

KU Parent E-News

September 2005

In this issue:

Homecoming
KU Libraries
New health insurance
Guardian Account
May Commencement planning
Tutoring
Federal Student Aid Programs

Welcome to the first issue of the monthly Parent and Family Electronic Newsletter. The information in this newsletter is meant to inform you of selected current and upcoming events at the University of Kansas as well as information that parents can discuss with their students. Your feedback is important and you are encouraged to send your comments to parents@ku.edu.



Homecoming 2005

Homecoming Week begins Oct. 22 and culminates with the KU football game against Missouri on Oct. 29. Information about Homecoming can be found at www.homecoming.ku.edu/ or www.news.ku.edu/2005/September/Sep21/homecoming.shtml. There are many events and activities scheduled for the week; encourage your student to get involved in this KU tradition.

KU Libraries

Today's college library is a dynamic, rarely closed collection of information and resources. The KU Libraries are more than the buildings that house them; the libraries are a student's window to the world and a gateway to the technology and people who can help students succeed in today's academic environment. Using the KU Libraries' librarians, electronic databases and catalogues, a KU student can research a topic from his or her computer at all hours of the day.

The KU Libraries offer assistance to students through "HawkHelp," which allows students to electronically chat with a librarian, call on the phone, e-mail a question or even visit the librarian in person, and through a wide range of free workshops and classes on topics including how to find information for academic research, how to use popular software programs for writing and presentation and how to design Web sites. HawkHelp <http://www.lib.ku.edu/hawkhelp/> and library workshops <http://www.lib.ku.edu/instruction/> promote student success.

Though most students know how to use Google, The KU Libraries provides easy access to the suite of Google search engines, including Google Scholar and Google Uncle Sam. But there is more to search engines than Google. The KU Information Gateway provides students with the scholarly

research they need for papers by using the electronic databases. Encourage your student to visit the information gateway at <http://infogateway.ku.edu/> or to learn more about Internet search engines at <http://www.lib.ku.edu/technology/searchengines/>

Check out the KU Libraries home page and you will see that today's college library is more than books and journals housed in a building with limited hours. The KU Libraries are an important part of the academic experience at KU. Visit the KU Libraries online at <http://www.lib.ku.edu/>

New health insurance for students

For several years, students at all Kansas Regents schools have been able to purchase a good, basic health insurance policy selected by the state of Kansas and underwritten by MEGA Life and Health Insurance Company. KU's international students and scholars have been eligible to enroll in the Regents plan or a plan sponsored specifically for them by the KU Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) and underwritten by Columbian Life Insurance Co.

As of Aug. 1, an additional choice for insurance coverage is available to KU students, domestic or international, on the Lawrence, Kansas City and Wichita campuses. The new plan, sponsored by the KU Student Senate and the KU Medical Center Student Governing Council and also underwritten by MEGA, offers more comprehensive healthcare coverage than the other plans. All of the plans available to students cover care at campus student health centers and through a preferred provider network.

Specific questions about the insurance plans can be directed to KU Student Health Services, 785-864-9522. Questions on the International Students Plan should be directed to the Office of International Students & Scholars at 785-864-9608. Enrollment in either MEGA plan can be done online at www.studentresources.com or by requesting a hardcopy brochure and enrollment form at Student Health Services.

Guardian Account

KU allows students to give access to their financial accounts through the Guardian Account. This is different than the Educational Records Release that many students give to their parents. Guardian Accounts allow someone other than the student to view a specific student's account and make payments online on behalf of the student. Find more information at the Bursar's Web site: www.bursar.ku.edu/STUDENT_INFO/payment_login_information.aspx



May Commencement

May 21 is KU Commencement Ceremonies. If you haven't made hotel reservations, you will want to soon as that day is also the date for the two local high school graduations. Lawrence will be awash in families celebrating! Find accommodations at the Lawrence Convention & Visitor's Bureau Web site:

www.visitlawrence.com/visitor/accommodations/

Tutoring

Your student has probably gotten some feedback on his/her academic work thus far. KU offers tutoring services. Learn more at www.tutoring.ku.edu

Federal Student Aid Programs

The Student Legislative Awareness Board (SLAB) has been following the progress of reauthorization of federal student aid programs in Congress. These programs include Pell grants and federally subsidized student loan programs which are vital for student access to higher education. They would like to call parents' attention to this issue and encourage parents to visit <http://www.studentaidaction.com/> to learn more about this issue and to contact federally elected officials regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

Jane A. Tuttle, Ed.D.

Assistant to the Dean of Students

The University of Kansas

www.deanofstudents.ku.edu

Address your questions or comments to parents@ku.edu .

To be removed from this list, visit www.deanofstudents.ku.edu/KUPA/listserv_remove.shtml.

To change your e-mail address, send your old and new e-mail address to parents@ku.edu.

To subscribe to the list, visit www.parentassocition.ku.edu

Helpful Links:

KU Parent Association: <http://www.parentassociation.ku.edu/>

KU Alumni Association <http://www.kualumni.org/>

KU Endowment Association <http://www.kuendowment.org/>

Parents are invited to learn more about legislative affairs at: <http://www.govrelations.ku.edu/>

KU News: KU news releases and announcements are available on line at

<http://www.ku.edu/~kunews/>

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