OPENING CONVOCATION

For over 141 years, Opening Convocation has celebrated the beginning of a new academic year and is a time to share in the traditions that make KU such a special place. Chancellor Hemenway will convene the school year at 7:30 p.m. at the Lied Center on Wednesday, August 15th. This is a gathering of the academic community: the provost, deans, faculty, staff and students. Students are an important part of Opening Convocation. Encourage your student to attend. It is free and open to the public.

HAWK WEEK 2007

Classes begin on Thursday, August 16th, and professors do expect students to be there for the first day of class. The five days before classes begin are part of “Hawk Week.” Hawk Week gives students the opportunity to get acquainted with the campus, learn KU traditions, and become familiar with KU services and resources. Hawk Week is time to meet new friends, get involved, attend programs with refreshments, and relax before the school year begins. To review the entire program, visit: www.hawkweek.ku.edu.

Encourage your student to attend a Hawk Week program: it’s not just for freshmen or those new to KU!

TUITION AND FEES

KU sends an electronic invoice to students at their KU email address for their tuition and fees. No bill is mailed home. Students may print a bill by going to https://sa.ku.edu. Students may give parents or others access to their financial information by establishing an authorized user account. To learn more about the authorized user account, visit: www.bursar.ku.edu/paying_for_ku/authorized_user.aspx

For more information about KU billing visit: www.bursar.ku.edu/billing/

KU STUDENT HOUSING INFORMATION

The Department of Student Housing welcomes you and your student to the beginning of the 2006-07 academic year. Now that your student has moved into the hall, the period of adjustment to college life, new academic expectations, and roommates begins.

The key to a successful roommate relationship is communication. To help facilitate the development of that communication process, the Residence Life staff members will soon be asking your student to complete the Roommate Agreement with his or her roommate(s). Roommates will be discussing many expectations for how they wish to share their new room — including expectations for quiet time, visitors, borrowing of personal items, and the like. As you visit with your student about his or her adjustment to KU, ask about the Roommate Agreement process and encourage your student to be open and honest with new roommates.

The Roommate Agreement is a flexible document and may be revisited at any time by the roommates. Often it is difficult to predict now in August, what our expectations for our living environment will be when the stress of mid-terms hits later in the semester. If problems arise between your student and his or her roommate(s), stress the importance of caring and direct communication about those problems. Do not hesitate to refer your student to the hall staff for advice and support.
Keep in mind that the majority of roommates get along and become great friends. The staff of the Department of Student Housing is here to support your student as s/he enters this new relationship.

**FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE**

Once your student has finalized his class schedule, he or she should review when the final examinations are scheduled. The final exam is listed on the class syllabus as well as on the Registrar’s Web site [www.registrar.ku.edu/exams/079finals.shtml](http://www.registrar.ku.edu/exams/079finals.shtml). Knowing when the final exams are scheduled will make it easier to plan travel home for winter break.

**ADJUSTING TO KU**

Starting college is an exciting step, but it is also not unexpected that your son or daughter will miss home. Here are a few suggestions you can share with your student if he or she feels homesick or is having trouble adjusting to KU:

- First of all, realize that missing home is absolutely normal.
- Look at this time as an exciting opportunity.
- Schedule visits home.
- Stay in touch by phone and email.
- Developing new friendships means taking risks. Sit with someone you don’t know at lunch. Start a conversation with someone you don’t know at the bus stop or the elevator.
- Don’t be afraid to let other people know that you are having a hard time of it. Others may not look like they have had similar problems, but chances are they have; they just look more experienced and at ease now because they’ve been through it before and have survived.
- Seek support if you are truly unhappy and are having difficulties coping. The staff of Counseling and Psychological Services consults with many students every day and is available to assist you.

For more information about helping your student adjust to college or deal with other concerns, go to the Counseling and Psychological Services website at [www.caps.ku.edu/](http://www.caps.ku.edu/).

**FAMILY WEEKEND**

You are always welcome to visit KU, of course, but one of the best times to come to campus is for Family Weekend, which will be September 15th & 16th. The weekend offers a variety of events that will give you a chance to meet the people and see the places that are important to your KU student, from concerts and presentations to a football game at the stadium. Check out all the weekend’s festivities by visiting: [www.familyweekend.ku.edu/](http://www.familyweekend.ku.edu/).

**HELPFUL LINKS**

KU Parent Association: [www.parentassociation.ku.edu/](http://www.parentassociation.ku.edu/)

KU Information Center: [www.kuinfo.ku.edu/](http://www.kuinfo.ku.edu/)

KU Alumni Association: [www.kualumni.org/](http://www.kualumni.org/)

KU Endowment Association: [www.kuendowment.org/](http://www.kuendowment.org/)

KU News: KU news releases are available online at [www.news.ku.edu](http://www.news.ku.edu).

**SELECTED DATES**

- August 16 First day of Fall 2007 classes
- September 3 LABOR DAY (No classes, University offices closed)
- September 15-16 Family Weekend
- October 11-14 Fall Break (No classes, University offices open)
- November 21-25 Thanksgiving Break (No classes, University offices open 11/21, closed 11/22-23)
- December 10-14 Finals
- January 17, 2008 First day of Spring 2008 Semester
- May 18, Commencement 2008