



Office of Retention
Services

Luke Heffley,
Parent Relations Coordinator
Doc Bryan Student Services
Center, Room 233
1605 Coliseum Dr.
Russellville, AR 72801
Email: lheffley@atu.edu
Phone: (479) 964-3281
Fax: (479) 968-0208
www.atu.edu/parents

Remember...

*There are no
classes on Mon-
day, September 7,
2009 in recogni-
tion of Labor Day.
Classes will re-
sume at 8:00 am
on Tuesday, Sep-
tember 8th.*

INSIDE TRACK

August 2009

RE-CAP: MOVE-IN DAY

2009 Move-In Day. The experience of moving your son or daughter into their residence hall is one you probably won't soon forget, and we at Arkansas Tech hope we were able to make the event as stress-free as possible.

Your responses to our recent online Parent Survey include many wonderful stories indicating Move-In Day was a huge success.

The football players, the lunch in the Chambers Dining Hall, and the parent session, among other things, seem to have been very helpful to you, the parents. We are glad to have made this experience a memorable one.

What parents had to say about the move-in...

"I was very pleased with the move in on Saturday. The guys were great, helpful and courteous. Being a parent, and really dreading that day, it went well."

"I have been very impressed with ATU and am pleased with my daughter's decision to attend ATU!!"

"Everything was well planned out and went very smoothly. The football guys were very helpful and friendly to the new kids. They really made the new students feel welcome. THANKS!!!"

"Lunch provided in the cafeteria was very nice. Thank you!"

"Very well organized and planned out. Also everyone was so willing to help with questions and directions."

Thank you again for taking time to fill out the survey. Your suggestions will help make it even smoother next year.

THE BEATLES ARE COMING!

British Export, an award winning Beatles tribute band from Chicago, Illinois will be the featured entertainment at Family Day 2009! The annual event will be held on Saturday, September 26th. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets. Free hotdogs and soft drinks will be served at 3:00 and the concert will start at 4:00. In addition, there will be free cotton candy, sno-cones, face painting, inflatables, and much more, so bring the entire family.

When you pick up your "Family Day Coupon" that day, you can attend the Arkansas Tech University football game at 6:00 pm for half-price! Come hear the Beatles and root for the Wonderboys!

Keeping your family connected!



ON CAMPUS SAFETY TIPS

Encourage your student to:

- **Lock their room door.** Even though they “know everyone on their floor,” they can’t control guests and visitors strolling the hallways. The same goes for off campus residents — students never know who might make their way into the neighborhood.
- **Get to know the campus public safety officers.**
- **Don’t prop open doors to residence halls or other buildings on campus.** This makes Public Safety’s job more difficult and compromises the overall security measures in place.
- **Deny strangers access to their residence hall** (by not letting in people behind them)—even if they *think* the person is a student.
- **Treat the campus grounds with respect.** Vandalizing and damaging directional signs, fire extinguishers, and other safety equipment costs the college valuable funds and effort that could be directed to other areas. In addition, those items won’t be available when a real emergency strikes.

A MESSAGE FROM CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Hello parents, my name is Brian Henderson, and I am the Career Development Specialist at Arkansas Tech University. Is your child undecided about what major to pursue in college? Tell them to search no further! Whether they are a traditional or non-traditional student, I'm here to help them find a major that best suits their personality, skills, and interests. We have a new inventory system called Focus-2 that is available at no charge to students attending ATU. Focus-2 is an online, interactive career & education planning system that combines self assessment, career exploration, and decision making into one major area of study. The Norman Career Services' goal is to arm the student with appropriate tools to make good, well-informed decisions about their major at ATU which will ultimately result in graduation and employment in the career that is right for them.

Research shows that the best time to do career /major exploration is in the sophomore year of the student's college life. That gives your child a full year to get familiar with college life and learn more about themselves. We as a staff at the Norman Career Services office want to reduce the number of times students change majors through career exploration. Just like any other journey, the sooner you prepare to take the journey, the easier it will be for you (and the people who care about you). So please, encourage your child to make an appointment with us today, so we can help set them on their journey to a successful life. You or your child can call Jayne Sewell at Norman Career Services (479-968-0278) to make an appointment. Thanks for your time and please feel free to contact the Norman Career Services department with any questions.

Sincerely,

Brian Henderson, Career Development Specialist, Doc Bryan, Suite 213, 479-968-0278

BROKEN, WHAT TO DO?

PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING A WORK ORDER

Below are the instructions for your student if there is something that needs to be fixed in their room or residence hall.

- Students need to go to www.atu.edu/reslife.
- On the right hand side of the page there is a link for "Maintenance Request".
- The student should then follow the links through until they reach the actual form.
- Once the student has completely filled out the form, being as specific as possible, they should just click submit.
- The student should then get an e-mail within 48 hours confirming that the work order has been submitted to the Physical Plant.
- If the student does not receive an e-mail confirming receipt of the work order after 48 hours, they should contact the Housing Operations Office at 356-2060.
- Once the student has received a confirmation e-mail, the work order is now in the hands of the ATU Physical Plant department. Should the necessary repair not be made or the student not contacted within 72 hours of receiving the e-mail, they should contact Mr. Dennis Hill, Director of Physical Plant, at (479) 968-0261 or (479) 968-0300 or Mr. David Moseley, Vice-President for Administration and Finance, at (479) 968-0300 or (479) 968-0301.

PLEASE NOTE: It is the responsibility of the student to submit the work order. While we understand that as the student's parent you want to be of assistance, we do require that the work order be submitted through the student to assure proper records and correct and exact information.

ADVICE FROM PARENTS

Thank you so much for replying to the survey asking for advice for incoming parents. There were some great tips that I will pass along. Below are just a few:

"Visit your child only once a month at the most. You can talk to them by phone anytime but give them ideas on how to handle the situation"

"Tech is an awesome school, our son is starting his second year. They will be fine here, they will make friends probably before you even leave town—friends for life!"

There are very caring and helpful professors at ATU. If your student is having difficulty in a subject, have the conference with the professor. This made the difference between a D and a B."

EMERGENCY TEXT MESSAGE SYSTEM

Arkansas Tech University has an early warning text messaging system as an additional means of communicating with the campus community during emergency situations on the Russellville campus. Students who register for the service receive a text message warning in the case of a serious campus emergency. Signing up for the system is optional, but it is strongly encouraged. Parents are also encouraged to sign up for the service.

To join the system, text the word **“tech”** to the number **50618**. Leave the subject line blank. After the message is sent, you will receive a confirmation message.

PARENTAL RELATIONSHIPS

Just because your student is in college doesn't mean they don't need you. Your student still needs all the wisdom, love, and support from home you can give. Here at Tech, we urge our parents to do three things:

Let go a little bit. It's hard for a student to start building his collegiate life in Russellville if his “old life” keeps pulling him back. Let your conversations contain a mixed balance of what is happening at home and what is happening at Tech. Try not to do everything for your student. Letting your child figure out things on their own can be a strength and character building process.

Students need to be able to make a few mistakes. Part of becoming independent involves making some mistakes or incorrect decisions. Students need support and understanding at all times.

Your student needs to know that you believe in them. Urge your student to try new things, subjects, and views. Successful students are able to experiment with their views because you, as parents, believe in their intelligence, initiative, and ability to make good decisions.

A Student Who Feels Trusted by Their Parents:

Has more self confidence.
Can stand up for what he believes.
Knows he has support back home.
Is better able to say “no” when the situation warrants.

A Student Who Feels Mistrusted by Their Parents:

May defy authority because it's expected.
Might not communicate about what's happening at college.
Might look to others, some who will be good influences and others who won't be, for support.
Might keep secrets that could be harmful.

ON CAMPUS COUNSELING SERVICES

Did you know that the University has counseling services that are FREE to the students? Located in Doc Bryan Building, room 233, counselor Valerie Breashears or Dr. Larry Root would be glad to speak to your student about academic situations, behaviors, relationships, and feelings that students might be having. Their office hours are Monday—Friday, 8:00 am until 5:00 pm and their phone number is 479-968-0276.

INSIDE TRACK
August 2009

WONDERBOYS FOOTBALL HOME GAMES

- September 26th
TECH vs. UAM
6:00 pm (Family Day)
- October 10th
TECH vs. SAU
6:00 pm
- October 17th
TECH vs. West Georgia (Homecoming)
- October 31st
TECH vs. Delta State
6:00 pm (Senior Day)

TECH
Parent Association