



Office of Retention Services

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MLK

***There will be NO
classes on the ATU
campus due to the
Martin Luther King,
Jr. Holiday on
January 19, 2009.***

INSIDE TRACK

January 2009

WELCOME BACK!

Important Information about Scholarships.

Although most students who are on academic scholarships at Arkansas Tech maintain their scholarships from the first semester to the second, some will unfortunately lose theirs. Because bills are mailed before grades are posted, the scholarship may be listed on the bill even though the scholarship was lost. Students who lose their scholarships should have received a letter over the holidays with instructions on how to appeal the scholarship loss under certain circumstances.

Please keep in mind that it is the student's responsibility to understand the scholarship renewal requirements. Questions 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 a.waniewski@atu.edu.

DIDN'T COME BACK

Some of you receiving this newsletter may be the parents of students who are no longer enrolled at Arkansas Tech University. While the factors 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 diploma. The Office of 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 strategies include 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...

(Recommendations on next page...)

Keeping your family connected!



DIDN'T COME BACK...

If your student left due to finances, be prepared to fill out all appropriate financial aid forms for the fall 2009 semester. Forms will be available in early March. 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 retakes the course. If your student made a "D" or 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 significantly improve their grade point average.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Women's Basketball: (Home games)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------|
| • TECH vs. Harding | Jan. 17th, Tucker Coliseum | 4 pm |
| • TECH vs. Ouachita Baptist | Jan. 22nd, Tucker Coliseum | 5:30 pm |
| • TECH vs. Christian Brothers | Jan. 31st, Tucker Coliseum | 4 pm |
| • TECH vs. Southern Arkansas | Feb. 5th, Tucker Coliseum | 5:30 pm |
| • TECH vs. Henderson State | Feb. 12th, Tucker Coliseum | 5:30 pm |

Men's Basketball: (Home games)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------|
| • TECH vs. Harding | Jan. 17th, Tucker Coliseum | 6 pm |
| • TECH vs. Ouachita Baptist | Jan. 22nd, Tucker Coliseum | 7:30 pm |
| • TECH vs. Christian Brothers | Jan. 31st, Tucker Coliseum | 6 pm |
| • TECH vs. Southern Arkansas | Feb. 5th, Tucker Coliseum | 7:30 pm |
| • TECH vs. Henderson State | Feb. 12th, Tucker Coliseum | 7:30 pm |

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

January 19th, 2009 (No Classes)

ACADEMICALLY SPEAKING: SECOND SEMESTER PRESSURES

Now that your student has the fall semester under her belt, she's likely looking toward what the spring will bring. Will her classes be tough? Is she on academic warning or probation? Are there classes she's really looking forward to? The reality of how she did academically last fall has likely sunk in with your student by now. She knows where her challenges are and she has confidence in other areas. You can help your student succeed academically by understanding the issues that are foremost on her mind. These may include:

- _ How can I bring up my GPA this semester?
- _ What subjects do I need help with?
- _ Can I keep my grades up so I'm eligible for admission to my major/certain scholarships/Dean's list?
- _ I need to declare my major soon – what should I choose?
- _ How can I make it through my tough classes this semester?
- _ Should I stay in the Honors program?
- _ I think I might have a learning disability or test anxiety—where can I get help?
- _ How am I doing in staying on a four-year graduation track?
- _ Am I completing the general education requirements needed for graduation in a timely manner?
- _ Do I need to retake any classes?
- _ What professors inspire me and can I get into more of their classes?

If your student didn't do that well during the fall semester, there's no need to lose hope. She will have to buckle down and work smarter this semester, of course. Yet, there are many resources available on campus to help her in this pursuit. She can ask her academic advisor for help in formulating a time schedule that is reasonable. She can go to the a tutoring lab for help with sentence structure, grammar and paper writing.

(Description and times on page 4 of this newsletter) She can talk with a campus counselor about test anxiety and learn some ways to overcome this stressful affliction. One bad semester doesn't have to be the end of the world!

If your student DID well academically this fall, she's likely putting some pressure on herself to live up to that success. Quality work is one thing to strive for while perfection can be too much pressure. Academics are your student's main reason for being in school and with your encouragement, her commitment and the assistance of campus professionals, she can make this a positive, learning-filled semester.

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THE TUTORING CENTER

Just like last fall, the Doc Bryan Tutoring Center will be open for all freshmen and students taking freshmen level courses who need tutoring. This spring, the center is staffed by five upper-level student tutors working under the supervision of Bridge to Excellence Coordinator Mike Bogue.

Located in Doc Bryan 247 (just above Doc's Place) the Tutoring Center will be open Monday-Thursday from 6-9 p.m. Subjects to be tutored include Beginning Algebra, Intermediate Algebra, College Algebra, Foundational Comp, Comp I, World Civilizations, Introduction to 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 219).

INSIDE TRACK
January 2009

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

The weather, the academic cycle, and even the athletic teams can affect your student's temperament and productivity as the year goes by. Some of the issues that are likely to affect students this time of year are listed below.

- **Some disillusionment in relationships with high school friends.**
- **Disappointment/relief about first semester grades.**
- **Enthusiasm about new courses and professors.**
- **Sense of security at having survived the first semester.**

Typically, students are excited about getting back to school following the holidays to see their friends and roommates and to begin a new term. While some freshmen may feel like campus has become their "real home," others may be questioning their choice of colleges. Encourage them to finish the academic year, even if they are thinking about transferring to another school. Usually by the end of February, students can see their accomplishments and realize they have adjusted to campus life.

As part of your membership in the **ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY Parent Association**, you will receive regular correspondence from the Office of Retention Services including updates on campus events and late-breaking news.

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

TECH
Parent Association