



Office of Retention Services

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Spring Break

**TECH will be
observing
Spring break
from 7:00 am
March 23rd —
7:00 am March
30th.**

INSIDE TRACK

February 2009

CONGRATULATIONS!

Good Job!

The preliminary results are in, and a greater percentage of freshmen students came back this semester than in the last sixteen years. Due to the hard work of parents, students, and university faculty and staff, just over eighty-five percent (85%) of last fall's freshmen students returned this spring! That is the highest return rate since 1993.

Although we wish that number was 100%, we understand that due to circumstances beyond the university's control, not all students return. Financial reasons, family commitments, academics, or other reasons prevent some students from coming back.

Let's keep up the good work and make sure your student does come back this fall. If needed, financial aid forms are already available for the 2009-2010 year. To expedite the process, it is recommended that you go to the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) website at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

NOT RETURNING

Some of you receiving this newsletter may be the parents of the 15% who are no longer enrolled at Arkansas Tech University. While the factors for leaving college may vary from financial difficulties to academic performance, your student's college career doesn't have to end.

The end is when a student **stays** out of school. There are many success stories of students who started college on the wrong foot but with determination and hard work were able to get back on the right path and receive a degree. The Office of Student Success & Retention Services is here to help your student be one of these success stories. Of the many ways that a student can get back on track, the top choices include either getting finances in order or buckling down with academics. We recommend the following as a jump start to your student's return to the classroom...

Keeping your family connected!



NOT RETURNING

(continued from previous page)

If your student left due to finances, be prepared to fill out all appropriate financial aid forms for the fall 2009 semester as soon as possible. Although the forms ARE available in the Financial Aid office, to expedite the process, it is better to go online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Feel free to contact the Office of Financial Aid at (479) 968-0399 for more information.

If your student left due to academics, consider this option: Grades in all 1000 or 2000 level courses (MATH 1113 or ENGL 2013 for example) can be replaced when a student re-takes the course. If your student made an "F" in MATH 1113 during the fall 2008 semester, the grade earned in the course when repeated will replace the original grade. This can drastically help his/her grade point average (GPA).

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Women's Basketball: (Home games)

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------|
| • TECH vs. Delta State | Feb. 21st, Tucker Coliseum | 4:00 pm |
| • TECH vs. UA-Monticello (Senior Night) | Feb. 26th, Tucker Coliseum | 5:30 pm |

Men's Basketball: (Home games)

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------|
| • TECH vs. Delta State | Feb. 21st, Tucker Coliseum | 6:00 pm |
| • TECH vs. UA-Monticello (Senior Night) | Feb. 26th, Tucker Coliseum | 7:30 pm |

To find out the latest news and schedules of TECH athletics, go to
<http://athletics.atu.edu/>

2009 SPRING BREAK March 23rd 7:00 am —
March 30th 7:00 am

COMMUNICATING WITH THE COLLEGE: WHY, HOW AND WHEN?

WHY?

As a parent, you want the absolute best for your student, and because of this you probably struggle with when to intervene and when to steer clear of challenging situations that arise in his life. This struggle does not end when he goes to college, and recent research actually suggests parental involvement in a college student's day-to-day activities is increasing. It has become so common that Neil Howe and William Strauss, authors of *Millennials Go to College*, have given this parenting style a name—"helicopter parenting"—to signify "hovering" over a student's life.

HOW?

How can you be a partner with the college in supporting your student's personal growth and development without hovering? Below are some common college student experiences that parents can easily be pulled into, with suggestions on how to empower your student to handle each situation himself.

1. Roommate Conflict. Your son has complained to you for weeks that his roommate is messy, stays up late and interrupts his studying and sleep.

_ First, encourage him to talk with his roommate about his observations, concerns and possible solutions. You can even role-play this conversation with him to help him get comfortable.

_ If that doesn't work, suggest he talk with his Resident Assistant to help mediate a roommate meeting or provide strategies for conflict resolution.

_ What Not to Do: Call the roommate's parents, call the Director of Residence Life, or call the President of the College – more gets done when your student goes through the proper channels.

2. Grade Conflict. Your daughter feels that a professor is grading her unfairly.

_ First, help her identify why she believes the grading is unfair. Faculty members have open office hours, so encourage her to schedule a meeting after class or stop in to share her concerns with the professor.

_ If that doesn't work, suggest she meet with her academic advisor to discuss the situation and see what other options are available to address her concern.

_ What Not to Do: Call the faculty member, call the Academic Dean, or call the Academic Advisor.

3. Minor Conduct Violation. Your student has been found guilty of a behavioral conduct violation.

_ First, breathe! Then discuss the violation, the choices made, and the consequences of his inappropriate behavior.

_ Second, advise and support him as he goes through the campus judicial process, and help him reflect on what he has learned from the experience, and how his behavior will change in the future.

_ What Not to Do: Call a lawyer, call the Dean of Students, or attend the judicial hearing.

WHEN?

There certainly are times that contacting the college directly is appropriate and necessary. However, when possible, try to limit your contact with the college during times of crisis to seeking suggestions on how your daughter can further help herself. Challenging situations are a part of the learning process. When parents limit their involvement to suggestions and advice, students gain confidence, self-responsibility, and a skill-base that will last them a lifetime.

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TUTORING CENTER OPEN

The Doc Bryan Tutoring Center is open for all freshmen and students taking freshmen level courses who need tutoring. This spring, the project is staffed by seven upper-level student tutors working under the supervision of Bridge to Excellence Coordinator Mike Bogue.

Located in Doc Bryan 247 – the large glass-enclosed room just above Doc's Place – the Tutoring Center will be open Monday-Thursday from 6-9 p.m. Subjects tutored include Beginning Algebra, Intermediate Algebra, College Algebra, Foundational Comp, Comp I, World Civilizations, Introduction to Biology, Principles of Biology, World Civilizations, and Physical Science. If you have any questions about the Tutoring Center, contact Mike Bogue (968-0334; jbogue@atu.edu; Doc Bryan 233).

NEVER TOO EARLY...

In next month's Arkansas Tech University Family Newsletter, there will be some very important information about housing and contracts for 2009-2010. It is never too early to discuss with your student living arrangements for the fall.

Remember... **Single students under 21 and with under 60 hours of college work completed are required, as space permits, to live on campus in University-owned housing.**

ROUND ONE!

Generally, this time of the semester, the students have just taken their first round of tests. How did your student do? Ask them about their tests and find out if this semester has started differently from last. We have study labs and tutors available.

SCHOLARSHIP QUESTIONS

If you have questions about CURRENT scholarship requirements, they should be directed to Alisa Waniewski in the Tech Admissions Office. She can be reached by phone at 479-968-0343 or via email at awaniewski@atu.edu.

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 for more information.

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February 2009

Updating Contact Information

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

[UPDATE INFORMATION](#)

Thank You.

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

www.atu.edu/parents

TECH
Parent Association