KU Parent Association Enews
AUGUST 2008 TOPICS

Text Version

Hawk Week 2008
Opening Convocation
Adjusting to KU
Family Day
Final Exam Schedule
Parent PLUS Loans
KU Student Housing Information
Tuition and Fees
West Lawrence Exit on Interstate 70
Selected Dates

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

SELECTED DATES

• August 21 — First day of Fall 2008
• September 1 — Labor Day (No classes, University offices closed)
• September 20 — Family Day and Band Day
• October 16-19 — Fall Break (No classes, University offices open)
• November 26-30 — Thanksgiving Break
• November 27-30 — University offices closed
• December 12 — Stop Day
• December 15-19 — Final Examinations
• January 15, 2009 — First day of Spring Semester
• January 19, 2009 — Martin Luther King Day (No classes, University offices closed)
• March 16-22, 2009 — Spring Break (No classes, University offices open)
• May 8 — Stop Day
• May 17, 2009 — Commencement 2009
• June 9, 2009 — First day of Summer Session
• July 31, 2009 — Last day of Summer Session
• August 20, 2009 — First day of Fall 2009

WEST LAWRENCE EXIT ON INTERSTATE 70

Please be advised that there is construction underway on Interstate 70 that will alter how you enter Lawrence. The West Lawrence exit (Exit 202) is currently closed and is expected to reopen in six months. If traveling west on Interstate 70, use the East Lawrence exit (Exit 204) and if traveling east on Interstate 70, use the LeCompton Exit, (Exit 197) or the East Lawrence exit. For more information check the Kansas Turnpike Authority website at www.spanningthefuture.com.

HAWK WEEK 2008

Classes begin on Thursday, August 21st, 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!
OPENING CONVOCATION
For over 142 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 20th. 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.

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/

FAMILY DAY 2008
September 20th promises to be a fun-filled day in Lawrence! Family Day offers a variety of activities. Band Day is also September 20th. Watch the parade in downtown Lawrence along Massachusetts Street that afternoon.

Please join us for Family Day and Band Day. For complete information visit: www.familyweekend.ku.edu.

HOMECOMING
Homecoming Week will be Oct. 19-25 this year and will include daily events at sites on and off campus, concluding with the KU-Texas Tech football game in Memorial Stadium.

You can find more information at: www.homecoming.ku.edu.

FINAL EXAMS SCHEDULE
Once your student has finalized his or her 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. http://www.registrar.ku.edu/pdf/089final.pdf.

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 on 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 the Counseling and Psychological Services website at [www.caps.ku.edu](http://www.caps.ku.edu).

---

**PARENT LOAN FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS (PLUS)**

Federal PLUS loans allow parents with good credit to borrow funds to pay educational expenses for their child’s undergraduate education. The interest rate on PLUS loans is fixed at 7.9%. If your child has a complete 2008-09 financial aid file and you would like to apply for a PLUS loan, you must complete the following steps:

- Submit a PLUS Loan Request form to the Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA). This form can be downloaded from the OSFA website at [www.financialaid.ku.edu/forms/09ay/09ayPLUSApp.pdf](http://www.financialaid.ku.edu/forms/09ay/09ayPLUSApp.pdf).
- Complete a Federal Direct Parent Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN). You may complete this form electronically at [http://dolenote.ed.gov](http://dolenote.ed.gov). You will need to utilize the unique Personal Identification Number (PIN) you received from the U.S. Department of Education to sign the MPN electronically. If you need to request a new or duplicate PIN, this can be done at [http://pin.ed.gov](http://pin.ed.gov).

If you have questions or concerns, or if you would like to speak to a Financial Aid Counselor, please contact the OSFA at 785-864-4700 or stop by 50 Strong Hall.

---

**STUDENT HOUSING INFORMATION**

The Department of Student Housing welcomes you and your student to the beginning of the 2008-09 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 he/she enters this new relationship.

---

**Rock Chalk, Jayhawk**

![Rock Chalk, Jayhawk](image1.jpg)

**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).

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

---

**Go KU!!**

Office of the Vice Provost for Student Success
KU Parent Association | KU Alumni Association | KU Endowment Association
KU News | KU News Subscription
Remove from this List | Subscribe to this List

Most photos courtesy of KU University Relations.