KU PARENT ASSOCIATION
ADVISORY BOARD

The KU Parent Association Advisory Board is made up of ten parents who share the parent perspective with the Vice Provost for Student Success. The Board meets twice each year: once during Family Weekend in the Fall semester and again during the Spring semester.

If you would like to volunteer for the board, please send an email to parents@ku.edu. Explain your interest and who your student is at KU.

RETURNING HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Most college students look forward to returning home after finals: they see home as a place to relax and find comfort. At the very same time the return of the student can add even more stress to the holidays for both college students and their parents. Your college student has been changing while at KU: intellectually as well as socially and emotionally. You have been changing, too. For you and your student this may be a time to reacquaint yourselves: set new expectations and acknowledge that your relationship is different now.

Communication and being flexible are key. Let your student know when he or she is expected at family events and when they can bow out. Your expectation for family time may be very different than your students: talk about it. Talk to your student about the house rules: curfew, sleeping late, and even chores. Clear expectations can help you and your student avoid conflicts that add to the stress of the holiday season. For tips on how to keep the holidays happy, visit: www.news.ku.edu/2004/04N/DecNews/Dec20/tips.html.
EMERGENCY MESSAGING SYSTEM TESTED

KU successfully tested its emergency text messaging system on Nov. 15. Nearly 11,000 students, faculty and staff have already signed up for the free service, which is intended to alert those on campus of an immediate campus emergency by sending a short written notice to cell phone users. During the test, the system delivered messages to most recipients within two to seven minutes.

If your son or daughter has not signed up for the emergency messaging system, he or she can do so at: [https://sa.ku.edu](https://sa.ku.edu). Click on “Emergency contact info” in the menu box on the left. To sign up, students must provide their cell phone number, including area code, and the name of their cell phone carrier.

Other facets of KU’s emergency notification system include:

- **E-mail alerts:** The university has established an emergency broadcast e-mail system to reach approximately 33,000 KU e-mail accounts.
- **Public address system:** Fire alarms in many campus buildings allow emergency dispatchers in the 911 center to provide real-time voice messages to an individual building, a group of buildings, or to all equipped buildings. Currently, 48 buildings, comprising a majority of the usable space on the Lawrence campus, are equipped with this system.
- **Web page alerts:** The university will use its home page, [www.ku.edu](http://www.ku.edu), as a centralized location for information updates.
- **Voice mail:** Faculty and staff with voice mail equipped phones can receive a broadcast voice mail message.

To learn more about the comprehensive emergency notification system, visit: [www.news.ku.edu/2007/november/13/text.shtml](http://www.news.ku.edu/2007/november/13/text.shtml).

ACCESS TO STUDENT'S GRADES

The Enroll & Pay system allows for easy grade retrieval. Students log into Enroll & Pay and select “view my grades.” Students can print a copy of their grades from this screen. KU does not mail grades to students. For more information on how parents can access student grades, visit: [www.registrar.ku.edu/exams/](http://www.registrar.ku.edu/exams/).

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR GRADUATES

For those students graduating and needing health insurance, the Kansas Alumni Association offers GradMed. This is an inexpensive, comprehensive, short-term health insurance for alumni, as well as new graduates. You can learn more about this health insurance option by visiting: [www.gradmed.com](http://www.gradmed.com).

KU OPEN BETWEEN SEMESTERS

Most University offices remain open between the two semesters, although many staff members take vacation during that time. Faculty members are often conducting research during this time and are not in their offices. The University is closed for state holidays on December 24th, 25th, and January 1st. Offices are also closed on January 21st in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

PRE-ENROLLING FOR SPRING TUTORING

Students may pre-enroll for spring tutoring now. The Academic Achievement and Access Center is offering tutoring services for the Spring semester of 2008!

Small group tutoring at a reasonable fee will be available on campus for specific courses.

The online enrollment link is [www.tutoring.ku.edu/group_request_form.shtml](http://www.tutoring.ku.edu/group_request_form.shtml).

To learn more about Tutoring Services in general, visit: [www.tutoring.ku.edu/~tutoring/orientationinfo.shtml](http://www.tutoring.ku.edu/~tutoring/orientationinfo.shtml).
KU STUDENT HOUSING INFORMATION

If your student is planning to leave KU at the end of this semester, please remind him or her to drop by the Department of Student Housing office in Corbin Hall to complete a Contract Cancellation Request. Students who are withdrawing from KU will be assessed a contract cancellation penalty that is determined by the student's type of residence hall and meal plan. Students who are graduating or going on a study abroad program are not charged a penalty.

The residence halls close on December 14th at 11:00 p.m., and scholarship halls at noon on December 15th. Residence halls and scholarship halls will re-open on Tuesday, January 15th at 8:00 a.m.

PANDEMIC FLU INFORMATION

Maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment is a priority at the University of Kansas. In response to global and local concerns about pandemic influenza, KU has created a Pandemic Response Plan. The purpose of the Pandemic Response Plan is to provide an outline/guide for timely and informed decision making as information regarding the unique aspects of an emerging pandemic becomes available. To learn more about KU’s plan, visit: www.pandemic.ku.edu.

BLUEPRINTS LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Blueprints is a special, one day workshop for emerging student leaders. The workshop is Saturday, February 23rd. Applications and scholarships are available online. This is a good opportunity for students to get more involved with campus life. Every student at KU is invited to participate and learn more about leadership. Research indicates that students involved in campus life tend to have higher graduation rates than those who are not. To learn more about this involvement opportunity, visit: http://groups.ku.edu/~bprints/.

GLOBAL AWARENESS PROGRAM CERTIFICATE

The Global Awareness Program (GAP) is a KU initiative that recognizes undergraduates' international experiences. Students can have an international experience by taking classes with an international focus, foreign language study, participating in international co-curricular activities, as well as study abroad.

GAP is free and undergraduates in any major can earn global awareness certification. Students completing this program will have their international experience noted on their official KU academic transcript; thus providing evidence that the student is ready to compete in an international economy. Students who have completed some or all of the requirements can receive retroactive GAP credits.

To learn more about the certificate process, visit: http://www.ku.edu/~oip/gap/process/.
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.

SELECTED DATES

2007
• December 7 - Stop Day
  (No classes, University offices open)
• December 10 through 14 - Finals
• December 24 and 25 - Christmas Holiday
  (University closed)

2008
• January 1 - New Year’s Day (University closed)
• January 17 - First day of Spring classes
• January 21 - Martin Luther King Day
  (No classes, University offices closed)
• February 29 - Last day to elect
  Course Repeat Policy
• March 17 through 23 - Spring Break
  (No classes, University offices open)
• April 17 - Last day to withdraw from a class
• May 18 - Commencement
• June 3 - First day of Summer classes
• July 25 - Last day of Summer classes
• August 21 - First day of Fall classes

Office of the Vice Provost for Student Success
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If you need to change your email address, send your old and new email address to parents@ku.edu.