DECEMBER TOPICS

Access to Student’s Grades
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KU Parent Advisory Board
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Orientation Assistant Positions
Returning Home for the Holidays
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Students and Social Media
* KU Parent Association
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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Remove from this List  Subscribe to this List
*
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
Office of Student Financial Aid (785) 864-4700
Office of University Registrar (785) 864-4422
Student Health Services (785) 864-9500

IMPORTANT KU DATES

December 10  Stop Day (No classes, University offices open)
December 13-17  Final Examinations
January 21, 2011  First day of Spring Classes
March 21-27  Spring Break (No classes, University offices open)
May 13  Stop Day (No classes, University offices open)
May 16-20  Final Examinations
May 22  Commencement 2011
June 7  First day of Summer Term
July 29  Last day of Summer Term
August 22  First day of Fall 2011 Term
September 5  Labor Day (No classes, University offices closed)
September 10  Family/Band Day
October 1  Homecoming
October 10-11  Fall Break (No classes, University offices open)
November 23-27  Thanksgiving Break (No classes, University offices open on 23rd)
December 9  Stop Day (No classes, University offices open)
December 12-16  Final Examinations
January 17, 2012  First day of Spring 2012 Term

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 nor does it offer online grade viewing for parents. For more information on how parents can obtain a copy of student grades, besides from their student, visit: www.registrar.ku.edu/parents/grade_request.shtml.

ACCESS TO STUDENT’S INVOICE
KU does not mail bills to students, rather, the invoice can be found on the student’s Enroll & Pay account. Students are sent an email when a new invoice has been posted to their account. If you would like access to your student’s invoice, please have them create an “Authorized User” account for you. You and your student can learn more about the Authorized User at: www.bursar.ku.edu/paying_for_ku/authorized_user.aspx. The Bursar’s Office also has an excellent collection of Frequently Asked Questions that can be found at: www.bursar.ku.edu/faq/index.aspx#top.
ALCOHOL MIXTURES
You may have heard that the FDA took the alcohol plus caffeine drink Four Loko off the market and this is good news since it can have serious health risks. Have you heard about the alcoholic whipped cream? These whipped creams are heavily infused with alcohol—such as 36 proof. It is a dangerous combination as students do not realize the amount of alcohol they are ingesting with the sweet cream. While Four Loko may be off the shelves, some students continue to combine caffeinated beverages like Red Bull with vodka. Again, this is a dangerous combination of caffeine and alcohol.

It is always wise to talk with your student about alcohol use and it would be prudent to make sure he or she is aware of the dangers of alcohol infused whipped creams or other creative combinations of alcohol.

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/av3/index.asp?AssnID=301.

HOUSING INFO
Winter Break
Residence halls will close for the semester at 11 p.m. on Friday, December 17. Dinner on the 17th will be the last meal served in 2010. McCollum Hall and Jayhawker Towers will remain open during the winter break period—if demand is sufficient, other Daisy Hill residence halls may be open as well. Scholarship Halls close at noon, Saturday, December 18. Halls will reopen for spring semester at 8 a.m., Tuesday, January 18.

Before leaving for winter break, students must:

- Turn off, defrost, and clean out refrigerators. Leave the refrigerator door open.
- Unplug all electrical items.
- Turn off room lights.

Residents who will need to stay on campus during semester break should register at break.housing.ku.edu.

Coming up in Student Housing
We want your student back next year. Reserving space in KU Student Housing is a simple three-step process:

1. Sign a contract.
2. Pay initial payment.
3. Select your room.

Your student may fill out a contract online at any time. Residents returning to Student Housing get first choice of hall, and can easily upgrade to a larger room, a suite, or a studio. And if your student is ready for an apartment, on-campus apartments (with optional meal plans, good parking, security, and paid utilities) are available at the Jayhawker Towers.

Talk with your student about 2011-12 during semester break. Living on campus is a smart choice. Student Housing is a great value—one payment covers rent, food, utilities and cable. Students who live on campus get better grades and graduate on time, even as they work through those upper-level classes. Living on campus is more environmentally friendly, too.

Leadership & learning opportunities for your student
Ask your student about applying to work as a Resident Assistant next year. Application materials are available online at www.housing.ku.edu. Applications are due to the Department of Student Housing in Corbin Hall by 4:30 p.m., Friday, January 28.
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.

ORIENTATION ASSISTANT POSITIONS
New Student Orientation is looking for students interested in helping new students transition to the KU community. As part of the Orientation Assistant (OA) Team, your student would not only provide support for incoming students and their parents, but also develop professional and personal skills.

The OA position offers outstanding students an opportunity to get involved, develop leadership ability and strengthen communication skills. As part of the team, OA’s will strengthen their ability to multi-task, problem-solve, and adapt to diverse situations while bringing their own unique experiences and abilities to help new students start their own Jayhawk journey. This is a full-time, paid summer leadership position (May 23-August 1, 2011) with some required academic year responsibilities (Hawk Week, Hawk Days, Rock Chalk Chow Downs, Spring Orientation, Transfer Orientation & Enrollment, Destination KU, other new student gatherings).

To learn more about becoming part of the OA Team, contact New Student Orientation at 785-864-4270 or visit our website at www.orientation.ku.edu. Applications will be available online November 22nd at https://jobs.ku.edu/ under student jobs. Applications are due by December 21st.

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 24th, December 31st and January 17th.

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/.

STUDENTS AND SOCIAL MEDIA
If you think college students are avid users of social media (Facebook, texting, instant message), you are correct. According to a recent study by the International Center for Media and the Public Agenda at the University of Maryland at College Park, when students are cut off from social media for 24 hours, they use the same words to describe their feelings as associated with those addicted to drugs or alcohol. In the study, 200 Maryland students were asked to abstain from using social media for 24 hours and then to write their feelings. The words frequently used: in withdrawal, frantically craving, very anxious, extremely antsy, miserable, jittery and crazy.

Social media are the way students connect with others and being without it means losing personal connections. Student could easily go without a newspaper or television, but they want their Ipod or smart phone. To learn more about the study visit: http://www.newsdesk.umd.edu/sociss/release.cfm?ArticleID=2144.
SPRING SEMESTER PLANNING
There is still time to enroll for the spring semester. Spring semester begins on Friday, January 21st. Professors do expect students to be in attendance on the first day of class even if the semester begins on a Friday.

You can find a listing of all deadlines for the academic semester on the University Registrar’s web site: www.registrar.ku.edu.

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.