

# Park Parent Newsletter

Park University

## Top 10 reasons to participate in the Park University Parent & Family Orientation!

10. Great food! After a long day hauling your son or daughter's possessions into the residence hall or helping them find their classrooms for Monday - the drinks and food will look REALLY good!

9. You might miss something! What if that ONE bit of information you need to help your student was mentioned in a workshop, and you decided to go back to work instead?!

8. You'll learn ways to adjust to YOUR new life - as the parent of a first-year college student.

7. Just how safe is the Parkville campus? Come and learn all about it!

6. What can my student do

to avoid the "freshman 15" and what healthy lifestyle choices are here for them?

5. What is Residence Life all about? What kind of things will my son or daughter be doing and who are the people who will be looking out for him or her?

4. Is college really different from high school? Will my student be able to cut it? Is there someone who can help him or her? What do faculty expect?

3. How is my son or daughter going to change in the next few years and what do you mean by "student development?"

2. You'll have an opportunity to meet many of the Park University faculty and

staff, so as your student talks about us (wonderful stories, of course!) - you'll know who we are!

1. Your son or daughter is a member of the Park family now, and as their parent - YOU are a member of our extended family! Please come to the reception and sessions so we get a chance to meet you!

Thursday, Aug. 12, 2 pm

Also—a special Parent Orientation on Wednesday, August 11 at 2 pm for Parents of students participating in the Early Action program.

Register online at:

[www.Park.edu/Parents](http://www.Park.edu/Parents)

Summer, 2010

Volume 1, Issue 3

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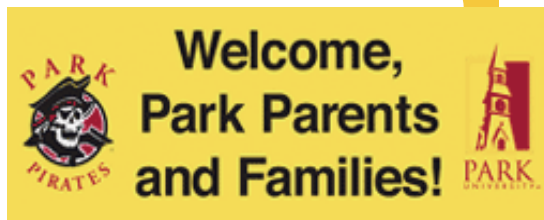
Importance of Involvement 4

## New Student Orientation and Welcome Week

Has your son or daughter registered yet for New Student Orientation? It's scheduled for Friday and Saturday, August 13-14 and it's required for all first-time freshman students. (There are also special sessions for new Transfer students.) They will

have an opportunity to meet the faculty of their LE 100 class and their fellow classmates. They will also get to know their freshman mentor and learn about the many support services on campus, as well as the fun programs available. The entire schedule, as well as the online registration

form and details about Welcome Week are on the web at: [www.Park.edu/Orientation](http://www.Park.edu/Orientation). Check it out and call Student Life with questions: 816/584-6377. For more information about Student Life, check online at [www.Park.edu/StudentLife](http://www.Park.edu/StudentLife)



# Live on Campus and Save Money!

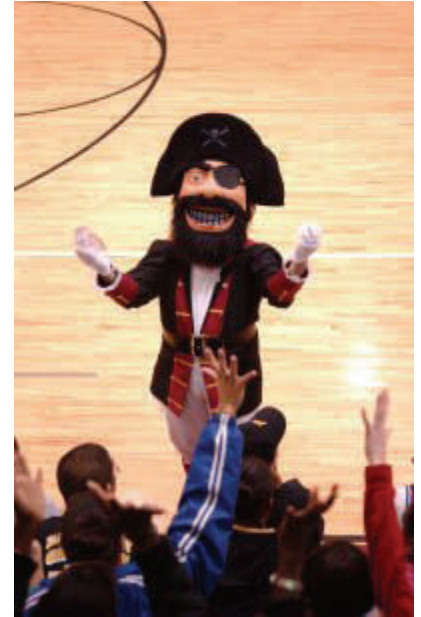
Living on campus in one of Park University's residence halls not only offers an enhanced developmental experience for students; but is also a convenient and effective way to save money during college.

With gas prices still rising, commuting has become an increasingly more expensive way for students to complete their education. Please visit the [Housing Cost Calculator](#) where you can input all the information you know about commuting and potential housing costs (gas price per gallon, number of miles per commute, food costs, etc.) and compare the cost of living on campus compared to living off campus. We

think you'll be surprised.

Coupled with the convenience of living a few minutes from classrooms, the benefits of living on campus never seem to end! Residents are immediately immersed in a social environment that enhances student's academic endeavors, provides opportunities to gain and learn skills that are necessary for a successful career, and tons of involvement opportunities, such as student organizations, intramural sports, lectures, and social events offered by the Campus Activities Board.

For more information and the online housing application, check [www.Park.edu/Housing](http://www.Park.edu/Housing).



## Living Learning Communities in Copley Quad!

The Office of Residence Life is excited to expand the Living Learning Community (LLC) program which was piloted two years ago. This unique experience will combine the excellent classroom education freshman students receive and their outside the classroom learning and development gained in the residence halls.

National studies show that students involved in Living-Learning Communities benefit in the following ways:

- Higher GPAs;
- Higher class attendance;
- A stronger connection to their University (which directly correlates to academic satisfaction and success); and
- Increased four-year graduation rates

Students in the LLC program will be placed in suites in Copley Quad according to their LS 100 (Freshman Seminar) classroom. The students in their hall will be their classmates in this class, and programming will be done to build upon and enhance the learning in the introductory LS 100 class.

One of the most positive features of the LLCs is how quickly students involved feel more deeply connected to their surrounding community and the overall Park University community. By participating in Orientation, Move-in activities, and floor programs in the first week, students in the LLCs will feel as if they've known each other for a long time, and will have had a jump start on meeting new friends and have a strong social network to work together on educational endeavors.

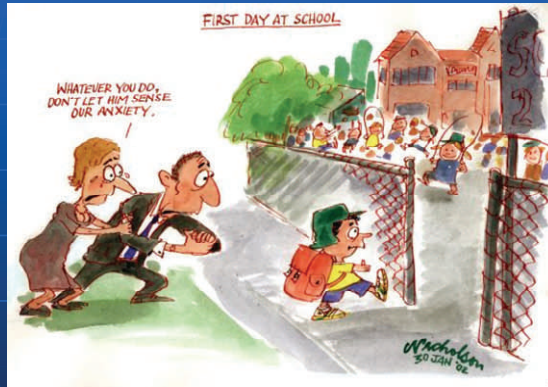
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- Higher GPAs;
- Higher class attendance;
- A stronger connection to their University (which directly correlates to academic satisfaction and success; and,
- Increased four-year graduation rates.

Katie Davies, a freshman in the pilot LLC program said, "Everyone on my floor is so close and we all get along great. This experience has been incredible. I think it should be required for all freshman students to participate in a Living Learning Community."

The LLC program is designed around the [Office of Residence Life learning outcomes](#). Space MAY still be available, so if your son or daughter is interested in being a part of a Living Learning community, please contact J.C. Stoner, Director of Residence Life at [james.stoner@park.edu](mailto:james.stoner@park.edu) or by calling (816) 584-7400. They will be glad they did!!

# Parent Orientation



Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm  
McCoy Meetin' House

## Adjustment Time for Parents, Too!

There will probably be a few tears, followed by a whoop of joy! Living with your son or daughter this summer may have been especially difficult. As they are anticipating this changing experience in their lives (their first year of college!), they may be pulling away from parents and siblings, and “testing” their boundaries! While they are excited, they are probably also a bit apprehensive. They are in for a lot of changes, and you are too!

If this is a concern for you, we hope you'll participate in the sessions at the Parent Orientation that are offered by our fabulous counselors, Linda Waxse and Erin Martin. They will be discussing the changes your children are going

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through, plus the impact that has on you—their parents. They have some words of advice that we believe you'll find helpful, and you'll have an opportunity to share your concerns (and your excitement!) with the other parents in attendance. All your conflicting feelings are normal, and can be productive. Before you head for the beach or re-decorate their room—come join us for this valuable session!

## Ways to Keep in Touch with your College Student

Although your student will be spending most of their energy adjusting to campus life and making new friends, they still want to hear from you on occasion! Your student will have easy access to e-mail, so that's always a good choice. Don't forget all the free online cards available, such as [www.hallmark.com](http://www.hallmark.com), [www.123greetings.com](http://www.123greetings.com), and [www.bluemountain.com](http://www.bluemountain.com).

Most students also have a cell phone, but you may want to limit your cell phone calls at first—to make sure they are getting “connected” with new friends. It may be easier to call you for advice, but they'll be glad later if they locate resources on campus who can help them throughout their college career. RESIST the temptation to figure it out for them, and instead—encourage them to check with faculty

and staff (or other students) who can direct them to the proper help.

Even in these times, there's nothing like REAL mail, and care packages are always a hit! If your student is living on campus, they will have a mailbox they can check at any time. Commuter students can choose to have a mailbox also. The Parkville campus address is: 8700 NW River Park Drive, Parkville, MO 64152. Happy Writing!

## Park University

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8700 NW River Park Drive  
Parkville, MO 64152

Phone: 816-584-6377

Fax: 816-505-5456

E-mail: [StudentLife@Park.edu](mailto:StudentLife@Park.edu)



"It's About Students. Period."

**studentlife**

**PARK**  
UNIVERSITY SM

# Parent Orientation

**Thursday, August 12: 2:00 pm - 5:15 pm**

Learn more and register online at: [www.Park.edu/Parents](http://www.Park.edu/Parents)

There's also an optional Campus Tour at 1:30 pm that day. Just meet us outside the west doors of Thompson Student Center.

Join the special ListServ just developed for Parents of Park University Students! Sign-up is available at the bottom of the registration form for the Parent Orientation at:  
[www.Park.edu/StudentLife/Parents](http://www.Park.edu/StudentLife/Parents)

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## Student Involvement on Campus is Important!



Studying is important, but it's also important for your son or daughter to get involved on campus. Studies show that students who take part in student events, join student organizations, utilize campus facilities, and get to know other students, faculty, and staff will do better in college. They are more likely to stay enrolled, make better grades, and graduate. And, they

are more likely to get a good job after college!

So, it's important to remind your student to go to class regularly, encourage them to check with Academic Support Services for tutoring if needed, and make sure they remember to study outside of class. However, it's also important to ask them what student organizations they have joined, if they have worked out yet at Pirate Fitness, and if they have gone to any games on campus.

The students in the left photo were on their way to a Park Student Service Trip in Kentucky. A group goes to Florida each fall and different service destinations in the spring.

The group below just won the Dodgeball Tournament! A wide variety of intramural sports events are available, plus concerts, lectures, bowling trips, ice skating, comedians, and many different student-sponsored functions. Annual events include Harvest Fest in October and Spring Fling each March:  
[www.Park.edu/calendar](http://www.Park.edu/calendar)

