



Slice of Life

News from the
DIVISION OF STUDENT LIFE

VOLUME I ISSUE 1

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A Message from the Vice Chancellor



Welcome to *Slice of Life*, the newsletter for the Division of Student Life. As a partner in the educational mission of the University, our departments are responsible for providing co-curricular programs and services, for addressing student needs and enhancing the quality of student life outside the classroom. This newsletter will provide you with information about our services, our philosophy, and the different roles we play in the educational experience of students. We believe it is important to partner with parents, alumni, faculty and others to help make student life on campus a positive environment for learning.

Should you have questions or like for us to feature specific topics in future newsletters, please let us know. You can learn more about the Division of Student Life at www.olemiss.edu/student_life.

Thomas D. Wallace, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Student Life

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Time to Pause and Reflect

Thomas "Sparky" Reardon, Dean of Students



In big football and basketball games, we often hear coaches talk about "halftime adjustments" and often they credit these adjustments as being the key to victory. It is at this point in the semester that you (as your student's "coach") might pause and reflect on what adjustments your student needs to make in order to maximize his or her college experience.

Over the years, I have recognized that this is the most critical point in the semester for our students. The glow of summer has faded. The roommate situation has been revealing, if not surprising. There is a difference between what the bank says your student has available in funds and what he or she thinks they have available. Long-term boyfriend/girlfriend relationships tend to begin to crumble. Values have been challenged by new lifestyles, freedom, money, and a diversity of friends.

On top of all of this, students come to the realization that they are past the half way point in the semester and that their grades could be a lot better. Unfortunately, there are some students who have dug themselves a hole that is pretty deep. Others are well on the way to meeting their academic goals.

Now is the time for you as their coach to help them make half-time adjustments. Things haven't changed much since high school; so if you ask them how school is going, you're probably going to get a non-committal "fine" or "ok." Ask them for their mid-term grades. Check their absences. Ask them open-ended questions like, "What course do you like best and (cont. page 2)



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Time to Pause and Reflect (cont.)

why?” or “Who is your most challenging teacher?” Ask them what they are doing with their spare time. Take a close look at how they are spending their money. (If they have regular, large ATM withdrawals on Thursday night, ask them what it’s for.)

Here at halftime, open up a frank and honest discussion with your student. Try to find out how they are doing academically, socially, physically, and spiritually. If you detect that your student is struggling in anyway, contact us in the Office of the Dean of Students or someone you know in the Division of Student Life. We’ll be glad to become your assistant coach.

We value your student and we want them to win! Don’t hesitate to call!

“Values have been challenged by new lifestyles, freedom, money, and a diversity of friends.”

Time to Sign Up for Winter Intersession and Spring Classes

Sue Mossing, Academic Support Center

Believe it or not, it’s almost time for students to start signing up for next semester’s classes! The pre-registration period for both Winter Intersession 2007 and Spring 2007 begins on Friday, October 27 and ends on Friday, November 24, 2006.

In order for your student to sign up for classes as soon as their registration window opens*, they will need to make sure that all of their registration “holds” are cleared. Some students will have holds for unpaid campus bills or missing transcripts, but every student will have an advisor hold. Students must talk with their advisors in order to plan the next semester’s schedule. The advisor will then remove the advisor hold.

If your student is not sure who their advisor is, they can find out by logging on to Campus Management and choosing “Advisor Information” from the menu. If no advisor is listed, your student can call the Dean’s office of the College or School in which they are enrolled (i.e, Business, Liberal Arts, Applied Sciences). If your student is Liberal Arts Undecided, he or she will be assigned an advisor in the Academic Support Center. Our phone number is 662-915-5970. Our office is open 8-5 Monday through Friday and we welcome our advisees to talk with us as often as they would like. If your student has declared a major and has been assigned a faculty member, appointment can be made with their faculty advisors from October 20 through November 3, 2006.

*The first pre-registration window opens at 8:00 am on Friday, October 27. However, not all students will be able to register at that time. Windows open according to a formula. Typically, freshmen register after seniors, juniors, and sophomores.

Students must talk with their advisors in order to plan the next semester’s schedule.

“The first pre-registration window opens at 8:00 am on Friday, October 27.”

A Parent's Role in Resolving Roommate Conflicts

Melinda Pullen, Associate Director of Housing and Residence Life

Living with someone new is definitely an adjustment. And this is especially true if you are sharing a bedroom (and a bathroom!) for the first time ever. However, parents can be very helpful in their student's transition to having an enjoyable roommate relationship.

The most important thing parents can do is help their students evaluate the situation and point them in the right direction for resolving disagreements or minimizing conflicts. Stepping in and attempting to solve student problems for them is not just difficult, but doing so also deprives the student of the experience and independence that is so important to them at this point in their lives.

- Encourage your student to seek suggestions from the staff in their building. Their RA and Hall Director are great resources. There are also many website resources on the issue of roommate conflicts. (http://reslife.net/html/resident_0400f.html)
- Remind your student that any conflict has two sides. Encourage them to consider their roommate's point of view.
- Encourage them to remember that roommate conflicts take time and effort to work through. Living with someone requires ongoing communication. Use examples from your own life experiences to help them understand this point.
- Assure your student that having a roommate conflict is not a rare occurrence. And, most are able to resolve their differences in a way that meets everyone's needs.
- Encourage your student to talk directly, but respectfully, to their roommate about their concerns.
- Encourage your student to whole-heartedly pursue other means of conflict resolution before considering requesting a new room. The process of working through a roommate conflict provides them the opportunity to build valuable life-long skills.
- If the conflict cannot be resolved, suggest that your student consider the option of transferring to another room as a last resort. It's far better to live in a more positive environment than to refuse to leave a negative environment in order to "prove a point."
- Consider the housing staff to be student allies. We also want students to have the best possible experience.
- By all means, contact your student's Hall Director yourself if you feel a situation exists that has overwhelmed your student's ability to work through it. We are happy to talk with you about your concerns and will arrange for your student to access necessary resources and support.

We want to partner with you in your student's success while at Ole Miss. The residence halls can be a wonderful place to live, learn and grow while attending the University. Please do not hesitate to contact the Housing Office (662-915-7328) should you have any questions.

"Living with someone else is definitely an adjustment."

Parents can be very helpful in their student's transition to having an enjoyable roommate relationship.

"We want to partner with you in your student's success while at Ole Miss."

Please feel free to contact us at studentlife@olemiss.edu with questions, comments, story ideas, or to add or update an email address.

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