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 is the key as well as being flexible. 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.

An interesting article from the student perspective on the journey to independence can be found on the University Daily Kansan website at: www.kansan.com/stories/2007/apr/26/home_where_fight/.
BEING INVOLVED ON CAMPUS
Each month the Student Involvement and Leadership Center publishes the InvolveMEnt newsletter. A different student organization is featured each month as well as activities for all students. Research shows that students who have a connection to campus have higher grades and persist in their education.

To see the latest issue of InvolveMEnt visit: www.silc.ku.edu/nvolveme/.

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/parents/grade_request.shtml.

PRE-ENROLL 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 2009! Small group tutoring at a reasonable fee will be available on campus for specific courses.

To learn more about Tutoring Services in general or to pre-enroll for spring, visit: www.tutoring.ku.edu/.

KU WRITING CENTER
Many students are feverishly working on papers and projects as the semester winds down. One resource that students will want to use is the KU Writing Center. Writers need feedback, sounding boards, and other people to coach and guide them while they compose. The KU Writing Center is a place for productive talk about writing, with trained peer consultants to help students brainstorm, draft or edit their writing. Consultations are available in person, via email and instant message.

The KU Writing Center's web site has a variety of resources to help students improve their writing. Visit the KU Writing Center at: www.writing.ku.edu/.

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 type of residence hall and meal plan the student has. Students who are graduating or going on a study abroad program are not charged a penalty.

Next year's housing contract will be sent to your student's campus address in January. We hope you'll take time to talk about next year's plans during the upcoming semester break. For more information about housing, contact us at housing@ku.edu or www.housing.ku.edu.

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Student Housing is a great value — one payment covers rent, food, utilities and cable — and we know on-campus housing promotes learning. KU housing offers Academic Resource Centers, tutors, peer advisors, learning communities, and study space. Students who live on campus are more secure, get better grades, and graduate on time, even as they work through those upper-level classes.

Students who live on campus have the best of both worlds — learning AND laughter! Maybe you’ve heard your student describe our Rock the Block Tailgates or camping out for basketball tickets. Living on-campus really is fun (and convenient!) And don’t forget the options of suite-style living or on-campus apartments.

Residents returning to Student Housing get first priority for residence preference. Ask your student about the 2009-10 contract packet in January.

**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 doing research during this time and are not in their offices. The University is closed for state holidays on December 25th, December 26th and January 1st. Offices are also closed on January 21st in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

**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.


**INTERSTATE 70 EXIT AT LAWRENCE OPENS**

Exit 202 on the Kansas Turnpike (Interstate 70) has reopened a month earlier than expected. Exit 202 is commonly called the West Lawrence exit and is the most direct route to the KU campus. Plans to close Exit 204, the East Lawrence exit, for reconstruction have been delayed until 2010.

**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 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.

**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).

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

Office of the Vice Provost for Student Success

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