



Salisbury University

Parent News

FALL 2007

Academic Calendar and Important Dates

Fall 2007

- Sept. 28-30—Family Weekend
- Oct. 19-20—Homecoming
- Nov. 20—Residence Halls Close at 5 p.m.
- Nov. 21-25—Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 26—Classes Resume after Thanksgiving
- Dec. 7—Last Day of Classes
- Dec. 8—Reading Day
- Dec. 10-14—Final Exams
- Dec. 14—Residence Halls Close at 5 p.m.
- Dec. 15—Commencement

Greetings from SU's President



On behalf of the Salisbury University community, I extend a warm welcome to all of the parents and family members who help make the success of our students possible. It hasn't been so long since I sent my own children

off to college, so I know how important it is to be involved in your student's education, while letting your son or daughter have the independence they need as young adults to discover the joys and responsibilities of this important stage in their lives. SU created the Parents and Family Association (PFA) to better inform parents about their student's educational experience, while promoting parental involvement in that experience at appropriate times. I hope that you will join the PFA and take advantage of the many opportunities to come to campus that SU offers.

This is an exciting time at Salisbury University, *A Maryland University of National Distinction*. It's impossible to miss the bold, new Teacher and Education Technology Center (TETC) rising at the northeast corner of campus. Other changes around SU may be less obvious but are also very important—the new turf on Sea Gull Stadium's field and many technology upgrades are just a few examples. Other projects are in the planning stage including the new building for the Perdue School of Business and a 700-space parking garage on east campus. These improvements enhance the quality of student life at Salisbury University and, above all, ensure that they get the outstanding academic experience for which SU has become known. I'm so glad you are part of the SU community during this important time in our history.

I personally invite you to see these changes first hand by attending SU's Family Weekend, which will be held on September 28-30. I look forward to seeing you then. Go Gulls!

Janet Dudley-Eshbach
Salisbury University President

Family Weekend Highlights September 28-30, 2007

Parents and family members are invited to a weekend of events specifically planned for you and your student to share in their life at Salisbury University. Registration materials were sent out in the mail earlier this month. Find the most up-to-date schedule, registration and lodging information available on the Web site (www.salisbury.edu/parents/familyweekend). Here are some highlights of the weekend:

Academic

- Open Classrooms for Parents
- Faculty Presentations from Four Schools

Home Athletics

- Football vs Apprentice School
- Field Hockey vs. Messiah
- Men's & Women's Cross Country
Don Cathcart Invitational Meet
- Women's Volleyball Salisbury Invitational Tournament

Entertainment

- Mind Reader Robert Channing
- Movie: *Evan Almighty*
- Family Weekend Showcase 2007
Student Dancing & Singing Groups

Food & Fun

- Leadership Brunch with SU Administration
- Legacy Breakfast for Alumni
- Post-Game Free Ice Cream Social
- Recipes from Home Dinner
- Jazz Brunch with The Pam Miller Band

Student Services

- "Ask the Experts" of Career Services
- Financial Aid: Overview and News
- Study Abroad Resource Session

Check-in, Information & Schedule Table

Friday 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Guerrieri University Center (outside Student Activities Office in link leading to the Commons)

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www.salisbury.edu/parents

What Exactly Is FERPA?

It is not at all uncommon for parents to inquire about receiving their student's grades only to hear about this thing called FERPA. You may have also wondered how to access your student's financial information at college and again heard the same word. It is understandable that these new laws are unclear since most parents are unaware that the same laws that gave parents and students access to and control over a child's educational records during elementary and high school transfer ownership of the records to the student at the college level.

FERPA stands for the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (also known as the Buckley Amendment). According to FERPA, college students are considered responsible adults and are allowed to determine who will receive information about them. These educational records most commonly include course information, academic standing, financial aid, student account information and grades. Under this law, parents who want to receive a copy of their student's academic or financial records can do so if their student signs a release form.

Frequently Asked Questions About Access to Student Records

How can I get a copy of my student's grades?

The quickest, easiest way for parents to receive information about their child's grades, financial statement or other student information is for the student to provide it. Students can look up information online, print it off and give or e-mail a copy to their parents.

If I'm paying for my child's education, why can't I get a copy of his records?

FERPA requires that access to a college student's records must be granted by approval of the student. Parents can, however, receive information about their student's records if the student agrees to provide access.

Will I be able to access my student's medical and counseling records?

FERPA regulations protect a student's "education records," which include grades, finances and discipline records. Physical and mental health records are covered by other University

policies, federal law and professional ethics. In general, professionals working in these areas will not release student information except in emergency situations. Students can choose to release information from these records to a third party, but they may want to release information on a case-by-case basis.

Isn't there a FERPA provision that colleges and universities can contact parents if a student violates alcohol or drug policies?

FERPA regulations allow, but do not require, higher education institutions to provide notice to parents when a student violates federal, state or local laws related to alcohol or drugs.

Where can I find out more about FERPA?

The U.S. Department of Education is responsible for overseeing FERPA. See the Department's Web site for additional information: www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/

Campus Safety and Security

Emergency Notification System

As part of ongoing efforts to ensure the safety of the campus community, Salisbury University has implemented an emergency notification system that sends text and voice messages in the event of an emergency. Students, faculty and staff must register their phones to receive the emergency alerts. The purpose of the emergency notification system is to provide the campus community with quick information during an emergency.

"This system greatly enhances our ability to alert the campus community of dangerous events in real time," said Edwin Lashley, chief of University police. "A quick notification will help keep the campus community out of harm's way."

The campus community has been informed of this new system via e-mail updates, instructions on the

Web page and broadcasts on the cable channel 23. Students, faculty and staff are instructed to log onto their GullNet account at www.salisbury.edu/gullnet to

register their phones in the Emergency Notification System link. Home telephones outside the local area should not be registered.

GullNet may also be used to update contact information or cancel service at any time. Students, faculty and staff are highly encouraged to sign up for this service and should keep contact information current to maintain the system's accuracy.

For parents of our freshman students, approximately 95 percent of our first-year class signed up for the emergency system at the June Preview orientation. For parents of our upper-class students, this information is new as of the start of this academic semester. We encourage parents to talk with their students to ensure they are registered with the emergency notification system.

For more information call 410-543-6030 or visit the SU Web site at www.salisbury.edu.



Parents and Family Association

This fall, Salisbury University launched a new program in the form of the Parents and Family Association (PFA). This program is dedicated to better engaging, informing and involving the families of our students than we have ever done before!

The PFA has already begun making its mark on family programming at the University by serving as an advisory panel for Family Weekend 2007. As the association grows larger and stronger, its goal is to create a Parent's Advisory Board which will serve in several roles throughout the University including recruitment of students, strengthening internship programs and much more.

The PFA is a dues-based organization costing \$25 per year for two adults living in the same household. Each PFA member will receive an electronic newsletter and a membership card that can be used to receive discounts at Salisbury area businesses (include hotels, restaurants and the University Bookstore).

If you are interested in joining the PFA, please contact Paul Cantrell, Parents and Family Association coordinator at mychildis@salisbury.edu or 410-677-5069.

Substantive Worries: Alcohol and other Drug Issues for College Students and Their Parents

by Jennifer Berkman, Director, Student Health Services, Wellness Programs and Outreach

Many college students have experiences with alcohol or other drugs during their high school years. However, the freedom in most college settings presents new challenges and situations for students and their families.

Especially during the time of transition to college, students can be faced with unfamiliar places, unfamiliar people and unfamiliar behaviors. These factors, coupled with lack of experience in making decisions and being at a relatively vulnerable period of change, can result in negative outcomes or sense of uneasiness on the part of new students in charting this new territory.

Outside of classes, there are few “adults” routinely around and interacting with students. Students have a tremendous amount of unstructured time and are more likely to be influenced by their peers and the environment than parents or other adults.

It becomes especially important, though it can be challenging, for parents to understand what their new student may be experiencing. Leaving home for college is a time of tension and excitement for the entire family. It is a time of letting go and allowing the student to navigate their new world and work toward self-sufficiency and self-responsibility, as well as self-determination.

Most parents know their children pretty well. They understand their strengths, gifts, potential,

pressures of becoming an independent and competent adult, and all that goes with the college experience.

Parents can play an essential role in supporting their young adult in this process by understanding that alcohol or other drugs in college can be serious business. Use is often connected to the vulnerabilities of this age group and figuring out a new and complex environment that includes access to substances, opportunities to socialize with or without alcohol and other drugs, and lack of adult influence on a daily basis.

Alcohol use can be perceived by students and parents as a “rite of passage.” Think carefully about your attitudes toward the use of alcohol by your son or daughter and understand that the way that college students drink today may be very different than the way you drink or drank in college yourself. There is, in fact, more “dangerous” drinking occurring today. Students drink very quickly, often drink to get drunk, may participate in drinking games or methods of drinking that lead to high levels of alcohol consumption. This may be different than the perception that some parents may have that their student is “having a few beers on the weekends.”

Once parents gain knowledge about the kinds and levels of drinking or using that college students may participate in, it is important that they send clear and straightforward messages to

and keeping the lines of communication open can be one of the best ways to nurture your new student during this critical time of transition. Parents can also help by making students aware of the campus resources available to them for additional support, education and intervention when needed. Finally, helping students to identify healthy ways to spend unstructured time like joining a club, playing intramural sports, becoming involved in a community service project or a campus activity are all ways to promote the development a well-rounded student who spends less time in situations where alcohol or other drugs may negatively influence their college experience.

Information taken from: College, Alcohol and Choices: An Essential Conversation Guide for Parents and Students. Burns, David. Wisconsin Clearinghouse For Prevention Resources, 1996.

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ability, and their weaknesses, vulnerabilities and challenges. Most have confidence in the person they've raised, but they are also aware of innate characteristics, personality traits or simply the developmental needs their children bring with them. They want their child to become an independent, mature and well-adjusted adult, ready to make their mark in the world. At the same time, many also would like it if there were someone there to ensure that things go well, and that the college professionals who work with their children know what's going on and will take care of things. They also hope their son or daughter rejects the dangerous things that seem to be inherent in our society. Above all, they want success and happiness for their children. So, they hope for the best.

Most students want success and happiness, too. They are looking forward to being on their own and becoming who they will be. This process can be scary and exciting, at the same time. Sometimes students do not have all the skills they need at the time they enter college to handle the new-found freedom, the stresses and

their student about expectations. Class attendance, safety, health and well-being, and setting themselves up for success are all messages that parents can send on a routine basis so that students understand their parents' concerns. Knowing that parents are thinking about the dangers of alcohol or drug use can help a student question why and how they are using. That “little” voice in their head may, in fact, be one of the things that help to guide them through difficult situations. I often tell students to “listen to their gut” and if something doesn't feel right, or seem right, it's probably not right for them. Parental influence in this regard can be key.

So, as much as we would like to think that our students are making good choices, focusing on their futures and setting themselves up for success by establishing healthy routines, we also know they are faced with many choices and situations that may trip them up if they are not aware of how their decisions around alcohol or other drugs can be tied to some of the failures or negative outcomes they experience. Parents can be supportive without being authoritarian,

Sea Gull Spirit on Your Screen!



Show your Salisbury University spirit with an SU screensaver for your computer. Go to www.salisbury.edu/screensavers to find directions for downloading screensavers in the following categories:

Go Gulls! - Every Sea Gull Athletics fan will want this screensaver featuring some of the highlights from SU's varsity teams.

All Around SU - One of the most beautiful campuses in Maryland, take a fresh look at Salisbury University's buildings and grounds.

Beautiful Blooms - SU's campus is a registered arboretum-let these flowers brighten your desktop as you learn the names of some of our most striking varieties.

As Distinctive As You - Find friends and familiar views with this collections of images celebrating the Sea Gull spirit.

The Class of 2011



Each August for the past decade, as faculty prepare for the academic year, Beloit College in Wisconsin has released the Beloit College Mindset List. Its 70 items provide a look at the cultural touchstones that have shaped the lives of today's first-year students, most of them born in 1989. Here is a sample of the list (for a complete list visit www.beloit.edu/~pubaff/mindset).

- What Berlin wall?
- They never "rolled down" a car window.
- They have grown up with bottled water.
- Nelson Mandela has always been free and a force in South Africa.
- Pete Rose has never played baseball.
- Russia has always had a multi-party political system.
- Women have always been police chiefs in major cities.
- Wal-Mart has always been a larger retailer than Sears and has always employed more workers than GM.
- Wolf Blitzer has always been serving up the news on CNN.
- Al Gore has always been running for president or thinking about it.
- Multigrain chips have always provided healthful junk food.
- U2 has always been more than a spy plane.
- They were introduced to Jack Nicholson as "The Joker."
- Stadiums, rock tours and sporting events have always had corporate names.
- Commercial product placements have been

the norm in films and on TV.

- Fox has always been a major network.
- They drove their parents crazy with the Beavis and Butt-Head laugh.
- Women's studies majors have always been offered on campus.
- Being a latchkey kid has never been a big deal.
- Thanks to MySpace and Facebook, autobiography can happen in real time.
- They learned about JFK from Oliver Stone and Malcolm X from Spike Lee.
- High definition television has always been available.
- Tiananmen Square is a 2008 Olympics venue, not the scene of a massacre.
- MTV has never featured music videos.
- The space program has never really caught their attention except in disasters.
- Jerry Springer has always been lowering the level of discourse on TV.
- They get much more information from Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert than from the newspaper.
- They're always texting 1 n other.
- They will encounter roughly equal numbers of female and male professors in the classroom.
- They never saw Johnny Carson live on television.
- The World Wide Web has been an online tool since they were born.
- Food packaging has always included nutritional labeling.

Learning to Fly

As classes begin and the semester is underway, you may be faced with a phone call, text or e-mail from your son or daughter asking you for help with a problem. Whether your student is living in the same home or SU is a few hundred miles away, encouraging your student to take responsibility for resolving the issue is an important first step.

This does not mean that your student needs to handle the issue on their own. The University has excellent resources for your student. By allowing your son or daughter to seek out the support available to them, he or she will be better equipped to handle any challenges or concerns down the road. This also supports the continued development of effective communication skills, confidence building and problem-solving skills.

The University website (www.salisbury.edu/parents) has links to the variety of resources available to your student. Here is a brief outline to assist you in guiding your student:

Academic Concern

If your student is struggling in the classroom, the best advice is to direct your son or daughter to their course instructor. Faculty members are best equipped to help your student when they ask for support in a timely manner. There are also academic support services including tutoring, math labs and a writing center to assist your student throughout the year. Academic advisors, department offices and Career Services also are helpful academic support resources.

Residence Hall Issue

Students with concern related to living in the residence halls should first speak to their resident assistant (RA). If the concern requires the assistance of a professional staff member, your student can contact his or her resident director (RD) or area director (AD). (www.salisbury.edu/housing)

Off-Campus Concern

Students that live off campus can access the resources of the Office of Student Affairs (410-543-6080) or the Guerrieri University Center Information Desk (410-543-6006) for assistance. In the event of an emergency, students should call 911 or for non-emergency safety and security assistance, they may contact University Police (410-543-6222).

Personal Issue

Whether it is their first or final year at Salisbury, it is common for students to be faced with new challenges and responsibilities. Student Counseling Services (www.salisbury.edu/counseling or 410-543-6070) provides specialized professional services designed to support and assist students in their career, personal and social development. The services are free and confidential for SU students.

Activities Calendar

Check out what is happening at SU!

www.salisbury.edu/calendar