

The V.I.P.* Newsletter

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December 2009

* very important parent

THE UNIVERSITY OF TULSA

Talking About Academics

First semester grades will soon arrive on your doorstep. What are you expecting as far as your student's grades are concerned? Are you prepared to have the appropriate conversations with your student about his academic performance? Regardless of whether or not he got all As or all Ds, addressing grades should be a priority this winter.

No matter what, though, try to keep in mind two important things:

College is about so much more than grades.

- The grades belong to your student—they are his responsibility and if he's done poorly, now it's his choice whether or not to work even harder to pull up his overall average.
- This isn't easy to swallow, especially if you're the one paying the bills. But, if you can remember these two things, it might make having the conversation a little bit easier.

For the student who has done well:

- Celebrate! Getting good grades in college is tough to do, especially for first-year students and those balancing coursework with athletics, a job or other co-curricular activities.

- Discuss what your student learned this past semester. Which class was most engaging and why? What was she able to apply from classes to her life outside of classes? Will she be taking any additional courses to further explore a particular subject area?
- Review study techniques and other preparation strategies that worked well. What tricks did your student discover for himself? Will he be using the same strategies next semester? Will he be trying anything new?

For the student who hasn't done so well:

- Explore the reasons for the performance. The why behind the poor grades is what is most important. Perhaps your student is struggling with a professor and needs support in handling the situation. Or, maybe your student spent too many nights goofing off and not enough nights studying. Whatever the case, get to the root of the issue and address it.
- Seek to understand. What's done is done. It's important to focus on fixing the issues so that this doesn't happen again.
- Brainstorm some strategies for

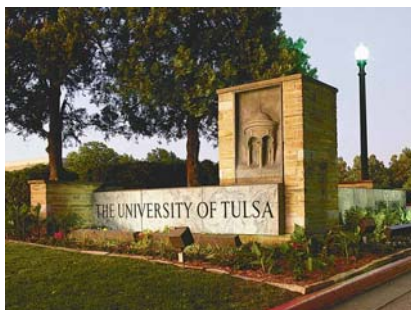
improvement. Although college students are considered "adults," they still need help. It could prove very helpful to sit down and brainstorm together. Some potential areas to discuss include:

- √ Daily study habits
- √ Skill sets including note taking, writing, reading and test taking
- √ Room set-up
- √ Class schedule
- √ Out-of-class involvements and responsibilities
- √ Whether or not a learning disability might be coming into play

No matter what, let your student know that you're on her side. While getting good grades is your student's responsibility, being confident that she has your support will make a world of difference. You'll be less likely to get surprised with poor grades too, as you'll be able to maintain open lines of communication—about the As and the Ds. Remember, college is all about learning. Sometimes, it's the flops that teach the most.

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Thank you Parent Volunteers!



We would like to recognize the following parents who assisted with our Fall 2009 Parent and Family Weekend and recruitment efforts this fall by hosting receptions for prospective students, making presentations to prospective students and families, and volunteering at college recruitment fairs.

Thank you all so much for your dedication, perseverance, and commit-

ment to The University of Tulsa!

Bonnie Kucera, Kathy Hrdlicka, Debbie Braman, Les Silies, Terri Silies, Susie Kilian, Kathleen Ocena, Lesley LePage, Susie LeRoy, Becky Hunt, Punky & Glen Dahl, Susan & Scott Dixon, Carol & Richard Spears, Momi & Eric Cockrell, and Beth & Johnny Haney.



As a service to our families here at Tulsa, we are providing an online subscription to Student Health 101 for both your student and yourself. Student Health 101 is a monthly health and wellness magazine just for college students and their parents. Each issue contains valuable information that will help your student make better decisions while in college, and can help you with a better understanding of the health and wellness challenges that face today's students. Each month in the VIP Newsletter, we will list a link to the latest issue of the parents-only Parent Perspective, along with the Student Health 101 issue that your student will receive. Please take a few minutes to read the issues each month, as we believe that

they can be a valuable resource for you and your family.

You can read the December issue of the Parent Perspective, online at: <http://readsh101.com/utulsa-pp.html>

- This December issue has some great articles including:
- Winter Workouts You Can Really Warn Up To
 - Can't We All Just Get Along?
 - Resolutions: Now's the Time to Prepare for a Healthy 2010
 - Beat the 5 Stresses of Finals Time
 - Religion and Spirituality on Campus
 - PLUS: TV's trainer Jillian Michaels offers workout tips for students
 - And much more...

You are also invited to read the accompanying Student Health 101 issue for our students: <http://readsh101.com/utulsa.html>

If you missed it – be sure to read the November issue, with Facebook and MySpace, time management secrets, money management made easy, and more, <http://readsh101.com/utulsa.html?id=211654>

And – if you'd like to learn more about how to fight the spread of the H1N1 Flu, read online at <http://readsh101.com/h1n1tips.html>

Best of luck to you and your student this semester!

Seasonal Student Issues

There's a seasonal ebb and flow when it comes to student issues. Here are a few things your student may be experiencing this month:

- Much panic, fear and cramming as finals and paper deadlines approach
- High temper as stress mounts
- The realization that some friends may not be returning next semester

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- Increased pressure to participate in sexual activity because of the approach of vacation and extended separation
- Financial strain due to holiday gifts and travel costs
- Religious conflicts as your student gets ready to return home after a semester of gaining new perspectives

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- Excitement/anxiety about returning home
- Increased use of alcohol and drugs

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Academic Calendar

Fall Term 2009

- Last day of classes: December 7
- Reading Days: December 8 - 9
- Finals: December 10 - 11, 14 - 17
- Commencement: December 19

Spring Term 2010

- First day of classes: January 11
- Martin Luther King Day: January 18
- Spring Break: March 15 - 19
- Last day of classes: April 26
- Reading Days: April 27 - 28
- Finals: April 29 - 30, May 3 - 6
- Commencement: May 8



Does Your Student Have Hurricane Gold Dollars?

Hurricane Gold Dollars is an account is tied to your student's TU OneCard (Student ID Card) and can be used for purchases both ON and OFF campus. Since your student always carries their TU OneCard, it's the safest and most convenient option for on and off campus dining and purchasing.

Tulsa
Hurricane
Gold Dollars

Using it is easy! Once you add money to your student's Hurricane Gold Dollars account, they simply swipe their TU OneCard at any participating merchant and the balance is deducted at the register. The best part is your student can do and eat what, when and where they want without spending your cash or charging up your credit cards!

Visit www.MyGoldDollars.com to add funds online today!

Seasonal Student Issues

There's a seasonal ebb and flow when it comes to student issues. Here are a few things your student may be experiencing this month:

√ First year students begin to realize college life is not as perfect as they were expecting it to be.

√ Diversity issues become very apparent as students begin interacting with others who are very different from them.

√ Conflicts between friends—both new and old—can occur as students settle into rhythm of the new academic year.

√ Feeling behind in class work and wanting more contact with instructors.

√ Anticipating mid-terms and questioning their abilities.

√ People start to show their

“true selves”—masks start to come off as students begin to feel more comfortable in their surroundings.

√ Job panic of mid-year graduates as the realization settles in that they will be graduating soon.

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Getting to Know Faculty and Staff



Simple tips for students

Sometimes students are so focused on the intent of their conversation with a faculty or staff member that they forget to take a few minutes to get to know more about that person.

To learn more about the faculty and staff in their lives, students can do

things like:

- Ask about something that's hanging on their office wall (“That mask is really interesting—where did you get it?”)

- Notice their diploma and ask what they liked about attending XYZ University

- Comment on their lunch (“Oh, Diet Dr. Pepper is one of my favorites, too.”)

- Ask how long they've been at the institution and where they're originally from

- Comment on something mentioned in class (“In class last week you mentioned your dog—what kind do you have?” or “The story you told last week about veterans often having

trouble with driving once they return from war intrigued me and I looked up more about it.”)

- Notice a book on their bookshelf

- Ask if they have a favorite kind of music or if they've seen any good movies lately

Sometimes a few minutes of “get-to-know-you” talk can go a long way in helping your student develop a relationship with a professor or staff member on campus. And students need these people in their lives, as educators, challengers and advocates.

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Successful 'green crude' program at TU receives \$750,000 in funding

Published by University Relations on November 4, 2009

The University of Tulsa will receive \$750,000 from the federal government to expand and improve its fast-growing research program that takes algae and refines it into gasoline.

The funding comes from an appropriation in the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act recently approved by the U.S. Congress. Sen. Jim Inhofe and Rep. John Sullivan led the effort to strengthen sustainable biofuels research in Oklahoma.

The TU Department of Chemical Engineering will use the money to expand its work in optimizing the algae-to-fuel conversion process, improve technical equipment and hire additional research staff. It also plans to recruit and fund graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to aid in algae fuel experiments.

Senator Inhofe called this appropriation an important investment in our energy and economic future.

"Thanks in part to the important research being conducted by The University of Tulsa, making fuels from algae has demonstrated significant potential as a technically and economically viable green fuel," Inhofe said.

Congressman Sullivan said the funds will spur economic development and promote alternative fuel research in Oklahoma.

"Oklahoma has long been a national leader in the energy industry, and I am proud of the work being done right here in the First District...to ensure our state continues to play a role in the research and development of alternative fuels and promoting energy efficiency," Sullivan said.

Sapphire Energy, Inc., a leading alternative energy company, partnered with TU in 2007 to produce gasoline

from components that make up "green crude," an oil derived from algae that can be used in similar ways to crude oil. TU chemical engineering faculty developed a patent-pending refining process for Sapphire Energy's green crude in 2008, and TU researchers have succeeded in turning algae into high-octane gasoline.

"The whole philosophy is totally different from other alternative fuel projects," said Geoffrey Price, chemical engineering professor and chair of the department. "This isn't biodiesel or ethanol. It's gasoline, just made from another source."

Algae also absorb large quantities of carbon dioxide (CO₂), creating a carbon-neutral cycle that removes an equivalent amount of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere as are emitted from cars. To produce algae takes only three inputs — sunlight, CO₂ and photosynthetic microorganisms (like algae) — and does not require large amounts of fertilizer, farmland or fresh water.

"Algae can grow almost anywhere. The exciting thing about this project is that we aren't using any cropland to produce the algae, and the process can use non-potable water and non-arable land," said Daniel Crunkleton, associate professor of chemical engineering and director of TU's Institute of Alternative Energy.

With research and development, fuel made from algae has the potential to produce about 50 percent of the transportation fuel requirements of the entire country by 2020, using 24 million acres of land. This contrasts with ethanol production from corn, which yields only four percent of U.S. fuel requirements using the equivalent amount of land.

Green crude is compatible with the existing petroleum infrastructure, from refinement through distribution and the retail supply chain. That downstream compatibility is one of

the many advantages that caught Price's attention. As a 30-year veteran researching important processes in the oil refining industry, he knew that alternative fuels could more easily become mainstream if they conformed to the manufacturing and distribution system already in place.

"In addition to difficulties making and using other proposed fuels such as ethanol, biodiesel and hydrogen, we would also need to overhaul the existing downstream system to use them," Price said. "Green crude can be refined at existing refineries, the products can be transported in existing pipelines, sold at gas stations and used in existing vehicles. That's one of the keys to bridging the gap between fossil and renewable fuels."

Fuels derived from green crude were used successfully in several test flights with the commercial airlines Continental and JAL in January 2009. Green crude also fueled the Algaeus, a Toyota Prius that in September became the world's first hybrid vehicle to cross the United States on algae-based renewable gasoline.

About the University of Tulsa
Ranked among the top 100 universities in the nation, The University of Tulsa is a private institution providing comprehensive educational opportunities to more than 4,100 graduate and undergraduate students in the arts, business, engineering, the sciences and law. Our students thrive in the university's rigorous programs that feature personalized attention, small class sizes and low student-to-faculty ratio. TU has distinguished itself as a national leader in several key disciplines including petroleum engineering, alternative fuel development, cybersecurity and energy management.

Personal Finance Magazine Names TU a Top 50 Best Value Private University

Published by University Relations on November 5, 2009

Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine has named The University of Tulsa a best value among private universities.

The personal finance publication ranked TU 45th on its list, with its calculations based on tuition costs, actual costs after financial aid, average debt after graduation, graduation rate, admission rate, SAT and ACT scores, and student-faculty ratio.

The article said it took the institutions' performance during the economic crisis into account, and the universities chosen "have weath-

ered the storm especially well." TU was part of a group praised for "delivering real value" and providing "a top-quality education at an affordable price — usually because of generous financial aid."

For the academic year 2008–2009, 88 percent of TU students received financial aid. TU ranks first among private universities for freshman retention rate, according to a recent report by the U.S. Department of Education. The university also boasts small class sizes with a 10-to-1 faculty-student ratio. More than 70 percent of incoming freshmen graduated in the top 10 percent of their high school classes.

Kiplinger's report follows another

2009 report by Princeton Review and USA TODAY placing TU among the top 50 best value private universities. Editors at The Princeton Review said, "The University of Tulsa is among the lowest-priced selective, independent institutions in the nation." The report recognized the opportunity for TU undergraduates to "get involved in advanced research with faculty members as mentors. Opportunities like this are usually the domain of graduate students at similarly sized private universities."

For more information on Kiplinger's rankings and methodology, visit <http://www.kiplinger.com/magazine/archives/best-values-in-private-colleges.html>.

TU Cookbook! Submit Your Recipes by March 5, 2010!

The TU Parents Association is currently putting together a TU cookbook to raise money for the TU Parents' Association. We need your help! We are looking for recipes from TU parents, family members, students, faculty, and staff to be included in the cookbook. We hope to have the cookbooks published and ready to sale by the start of the Fall 2010 semester.

You have until March 5, 2010 to submit recipes. It is so easy to submit your recipe. Please go to www.typensave.com and click the log in button. You will then enter the following information:

Contributor: Your Name
Group Log-in: tucookbook
Password: kyunu

Once you are logged in, please click the "add recipe" button. Please list your name under the "Contributor Name," box and then list your home city and state in the "Additional Contributor Names," box. You can then enter the recipe title, what category the recipe should be placed in, and your recipe. It is that easy! Also, feel free to submit more than one recipe. If you need any help with this please email me at lesmith@utulsa.edu or Karen Dixon at skdixon456@hotmail.com

If you do not wish to enter a recipe(s) yourself, you may email your recipe to me.

Thanks so much!
 Laura McNeese



facebook

The TU Parent and Family Association is on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/pages/Tulsa-OK/University-of-Tulsa-Parent-and-Family-Association/175113127570?ref=ts>

We encourage all of you to join our page to meet other TU parents and to receive TU Parent and Family Association updates and news! You do need to have a Facebook account to become a member of our page. You can do so by going to www.facebook.com. If you need any help doing this, Please contact us at lesmith@utulsa.edu or (918) 631-2967.