar.ku.edu/calendar/academic.shtml.

Also on the Registrar’s web site is information on ordering transcripts, obtaining certification of enrollment as well as information on how to update personal information. Visit: www.registrar.ku.edu.

THE 21ST BIRTHDAY AND ALCOHOL

Research shows that parents continue to have significant influence over the attitudes and behaviors of their college-age students. One way that you can influence your son or daughter is to talk to them about how they choose to celebrate their own 21st birthday and that of their friends. Unfortunately, some college students participate in dangerous 21st birthday celebrations such as "21 shots,” the birthday bar crawl, or even the "Hour of Power.” Any of these so-called celebrations puts a student in danger for acute intoxication, alcohol poisoning, or other injury.

Share your expectations for responsible behavior and remind your student that if he or she chooses to drink, to drink responsibly rather than to excess. You want your student to have a happy 21st birthday and many more! For more information about college students and alcohol visit: www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov/CollegeParents/. For more information about alcohol education at KU, visit: www.studenthealth.ku.edu/wellness/wrc.shtml.

KANSAS RELAYS

The Kansas Relays are an annual spring tradition at KU. This year’s event is April 15 -18 in Memorial Stadium. KU students are admitted free to the Relays. Tickets for the Kansas Relays are in the form of admission buttons and are valid for all days of the event. All seating is general admission. Buttons are $10 for adults, $5 for students/youth and seniors. Children under five are admitted free.

To learn more about this KU tradition, visit: http://www.kuathletics.com/sports/c-relay/kan-c-relay-body.html.

HOW TO STUDY FOR FINALS WORKSHOP

The end of the semester can be the most stressful time for students. The Academic Achievement and Access Center will present a “How to Study for Finals” workshop on Wednesday, May 4, to help students focus on finals. The workshop will be held from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. in 356 Strong Hall. The topics will include how to approach finals, how to best prepare, and when to start studying. All students are welcome (undergraduate and graduate), registration is not needed (students may simply show up), and the workshop is free.

For more visit: www.achievement.ku.edu/workshops/.
**MINI COLLEGE: EXPERIENCE STUDENT LIFE**

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is offering a week long learning retreat this summer that invites adults to be students again! Mini College is scheduled for June 1-4 at the Lawrence campus. The program is open to any interested adult, not just KU alumni. Participants can commute, stay in a hotel or, for the full student experience, stay in one of KU’s residence halls.

Mini College promises to be a rewarding experience that won’t break anyone’s budget. The $200 registration fee for the week includes an array of thought-provoking courses, most meals, unique extracurricular activities and a graduation banquet. For an additional $25, educators may be able to receive two continuing education units.

Participants can enroll in up to nine classes chosen from nearly 30 offerings. Some of those courses include “Use it or Lose it: Can You Slow Down Aging,” “KU at the Energy Frontier: Our Role in the Large Hadron Collider,” “Religion and Basketball: Naismith’s Game” and “Balancing the Federal Budget: Could You Do Better?”

In addition to the courses, participants will be able to enroll in one of four specialized tracks that will offer an opportunity through the week to develop more in-depth knowledge of the selected topic. The options that participants may choose from are “Independent Film: Outsiders’ Voices,” "Meet the Authors: English Faculty Book Club,” “Ecology and Evolution of a Changing Planet” and “The Art of Collecting: Curators Share How Museum Pieces are Chosen.”

Extracurricular activities will offer the opportunity to learn more about acclaimed institutions and traditions at KU. Planned tours and activities include trips to museums and the Dole Institute of Politics, a carillon demonstration at the campanile and a campus architecture tour.

For more information visit: [www.minicollege.ku.edu/](http://www.minicollege.ku.edu/).

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**KU STUDENT HOUSING INFORMATION**

The end of the semester is nearing! In addition to studying for final exams, students who live in the residence halls, scholarship halls, or Jayhawker Towers are beginning to make plans to move out for the summer.

At semester’s end, your student will be asked to schedule a check-out appointment in order to leave student housing. Check-out schedules will be available at the front desk, with the Resident Assistant, or with the Scholarship Hall Director. The process takes only a few minutes and includes turning in keys, having the room checked for any damages or missing items, and filling out a forwarding address card. Failure to set up an appointment may result in a charge for an improper checkout, a bill for a lock change, or other charges. The full process is described here: [www.housing.ku.edu/handbook/movingout.shtml](http://www.housing.ku.edu/handbook/movingout.shtml).

**Cleaning Your Space**

- Prior to the check-out appointment, all belongings should be removed from the hall.
- Thoroughly clean the room and suite bathroom.
- Sweep the closet, wipe out drawers, and leave closet doors open.
- Remove all writing, putty, nails, decals, and tape from walls, doors, and ceiling without damaging the paint.
- Remove any rug tape from the floor.
- Remove trash. Empty and wash trash cans. See your Resident Assistant or refer to posted signs for the proper location for discarding large trash items, such as bricks, carpeting, etc. Large trash items should not be left in your room or the hallway.
- Clean and secure windows. Clean off all tape and signs from windows. Lock windows. Window blinds should be down with slats open.

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- Arrange furniture. All original room furniture must be in the room/suite and properly assembled. Return beds to original placement.
- Affix the Safe & Secure poster to the back of your room/suite door using masking tape. This poster was affixed to your room door when you moved in to the room/suite in August.
- Return any dining center dishes or utensils you borrowed to the dining center, hall front desk, or your scholarship hall's dining room.
- Turn room heating/cooling unit to low. Fan and temperature range should be left in the "off" or lowest settings.
- Clean hallway outside your room. Your belongings and any trash should be removed from this area.

TEST PREPARATION COURSES
KU Continuing Education offers Test Preparation Classes for the following graduate school test: LSAT, GMAT, GRE. The classes are offered in both Lawrence and Kansas City.

Visit [www.continuinged.ku.edu](http://www.continuinged.ku.edu) and use the keyword “testprep.”

UPCOMING EVENTS
There is always something happening on the KU campus that supplements the classroom experience. Below are a few of the upcoming events students might enjoy.

- Tea is served most Thursdays at 3 p.m. at the Kansas Union.
- University Dance Company Concert at 7:30 p.m. at the Lied Center on April 16th & 17th.
- Dance Marathon at the Ambler Student Recreation and Fitness Center on April 18th.
- SUA’s Potter Lake Unplugged: Sustainability Festival from 2-5 p.m. at Potter Lake on April 19th.
- Symphonic Band Concert at 7:30 pm. at Swarthout Recital Hall on April 30th.
- Hilltop Hustle Run/Walk at 8 a.m. on April 25th at Hilltop Child Development Center on campus.
- University Band Concert at 7:30 p.m. at the Lied Center on May 5th.

KU’S AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE
Each year on the first Friday of May, hundreds of KU students, faculty and staff participate in the annual fundraising walk for the American Cancer Society. This is a student run project that, over the past three years, has raised over $126,000 for cancer research. The Walk takes place in Memorial Stadium.

For more information on how your student can participate in the Relay for Life on May 1st contact Stacey at stacie.schroeder@cancer.org.
HELPFUL LINKS

- KU Parent Association: www.parentassociation.ku.edu
- KU Information Center: www.kuinfo.ku.edu
- KU Alumni Association: www.kualumni.org
- KU Endowment Association: www.kuendowment.org
- KU News: KU news releases are available online at www.news.ku.edu.

Address your questions or comments to parents@ku.edu. Please do not use the "Reply" key to send e-mail messages.