Connecting with your student
By Randall Brumfield, Director, Undergraduate Advising Center

As parents, it is in our nature to want to ensure the well-being of our children. In this regard, it would be quite difficult for an empathetic mother or father to remain unconcerned about their student’s academic and social development during their initial semester on a college campus. However, we are instructed by developmental psychologists, education professionals, and even regulatory measures to provide children with greater autonomy once they reach the ripe old age of 18. Included in this expectation is the ability of our students to make choices concerning the sharing of their academic information. We realize strangers—faculty, administrators and academic advisors—have access to our student’s academic performance that otherwise for us to acquire might call for a heart-to-heart conversation with our student. So, how do we find answers to these questions that often deliver to us nothing less than heightened anxiety? If you attended an orientation session, it’s likely you heard me speak to some of these items during the Field Guide for Parents session. Nevertheless, whether you attended the session and may need a friendly reminder, or, are in need of strategies altogether below are some suggested approaches to remaining informed of your student’s academic well-being:

- Familiarize yourself with your student’s routine. Doing so will allow you to identify with his or her experiences, and perhaps draw on a frame of reference when a phone call is received from them in the middle of the day or late at night.
- Treat your student’s academic schedule as you expect him or her to treat your work schedule. Asking for a copy of your student’s schedule can help you respect their need for independence, space, and support throughout the week.
- Know how to communicate with an undergraduate. Often, listening instead of talking provides you with an opportunity to ask open-ended questions while your student exercises discretion regarding the topics of conversation. For example, beginning with “How are you doing?” instead of “How’s that math class going? I know you had a test today” might allow for your student to begin with an issue that was neither expected nor foreseen.
- Remember that not hearing from your student can mean s/he is actually doing fine. Parents traditionally experience a high volume of phone calls home during periods of angst and duress rather than when the semester is going well. If you haven’t spoken with your student in quite some time since they were professing failure for themselves in a math class, it’s possible they have experienced a turnaround since that last conversation a couple weeks earlier. (Likewise, though your student may have recently called expressing elation over excellent grades, this does not necessarily equate to positive performance in all coursework attempted.)
Undergraduate Advising Center cont.

- If you’re not quite certain how your student is transitioning to college, try asking about the people around them. For example, it can be helpful to ask questions that pertain to the well-being of roommates, other students on their floor, friends from high school, resident assistants, and fellow students in clubs, organizations, or group projects in class. This may serve as a barometer as to the extent to which your student is acclimating to life away from home.

- Stay informed of important academic deadlines. You can do this by locating that academic calendar at <registrar.ku.edu>. Though such information can be utilized to remind your student of applicable events, more importantly you can be supportive of what the student is experiencing around that date. For example, the withdrawal deadline from courses is situated in the semester calendar at a time when many courses have recorded grades for a majority of assignments for the semester. At this point your student should be able to render an informed decision as to whether it would be academically viable for them to remain in the course, or, to withdraw and focus on other classes.

- Remember that a course syllabus is an instructor’s contract with his or her students. When your student calls frantically asking for advice as to how to contact his or her instructor, you know what direction to point toward. Faculty members maintain office hours outside the classroom, and as such students should utilize them when needed.

- Ask your student engaging questions about their classes or their academic experience, such as “what has been the most interesting (or challenging) material you are covering” or “have you adopted new approaches toward studying?” This allows your student to not necessarily recite test and quiz scores, but to give you an idea as to how they are adjusting to the expectations shared by both the instructor and themselves.

- There are also some helpful websites you may want to bookmark on your browser. For starters, you may want to place <www.ku.edu> on your list of “favorites”. From here you can easily connect to other resources and information at the University of Kansas. You can also find out what’s happening on campus at <calendar.ku.edu>, while degree requirements your student needs to meet can be located at <catalog.ku.edu>. For general information about what’s happening in the city of Lawrence the local newspaper, Lawrence Journal-World, can be accessed online at <www2.ljworld.com>.

Last but not least, the University of Kansas maintains a cadre of academic advising professionals across campus that can help students in a time of need. If your student needs to discuss their concerns and issues with someone on campus, ask them to make an appointment with their advisor. Though we are available to plan classes for the next semester, we are also here to discuss the items listed above (among many others) and to help your student develop strategies that pertain not only to academic success, but for college success. Doing so may help you rest easier, if not by peace of mind then perhaps with one less phone call placed in the middle of the night.
Retention Initiatives
By Sheryl Adelman Kimmel, Associate Director
Undergraduate Advising Center

Student persistence at KU and, ultimately, academic success is our objective! Our advising staff immediately “hits” students with our enthusiasm and support for a strong academic start from the moment students arrive on campus. Those living in residence halls are literally funneled into a large lecture hall where, among other campus resources, they were introduced to MySuccess during Hawk Week. MySuccess is KU’s early warning and intervention software that works with Blackboard (the learning management system) as well as our student information system to help students start off and remain successful in their courses. Through MySuccess, your student and his or her assigned academic advisor receive notifications simultaneously about course performance matters, both good and bad. (Visit my.success.ku.edu for more information about this important campus tool.) MySuccess includes an online appointment making and communication system so that students can schedule appointments or conversations with their academic advisor, participating instructors and support units.

During Hawk Week, UAC advisors also partnered with the Academic Access and Achievement Center to host “Gear Up” at the Kansas Union. At the event, students were provided basic essentials for a strong academic start. Advisors distributed information about university and course deadlines and provided academic advice and assistance to students in a welcoming and casual environment.

The UAC will continue to provide programs in collaboration with campus partners to increase student persistence. Please encourage your student to visit our website regularly to stay informed! Advising.ku.edu
Undergraduate Advising Center cont.

“...get a sense of what admissions officers are looking for in a law student applicant…”

The Undergraduate Advising Center has a new Pre-Law Advisor.

Mattie Stevens has been working with students for over 7 years, advising students at Stanford, Dartmouth and UNLV. She has a law degree from Cornell Law School and a Master’s degree in Policy and Law from LaTrobe University in Melbourne, Australia. With KU’s Phi Alpha Delta, the Pre-Law Fraternity, Mattie is currently organizing Pre-Law Day which will take place on Wednesday, September 3rd in the 5th floor Ballroom of the Kansas Union from 1pm to 4pm. Admissions representatives from over 70 law schools are scheduled to attend, along with representatives from the KU Cambridge Legal History Program and Kaplan Test Prep. Your student is encouraged to come and get a sense of what admissions officers are looking for in a law school applicant, as well as request application fee waivers. If students have questions about this event, they can visit the Events page of the Pre-Law Advising website (http://prelaw.ku.edu), which provides a list of law school attendees, as well as information about preparation for the event and suggests useful questions that students can ask law school representatives. They can also visit the UAC in room 132 of Strong Hall and speak with Mattie about this event or other Pre-Law issues or questions. They can also contact her via email at M.Stevens@ku.edu or Prelaw@ku.edu or visit the Pre-Law Advising Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/KUPreLawAdvising.
University Career Center

Summer Exploration
By Katrina Zaremba, Outreach Coordinator

From the UCC: Fall 2014 Kick-Off

The new semester is in full bloom, and the University Career Center (UCC) is preparing for another exciting lineup of events planned for 2014-2015. We are looking forward to helping new and returning Jayhawks find career success at KU and beyond. Please share the information below with your students to help them kick-off the school year with us:

Attend the Fall Events:

Volunteer Fair
Wednesday, September 3, 2014
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Kansas Union, Jayhawk Walk, 4th floor lobby

Education Career Fair
Wednesday, November 5, 2014
12:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Kansas Union Ballroom

Internship Fair
Wednesday, November 19, 2014
3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Kansas Union

For more information about any of our events, visit our website at career.ku.edu.

Register for KU Career Connections
Every year, thousands of internships, part-time, and full-time jobs are posted on KU Career Connections, an online job system available exclusively to KU students. Once your student has unblocked their account, they can apply for internships and jobs, post a resume for employers to view and sign up for on-campus interviews. All your student has to do is complete the brief survey after logging in with their KU online ID and password.

Take a Career Assessment
The UCC offers three career assessments designed to help students learn about their interests, personality type, and strengths. If your student needs help picking a major or exploring occupations, taking a career assessment can be a great way to get started. To learn more about the different assessments we offer, your student can visit our assessment website.

Follow the UCC on Social Media
The University Career Center was recognized as the Top 25 Most Popular College Career Services Department on Social Media in 2014. For career news, event updates, career advice and much more, visit the UCC on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest!

The University Career Center provides comprehensive career services to KU students. We are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and are located in the Burge Union, room 110. Students may schedule individual appointments with UCC career coaches by calling 785-864-3624. To learn more about the UCC’s services, events, and resources please visit our website: career.ku.edu.
Bursar’s Office

Tuition and Fee Bills
By Karen Bailey, Assistant Comptroller

For students who enrolled for fall 2014 prior to August 21, tuition and fee bills are due September 15.

KU sends an e-bill notification to students at the email addresses that a student provides. The notification indicates an invoice for tuition, fees and other charges is available to be viewed online through Enroll and Pay. No paper bill is mailed home. Bills are available online at https://sa.ku.edu on or about the 21st of the month and are due on the 15th of the following month. If payment is not received by the due date a non-refundable $100 late payment fee is assessed. If a second invoice is not paid by the due date, another non-refundable $100 late payment fee will be assessed to the student’s account. Thereafter, a 1.5% default fee will be assessed on all unpaid tuition and fees. Students are encouraged to actively view their account to monitor charges and manage payments to prevent late fees and the student account from ultimately becoming eligible for outside collections due to non-payment.

Students may print a bill by going to https://sa.ku.edu then selecting Campus Finances > Print/View a Bill. Students may give parents or others access to their financial information by establishing an authorized user. If an authorized user is established and an email address is provided, the authorized user http://www.bursar.ku.edu/authorized-user.

The University of Kansas policy REQUIRES all Lawrence and Edwards Campus students to sign up for Direct Deposit so that refunds can be electronically deposited into the checking or savings account of their choice. This applies to any refund processed through the student account for financial aid, dropped hours, residency changes, and charge reductions. Direct Deposit expedites refunds and failure to comply may result in a delay of a week or more in receiving refunds.

Students have two options to set up direct deposit: Online through Enroll & Pay > Campus Finances > Direct Deposit for Refunds OR by completing the Direct Deposit Authorization form found at http://www.bursar.ku.edu/sites/bursar.drupal.ku.edu/files/docs/

Financial Aid And Scholarships

FALL PAYMENT DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 15TH

The Fall 2014 tuition and fee payment deadline is fast approaching. If your student was enrolled by August 20th, tuition and fees will be due on September 15th. Avoid late payment fees by checking in with your student now to be sure all of his or her financial aid has disbursed and there are no outstanding steps that need to be taken. Any remaining To-Do List items will be visible online in the student’s Enroll & Pay account, https://sa.ku.edu > Student Center.

STUDENT PRIVACY REMINDER

All university staff and faculty are bound by the Family Education Rights & Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) which applies to all college students regardless of their age. This student privacy law prohibits KU employees from discussing any part of the student’s account, including financial aid information, with anyone other than the student without the student’s explicit, written consent. For more information about the university’s student privacy policies, along with details on how your student can grant you access to his or her information, please check out - http://registrar.ku.edu/personal-information
For your student:

Have you decided on a major yet? Have you officially declared it? If not, join us for the Undergraduate Advising Center annual KU Majors Fair!

*KU’s GOT YOUR MAJOR even if you don’t know what it is yet.*

Monday, October 6th
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Kansas Union
Find a Major
Change Your Major
Add a Minor

Discover what you can do with your major

The Majors Fair is a campus-wide program designed to encourage undergraduates, especially freshmen and sophomores, to explore and choose appropriate academic majors. It features faculty, staff, and students from all majors and schools who will share information about their departments with students in a fair-like setting.

We hope to see you at the KU Majors Fair!
Academic Calendar

Sunday, August 24, 2014
- Last day 100% refund *

Monday, August 25, 2014
- First day of classes
- $150 late enrollment fee begins *
- First day of Late Enrollment *
- First day 90% refund *
- Last day to add and change sections on-line *
- Last day to add/change sections without written permission *
- Last day to enroll online *
- Last day 90% refund *
- First day 50% refund *

Monday, September 1, 2014
- Labor Day Holiday - No classes

Tuesday, September 2, 2014
- Add/change of section with written permission begins (off-line) *
- Petition late enrollment begins (off-line), form available at student’s school *
- First Period Drop ends *
- Last day to withdraw/drop without a "W" *
- Last day to request a Petition to Late Enroll form (non TBA, full semester classes)

Wednesday, September 3, 2014
- Second Period Drop begins *
- Census Day - 20th Day of classes
- Last day to add or swap a class *
- Last day petition late enrollment (non TBA, full semester classes)
- Last day 50% refund *
- Start Credit/No Credit *
- 0% refund begins *

Wednesday, September 24, 2014
- Tuition Adjustment & Residency Application deadlines

Monday, October 6, 2014
- Deadline Credit/No Credit *

Tuesday, October 14, 2014
- Undergraduate Application for Graduation deadline

Monday, November 3, 2014
- Law Application for Graduation deadline

Wednesday, November 19, 2014
- Last day to withdraw from a class or the University (full semester classes, excluding Law)
- Second Period Drop Ends *

Wednesday, November 26, 2014
- Thanksgiving Break First Day

Sunday, November 30, 2014
- Thanksgiving Break Last Day

Thursday, December 11, 2014
- Last day of classes

Friday, December 12, 2014
- Stop Day

Monday, December 15, 2014
- First day of Finals

Friday, December 19, 2014
- Grade submission deadline -- 11:59 p.m. (excludes Law)
- Collection of non-posted grades begins for all careers
- Grade roster entry access shut off (excludes Law)

Friday, January 9, 2015
- Law grade submission deadline -- 11:59 p.m.
- Law grade roster entry access shut off

Friday, January 16, 2015
- Course Completion Deadline

Friday, January 16, 2015
- Official Degree list due

Monday, January 26, 2015
- Degrees post to transcripts

Monday, February 9, 2015
- Diplomas available
KU News - Headlines:

Researchers search for evidence of earliest inhabitants of Central Great Plains

Research shows too much executive turnover hurts companies
http://news.ku.edu/ku-research-shows-too-much-executive-turnover-hurts-companies-0

More News
The Office of University Relations offers free reports about news and events on campus sent to your email address. To subscribe, send an email to listproc@listproc.cc.ku.edu with "subscribe KUNEW1-L" in the body of the e-mail. You may also visit http://www.news.ku.edu.

Other Useful KU Websites:

Academic Achievement and Access Center: http://www.achievement.ku.edu
Admissions: http://www.admissions.ku.edu/
Billing Information (Bursar): http://www.bursar.ku.edu/
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Services: www.collegesas.ku.edu
Counseling and Psychological Services: http://www.caps.ku.edu
Enrollment questions: www.registrar.ku.edu/
Financial Aid & Scholarships: http://www.financialaid.ku.edu
First-Year Experience: www.orientation.ku.edu
KU Continuing Education: www.continuinged.ku.edu
KU Online Courses: www.online.ku.edu
KU Parent/Family Assistance: http://www.vpss.ku.edu/pal.shtml
KU Writing Center: www.writing.ku.edu
Multicultural Affairs: http://www.oma.ku.edu/
Parking Department: http://www.parking.ku.edu
Sexual Harassment: http://www.sexualharassment.ku.edu
Student Affairs: http://studentaffairs.ku.edu/
Student Involvement and Leadership Center: http://www.silc.ku.edu
Student Housing: www.housing.ku.edu/
Supportive Educational Services: http://www.apex.ku.edu/
Timetable of Classes online: http://www.classes.ku.edu
Undergraduate Advising Center: www.advising.ku.edu
University Career Center: www.kucareerhawk.com
Watkins Health Center: www.ku.edu/~shs
(For specific School phone numbers, call KU Directory at 785-864-2700.)