OCTOBER 2008 TOPICS

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

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

SELECTED DATES

- October 19 – 25: Homecoming Week
- November 17: Last day to drop a class or withdrawal from KU
- November 26 – 30: Thanksgiving Break begins (No classes)
- November 27 – 30: University offices closed.
- December 12: Stop Day
- December 15-19: Final Examinations
- January 15, 2009: First day of Spring Semester
- January 19, 2009: Martin Luther King Day (No classes, University offices closed)
- March 16-22, 2009: Spring Break (No classes, University offices open)
- May 8, 2009: Stop Day
- May 17, 2009: Commencement 2009
- June 9, 2009: First day of Summer Session 2009
- July 31, 2009: Last day of Summer Session 2009
- August 20, 2009: First day of Fall 2009

FALL GRADUATE RECOGNITION CEREMONIES

KU has one commencement ceremony and it is at the end of the Spring semester; however, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and some individual schools often have fall graduation recognition ceremonies. Fall graduates are encouraged to come back to campus for the May commencement as well. For specific information about a ceremony call the Dean’s Office of the College or appropriate school.

The following is a listing of December ceremonies:

- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: December 14th at 2 p.m. at the Lied Center.
- School of Business: December 12th at 4 p.m. at the Lied Center
- School of Engineering: December 13th at 9 a.m. at Woodruff Auditorium in Kansas Union
- School of Journalism and Mass Communication: December 14th at 1 p.m. at Woodruff Auditorium in Kansas Union

Students must complete an Application For Degree to officially graduate. For more information visit: www.timetable.ku.edu/~registr/current/graduation.shtml.
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
2008 is a presidential election year and KU students who are eligible to vote are encouraged to exercise their right to vote. To learn more about voter registration at KU, visit: www.douglas-county.com/depts/cl/ve/ve_voterreg.aspx.

Students can explore careers in public service on October 21st in the Kansas Room of the Kansas Union from 4:30 – 7:00 p.m. Representatives from federal, state and local governments will be there. To learn more, visit: www.kucareerhawk.com/PSFair08.

The Dole Institute of Politics offers students many opportunities to learn more about civic involvement and politics as an honorable profession in a bi-partisan atmosphere with political, practitioners, and writers. There is Pizza and Politics: lively conversation over free pizza, www.doleinstitute.org/students-pizzapolitics.shtml. There are also study groups with the Dole Fellows. Students can attend one or all sessions free of charge. There’s no prior knowledge of the topic necessary and no outside reading. Study Groups are a way learn more about a topic impacting today’s society. www.doleinstitute.org/programs-studygroups.shtml.

ADVISING & ENROLLMENT FOR SPRING SEMESTER
Advising for the spring semester officially starts on October 20th. Students are asked to complete advising appointments prior to November 26th although appointments are available after that date. Most students see an advisor in the University Advising Center until they have declared their major or are accepted into a professional school. Students admitted into the Honors Program or professional schools are advised by those academic units. Students generally cannot enroll without an advising appointment.

For complete information about advising and enrollment, visit: www.advising.ku.edu.

PRE-ORDERING TEXTBOOKS FOR SPRING
Pre-ordering textbooks from the KU Bookstores is one of the best ways for students to reduce their textbook expenses each semester. Pre-orders will be accepted in the stores or online during the enrollment period and through the end of December.

KU students saved an average of $25 on textbooks for the 2007-08 academic year because of improvements made by KU Bookstores with help from the Textbook Task Force. KU Bookstores increased the availability of used books in its inventory from 30 percent to 45 percent. KU Bookstores also offers a 5 percent discount to students who pre-order their textbooks, which saves students time and money and helps KU Bookstores more efficiently maintain inventory and keep costs down. To learn more about the KU Bookstores or to pre-order books, visit: www.kubookstores.com.

MAY COMMENCEMENT
Commencement is May 17th in Memorial Stadium. In March, graduating seniors and their parents (if the student has provided that information in the student’s records) are each mailed an informational packet to help them prepare for commencement weekend.

Look for information at www.commencement.ku.edu.
STUDENT NIGHT AT THE SPENCER MUSEUM OF ART
The Spencer Museum of Art’s Student Advisory Board is hosting a special evening for all KU students on Thursday, October 30, from 6 to 8 p.m. Come costumed for Halloween and enjoy free food, music, activities, and art, in conjunction with the fall exhibition *Toy Stories: Souvenirs from Korean Childhood.*

To learn more about the exhibit and the party, visit: www.spencerart.ku.edu/exhibitions/toy.shtml.

APPLYING TO THE PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS AT KU
Most students are admitted to KU in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and most students graduate from the College. For those students who want a degree from any of the professional schools at KU (Fine Arts, Business, Journalism & Mass Communication, Education, Engineering, Architecture & Urban Design, Social Welfare, Allied Health, Nursing or Pharmacy), a student must apply for admission to that particular school.

Admission into the professional schools is competitive. Each school has different application dates and procedures. Encourage your student to check into how to apply to the professional schools at KU. Visit the website for each school for specific information.

CARE PACKAGES
As a parent, you may receive information from a wide variety of campus organizations and companies offering finals kits for sale. These items are also called “Survival Kits” or “Study Packs.” We recommend that before you order a kit to look closely at the order form to ensure that it is a reputable source. It is always wise to write down the contact information from the order form in case you run into any problems. If there is no contact information given, then it probably is not a reputable source.

If you do not get any information about finals care packages, you may wish to send your own or use a local Lawrence grocery store or florist to make a custom care package to deliver to your student. KU Finals Week is December 15 -19.

STUDENT HOUSING INFORMATION

**Fall Break**
Residence Halls, Scholarship Halls and Jayhawkers Towers all remain open over the Fall Break, which is October 16-19. Mrs. E's is the only residential dining center open over the break and will serve both brunch and dinner.

**Thanksgiving Break**
Residence halls and scholarship halls close at 11:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 25th for Thanksgiving Break. Dinner on the 25th will be the last meal served for the week. The halls reopen on Sunday, November 30th at 8:00 a.m. Full meal service resumes on Monday, December 1st. McCollum Hall and Jhayhawkers Towers remain open throughout the break period.

**Winter Break**
Residence halls close for the semester at 11:00 p.m. on Friday, December 19th. Dinner on the 19th will be the last meal served. McCollum Hall and Jayhawkers Towers remain open during the winter break period. Scholarship Halls close at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 20, so that students may complete final cleaning responsibilities. The halls will reopen for the spring semester on Monday, January 12, 2009 at 8:00 a.m.

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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. Students needing to stay on campus during break periods should register in advance. A registration form is available at www.housing.ku.edu under Applications & Forms. Residential dining facilities are closed during Thanksgiving and Winter Breaks. Kitchen facilities are available for student use in McCollum Hall.

MIDTERM TIME
Midterm exams are in full swing and your student has probably received feedback on their academic work to date. The tutoring programs offered through the Academic Achievement and Access Center accepts requests for tutoring through October 30th. For more information, visit: www.tutoring.ku.edu/.

Students can find this time of the semester quite stressful. Remind your student to get plenty of rest, to eat right, and to get some physical activity to deal with the stress. For more tips on how to deal with stress visit: www.caps.ku.edu/~caps/selfhelp/reducestress2.shtml.

HOMECOMING
Homecoming 2008 kicks off with the Jayhawk Jog on October 12th and really gets into the swing of activities during Homecoming Week, October 19-25. For a complete calendar of events, visit: www.homecoming.ku.edu/calendar.shtml. Football game tickets information is available at http://kuathletics.cstv.com/ot/footbl-08-tickets.html.

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)

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