AUGUST 2010 TOPICS

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KU Parent Assistance Line (785) 864-5872
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Please address your questions or comments to parents@ku.edu. Please do not use the "Reply" key to send e-mail messages.
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IMPORTANT KU PHONE NUMBERS

Vice Provost for Student Success (785) 864-4060
College of Liberal Arts & Sci. Acad. Serv. (785) 864-3500
Counseling & Psychological Services (785) 864-2277
Department of Student Housing (785) 864-4560
Financial Aid and Scholarships (785) 864-4700
Office of University Registrar (785) 864-4422
Student Health Services (785) 864-9500

LEGAL SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Do you have a creative student who needs a song or poem copyrighted? Is their computer warranty not being honored? Do you need a power of attorney before your student goes abroad to study, do they need a notary or tax advice? Students need legal advice for these matters as well as alcohol-related misdemeanors, traffic tickets and landlord-tenant issues. Legal Services for Students assists students with all these situations, along with many others.

Student Senate funds Legal Services for Students with a portion of the required campus fee. Staffed by attorneys and law students who advocate for currently enrolled students on the Lawrence campus, the office offers advice and education regarding many legal matters facing students. Attorneys will also represent students in court in landlord-tenant and consumer issues. Legal Services are confidential and students can make an appointment by calling 785-864-5665. More information is available on the Legal Services for Students website at http://www.legalservices.ku.edu/.
FAMILY DAY
September 25th promises to be a fun-filled day in Lawrence! Family Day offers a variety of activities. Band Day is also September 25th. Watch the parade in downtown Lawrence along Massachusetts Street.

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

ADJUSTING TO KU
Starting college is an exciting step, but it is also not unexpected that your son or daughter may face some difficulties making the transition from secondary school to the demands of college. For most, these difficulties are temporary. But for some the adjustment to the more rigorous academic work, the need to wisely manage their time plus meeting new people can be stressful and lead to early withdrawal from college.

Here are a few suggestions you can share with your student if he or she is having trouble adjusting to KU:

- First of all, realize that missing home is absolutely normal.
- Schedule visits home.
- Stay in touch by phone and email.
- Developing new friendships means taking risks. Sit with someone you do not know at lunch. Start a conversation with someone you do not know at the bus stop or the elevator.
- Do not 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 have 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.

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 website. Visit: www.registrar.ku.edu/pdf/exams/fall_2010_final_exam_schedule.pdf.

Knowing when the final exams are scheduled will make it easier to plan travel home for winter break.

HAWK WEEK INFORMATION
The most important times in a new student's college career are the first six weeks of freshmen year. This is when students make their impression of their new surroundings and decide whether to remain enrolled or to transfer. Encourage your student to really get to know KU and participate in "Hawk Week."

The five days before classes begin are known as "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 is not just for freshmen or those new to KU!

HOMECOMING
Homecoming Week is October 18-24 this year and will include daily events at sites on and off campus. The football game at Memorial Stadium is against Big XII rival Texas A&M University on October 23rd. Homecoming concludes with the Jayhawk Jog on October 24th. You can find more information at: www.homecoming.ku.edu.
STUDENT HOUSING INFORMATION

Students happy with their on-campus housing
On-campus residents are highly satisfied with many aspects of their housing, including convenience and affordability, the ability to easily study, and the ability to meet new people and get involved. The student satisfaction survey was conducted in spring 2010 after residents had lived in the halls about nine months. Nearly 1,400 of about 5,000 on-campus residents completed the survey.

Here are a few results specifically for parents:

- 73 percent said on-campus housing was convenient and nearly half rated the affordability as "good to excellent."
- 80 percent said housing helped them meet people and belong to the KU community.
- 79 percent of students participated in educational programming and social activities.
- 74 percent of students who live in on-campus housing carry a 3.0 GPA or above. More than half say on-campus housing helped their ability to study.

Roommate Agreements
Now that your student has moved into KU Student Housing, the adjustment to college, academics and roommates begins. We want to help successful roommate communication.

Residence Life staff members will encourage your student to complete a Roommate Agreement. Roommates will discuss expectations for sharing their space, including studying, quiet time, visitors, borrowing items, and safety. As you visit with your student, ask about the Roommate Agreement and encourage your student to be open and honest with new roommates.

The Roommate Agreement is a flexible document and roommates may revise it at any time. Most KU roommates get along and become great friends, but if problems arise, emphasize to your student the importance of caring and direct communication. Refer your student to the hall staff for advice and support. Thanks for choosing on-campus housing and letting us support your student in these new relationships.

Limited Number Single Rooms Available
After opening, we anticipate a limited number of residence hall single rooms will be available. If your student is interested in a room change or has a request for a single room, have your student contact the Assistant Complex Director.

Get a Sneak Peek at the Scholarship Halls
Do you know a senior in high school? Introduce them to KU’s Scholarship Halls through the annual Sneak Peek. Sneak Peek will be 1:00-5:00 p.m., September 18. Sign up on the Department of Student Housing website or contact housing@ku.edu. Check-in at 1:00 p.m. in Alderson Auditorium at the KU Memorial Union.

MANDATORY ALCOHOL EDUCATION
KU requires alcohol education (AlcoholEdu) for all incoming degree-seeking students under the age of 22. Students will receive an email informing them on how to log onto the program and other information. Any KU student can voluntarily take the course.

AlcoholEdu consists of two parts. The first date to begin part one is August 30th with a completion deadline of September 10th. The second part is available for completion 30 days later. Students who do not complete the mandatory alcohol education program will have an administrative hold placed on their records which will prevent them from spring enrollment. Once the program is completed, the hold will be removed.

For more information visit: www.alcohol.ku.edu.

OPENING CONVOCATION
For over 143 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 Bernadette Gray-Little will convene the school year at 7:30 p.m. at the Lied Center on Wednesday, August 18th. This is a gathering of the entire academic community: 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.
PARENTS: STILL AN IMPORTANT INFLUENCE

As parents, you have worked to insure your student's safety, be it riding in a car seat as an infant, wearing a bike helmet, or wearing a seat belt whenever in an automobile. You have talked to your student about danger and dangerous behaviors, including the abuse of alcohol and other drugs. The University of Kansas, too, is committed to student safety and shares in the expectation of responsible behavior.

Many parents readily agree that college students drink alcohol, some use illegal drugs, and still others abuse prescription drugs. Yet, most parents believe that it is not their student engaging in these risky behaviors. Whether it is your student or not who is drinking irresponsibly, using illegal drugs or abusing prescription drugs, it is important that parents share their expectations. You talk to your student about grades, budgeting, and alcohol; you need to talk to them about making safe and smart choices. Research shows that parents continue to play an important role in their college student's life.


RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS AND EXAMS

KU's policies do permit absences from class and exams for religious holidays if the student has made prior arrangements with the faculty member. The faculty member and student will work to find a mutually agreeable resolution to the time conflict. If your student will need a religious holiday accommodation, have him or her talk to the professor at the beginning of the semester.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT JOB FAIR

The Student Employment Job Fair will be held on Wednesday, August 18th from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on the fourth floor of the Kansas Union. Both on-campus and off-campus employers participate in the fair. Stop by and meet employers, pick up information and applications. To learn more about the Student Employment Job Fair visit: www.ucc.ku.edu/.

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/.

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 on Facebook: www.ku.edu/facebook
- 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.