## KU Parent Association

December 2011 Enews

### DECEMBER TOPICS

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- Printer Friendly Version
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- Financial Aid Information
- Health Insurance of Graduates
- Important KU Phone Numbers
- KU Open Between Semesters
- On Campus Dining Options
- Returning Home for the Holidays
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### IMPORTANT KU DATES

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<td>December 9, 2011</td>
<td>Stop Day (No classes, University offices open)</td>
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<td>December 12-16, 2011</td>
<td>Final Examinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 17, 2012</td>
<td>First day of Spring Semester</td>
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<td>March 19-25, 2012</td>
<td>Spring Break (No classes, University offices open)</td>
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<td>May 4, 2012</td>
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<td>May 7-11, 2012</td>
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<td>June 6, 2012</td>
<td>First Day of Summer Term</td>
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<td>July 27, 2012</td>
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<td>August 20, 2012</td>
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<td>October 6-9, 2012</td>
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<td>December 14, 2012</td>
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### KU PARENT ASSOCIATION

- KU Parent Association online
- KU Parent Assistance Line (785) 864-5872

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

Subscribe to this List
Remove from this List
IMPORTANT KU PHONE NUMBERS
Vice Provost for Student Affairs (785) 864-4060
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Academic Services (785) 864-3500
Counseling & Psychological Services (785) 864-2277
Department of Student Housing (785) 864-4560
Financial Aid & Scholarships (785) 864-4700
Office of University Registrar (785) 864-4422
Student Health Services (785) 864-9500

ACCESS TO STUDENT’S GRADES & INVOICES
The Enroll & Pay system allows for easy grade retrieval. Students log in to 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, visit [www.registrar.ku.edu/parents/grade_request.shtml](http://www.registrar.ku.edu/parents/grade_request.shtml).

Students are sent an email when a new invoice has been posted to their account. KU does not mail bills to students or their parents; rather, the invoice can be found on the student’s Enroll and Pay 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](http://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](http://www.bursar.ku.edu/faq/index.aspx#top).

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION
It’s time to start thinking about financial aid for 2012-13. Here’s what we recommend: File your taxes early, then your student can use the Internal Revenue Service data retrieval tool to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Keep these dates in mind
January 1, FAFSA is available at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)
February 1, IRS data retrieval tool is available through the FAFSA website
March 1, KU Priority Date for filing the FAFSA

Why use the IRS tool?
It pulls tax information directly from your records and transfers it to your student’s FAFSA application.

Can’t file your taxes before March 1?
Enter estimates of your income and taxes on the FAFSA before the priority date and then your student can update the FAFSA application later.

If you have questions or need assistance completing the FAFSA, please contact the Financial Aid & Scholarships office at (785) 864-4700, or financialaid@ku.edu. The website is [www.financialaid.ku.edu](http://www.financialaid.ku.edu).

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](http://www.gradmed.com/av3/index.asp?AssnID=301).

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 26, January 2 and January 16.
ON-CAMPUS DINING OPTIONS

KU Dining has recently implemented “unlimited” all day access to the residential dining centers. These new dining plans are a testament to KU Dining's commitment to enhance customers’ overall dining experience. With the installation of new plasma TVs and wireless internet at Ekdahl Dining Commons (Mrs. E's), Oliver Dining and The Studio, the dining centers—now more than ever before—are truly destinations for studying, dining and socializing with friends and classmates.

The Jayhawk or Rock Chalk unlimited dining plans give students newfound flexibility and “value-added features.” These include continuous service hours, bonus items—such as free pizzas, a 5 percent discount at all retail dining campus locations using their KU Cuisine Cash and additional guest meals. All of these recent improvements have enhanced the best of what KU Dining’s residential dining program already provides: an inviting atmosphere, great food, immense variety of well-balanced/nutritional menu selections, diet & exercise educational materials/displays along with sumptuous special events planned throughout the academic year.

If you would like to learn more about KU Dining’s new unlimited dining plans, please visit www.kudining.com and click on “Dining Plans.”

RETURING 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.

SPACE FOR STUDYING

The Anschutz Library provides quiet study areas on Levels 1 and 2 of the Library while the Learning Studio offers group study rooms and as well as individual study carrels and tables.

Check out the Learning Studio at www.learningstudio.ku.edu. Students will also find quiet study areas in all KU libraries. For locations visit http://www.lib.ku.edu/locations.

SPRING SEMESTER PLANNING

There is still time to enroll for the spring semester. Spring semester begins on Tuesday, January 17. Professors do expect students to be in attendance on the first day of class. You can find a listing of all deadlines for the academic semester on the University Registrar’s web site www.registrar.ku.edu.

STUDENT HOUSING INFORMATION

Reward Yourself—private room, or $400 for next year’s residence hall contract

We want your student to return to KU Student Housing. We’re offering a $400 rewards card or private room as an incentive for choosing a residence hall next year. Too, if your student signs the 2012-13 online contract now, they’ll be first to pick any residence hall space in February.
Your student may choose one of these two Reward Yourself options:

- $400 rewards card ($200 each semester) to the KU Memorial Union. The $200 is split: $100 is in KU Cuisine Cash and a $100 reward card to the Union Bookstore.
- A 10th floor McCollum Hall double room as a single. You pay the double rate ($1,300 savings for academic year).

See Reward Yourself details at www.housing.ku.edu/reward-yourself. On-campus living is the smart choice for academic support, a stronger GPA, graduating on time, fond memories and lifelong friends. Every on-campus housing option is convenient to class, sports and activities. We offer live-in support staff, building security and hundreds of job opportunities.

Winter Break schedule for hall closing
Residence halls close for the semester at 11 p.m., Friday, December 16. Scholarship Halls close at noon on Saturday, December 17, so that students may complete final cleaning responsibilities. The halls will reopen for the spring semester 8 a.m., Saturday, January 14.

Before leaving for winter break, students must:

- Turn off, clean out and defrost refrigerator. The refrigerator door should be left open.
- Unplug all electrical items.
- Turn off room lights

McCollum Hall and Jayhawker Towers remain open during all break periods. Dates and rates for special break housing are available. A complete calendar of hall closings is also available.