



Office of Retention Services

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## Parent Newsletter

**To read past issues of the TECH Parent Newsletter, visit our redesigned website at... [www.atu.edu/parents](http://www.atu.edu/parents)**

# INSIDE TRACK

## April 2009

### ALL ABOARD!

#### **JOIN THE NEW TECH PARENT COUNCIL**

Tech is creating a brand new Parent Council, which will be a group of parents from the Parent Association who want to become even more involved with the university. The Parent Council will assist Arkansas Tech University and the Parent Relations office as we strive to meet the needs of our students AND address the parents' needs for information, involvement, and support. We envision the TECH Parent Council contributing in important ways that may include...

- Provide Arkansas Tech University with a parent's perspective.
- Welcome incoming parents during orientation and other events.
- Volunteer for key events such as the 2009 Family Day/Weekend Activities.
- Share advice for monthly newsletters.
- Represent parents at various university activities.

If you are interested in being a part of this exciting new initiative, please call or email Luke Heffley. There will be an informational meeting on **Tuesday, May 12th**, in the

**Doc Bryan Building, room 247 at 6:30pm.** If you are able to attend, please RSVP.

### SEASONAL PARENTAL ISSUES

Here are a few things that some parents may be dealing with as the semester winds down...

- Am I going to help my student pack up and move out?
- I wonder how my child is coping with research papers, grades, and upcoming finals?
- The family is going to be different when my student comes home for the summer. I wonder if I am prepared?
- My child is getting a summer job near college. I'm a little disappointed that my student won't be home for the summer.
- I'm expecting my child to be more mature and independent. I hope my expectations aren't too high.

**Keeping your family connected!**



# SEASONAL STUDENT ISSUES

There's a seasonal ebb and flow when it comes to student issues. Here are a few things that some students may be experiencing this spring:

- Losing motivation for the final push.
- Spring fever hits and problems arise as students become restless.
- Anticipating the end of the year.
- Frustration and confusion develop because of class registration.
- Papers and exams are piling up.
- Summer job panic.
- Concerns about moving home for the summer.

## TIME TO MOVE IT!

With less than a month to go before the semester ends, now is the time to discuss moving arrangements with your student. Are they moving out of the residence halls for just the summer or back home and will commute their sophomore year? All freshmen and sophomores must live in campus housing unless certain guidelines are met. Now is the time to discuss the following issues:

- If needed, have you or your student found a storage facility yet?
- Will your student be living on campus this summer?  
If so, they will have to change halls during this time.  
Sign up for *summer* housing begins on *April 29th*.
- Will your student be working during the summer? If so, what do they need?
- Will they have a different roommate?

Students must move out within 24 hours of their last final exam. Start encouraging them now to bring home things they no longer need such as heavy sweaters and blankets, old books, and more. Invest in a few plastic containers for last-minute packing; these can be easily re-used for next year's move-in process, plus they will stack and store easily at home over the summer.

***For the latest news and information about Arkansas Tech University, visit TECH NEWS at [www.arkansastechnews.com](http://www.arkansastechnews.com).***

# MAKING THE MOST OF SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

Some students dream about the end of the semester when they'll get a break from classes and the daily grind. Yet, summer isn't a time to slack off completely. Instead, it can be a great time for students to get ahead or catch up.

**Summer Classes.** Taking a summer class can be a way for your student to get ahead for the next semester. Some students find it helpful to take a class during the summer that they expect to be difficult so they can focus more time and attention on it. If they struggled with a class during the academic year, they might be able to re-take the class to help their overall grade point average.

**An Internship or Job.** Summer is a great time to get a job. Even better is getting a job that counts as an internship so your student can get credit for her work experience. For instance, if she is an engineering major, perhaps she can intern at a local manufacturing plant, helping design new equipment. If she is an elementary education major, she could work at a day care center or summer camp. Internships are a great way to apply what she's learned in the classroom while gaining practical experience. It's also a great way to understand what a career really entails so your student will know if she really wants to continue in this major. Most internships are done during the junior or senior year, but sophomores may still apply. Some internships are paid, while others just offer experience.

**Campus Work-study.** If your student is staying on campus to take summer classes, have him look into campus work-study. Many offices are still open during the summer break and will need student workers. The availability of jobs depends on the campus needs and whether or not your student is eligible for work-study as a part of his financial aid package. Non-work-study jobs may also be available.

**Volunteer.** For the civic-minded student, summer can be a great time to volunteer. As a young adult, this can be an opportune time for your student to travel. Why not travel and give something back?

**Do Research.** Summer is also downtime for faculty, which allows them time to focus on research. Your student may get the chance to actively conduct research in a field related to his major – faculty often ask good, committed students to assist them. If he's lucky, the professor will include his name when the research is published. What a great thing to add to a resume!

## Money Expectations

Talk with your student about your mutual expectations for the summer when it comes to finances. Knowing what they need to earn to help with school costs will help them make more informed choices about summer plans.

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# FULL CONTACT

Just because the semester will be over soon doesn't mean your questions will go unanswered. I am here year round and will be available to help you any time (along with helping an additional set of parents for the fall). My contact information is the same, and email is an excellent way to communicate:

**Luke Heffley, Parent Relations Coordinator**

[lheffley@atu.edu](mailto:lheffley@atu.edu) Phone: (479) 964-3281

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INSIDE TRACK  
April 2009

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>May 4th</i>	<i>Last Day of Classes</i>
<i>May 5th</i>	<i>Reading Day</i>
<i>May 6th -12th</i>	<i>FINAL EXAMS</i>
<i>May 16th</i>	<i>Graduation</i>
<i>August 15th</i>	<i>Entering Freshmen Move-in</i>
<i>August 17th</i>	<i>Returning Students Move-in</i>
<i>September 26th</i>	<i>2009 Family Day</i>
<i>October 17th</i>	<i>2009 Homecoming</i>

### Updating Contact Information

If you are already a member of the TECH PARENT ASSOCIATION, but need to update your information, please click on ...

[UPDATE INFORMATION](#)

Thank You.

For more parent information, please visit our website at ...

[www.atu.edu/parents](http://www.atu.edu/parents)

## UNDECIDED? NO PROBLEM!

Is your student unsure about his/her major and career? Consider suggesting career development. Career Development Specialist Brian Henderson will provide a series of personality assessment tools will be used to help your student find his/her ideal major or career based upon interests, motivational traits, personality, values, abilities, aptitudes, personal work style, and work environment preferences. Have your student contact our Career Development office at (479) 968-0278 or email [bhenderson3@atu.edu](mailto:bhenderson3@atu.edu) for more information.

**TECH**  
Parent Association