

FILE YOUR FAFSA

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The Financial Aid Services staff is available to answer any questions by phone (610) 683-4077 or in person. Office hours are 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday; 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Tuesdays.

Students, need a job? Don't forget to visit KU's student employment website: www.kutztown.edu/admin/finaid/employment/home.html.

Reminder...

As the winter season approaches, we would like to remind everyone that the university has a severe weather policy in place. To check for delays and cancellations as well as phone numbers, radio and television station information, please go to: www.kutztown.edu/weather.

Family Ties is published three times a year by the Division of Student Services and Campus Life and the Office of University Relations.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, October 30	Homecoming (www.kutztown.edu/alumni/wiesenberger)
Monday, November 1	Last day to contractually cancel housing for spring 2005 without loss of deposit. Student must cancel in person in Housing & Residential Services, 106 Old Main by 4:30 p.m.
Monday, November 1	Housing renewal begins online (www.kutztown.edu/admin/harlo).
Sunday, November 14	Last day to participate in housing renewal
Wednesday, November 24	Residence halls close at 11 a.m. for Thanksgiving recess
Sunday, November 28	Residence halls open at 1 p.m.
Tuesday, November 30	Open room change, same hall 10 a.m.-noon
Thursday, December 2	Open room change, different hall 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in Old Main Concourse
Saturday, December 11	Last day of regular classes
Friday, December 17	Residence halls close at 6 p.m. for winter recess
Saturday, December 18	Commencement, 10 a.m.
Sunday, January 9	Residence halls open at 1 p.m. for spring semester

Each issue of Family Ties can be viewed online at:

www.kutztown.edu/familyties/



KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY of Pennsylvania

A Member of the State System of Higher Education



Important News for Families of Kutztown University Students

FALL 2004

Counseling Services reaches out to students in need
By Liz Norris '08

As freshmen move in with their roommates and begin their first classes on a college campus, it is no secret there are a lot of adjustment issues. The experiences, the decisions, the surroundings are all new, and at times a bit more than some students can handle. Kutztown University's Counseling Services exists to offer students help in a vast array of areas, whether it is simple conflict resolution, coping with stress, depression, eating disorders, or anxiety. Traditional counseling and crisis intervention are all available.

Students can also go to the counseling center on the second floor of Stratton Administration Center for academic support. Students who find themselves in situations where they are having trouble coping with their coursework or making sound decisions related to their studies, can turn to a counselor for support.

In addition, Counseling Services offers a number of support groups for students, and the counselors try to create groups which relate to the changing concerns of students. In the case of students dealing with addictive behaviors, the counseling center can direct them to group programs off-campus but in the local area.

All KU counseling services are offered free of charge during the fall and spring semesters and are confidential. Students can schedule an appointment in advance at the office or walk in during an emergency.

Counseling Services is open 8 a.m.-noon and 1-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Tuesday, when it is open 8 a.m.-noon and 1-6 p.m.

The phone number is 610-683-4072. If students are in need of immediate assistance after office hours, they can call 610-683-4082. Public Safety and Police Services is also available for assistance after 8 p.m. and on weekends at 610-683-4001.

More information about Counseling Services is available at www.kutztown.edu/admin/counseling.

This year, Kutztown University welcomed its first full-time alcohol and other drug specialist. Wendy Bartkus, who previously worked as an AOD specialist in the counseling center, now divides her time between the center and Health and Wellness Services.

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Shuttle Bus Update

The shuttle bus service implemented last year has proven to be quite a success. So much so that extended hours were added this year.

In addition to the Monday through Friday on campus loop service which runs continuously from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. from University Place to the McFarland Student Union, and the off-campus loop from CVS Pharmacy to Briar Cliff apartments; an evening loop from 3:30-11:30 p.m. was established. The evening service includes both on-campus and off-campus loops and has a pick up as far north as the Weis Market shopping center at the end of town.

The university saw the need to add evening hours as the number of students using the buses grew during the first year of operation. In 2003-2004, there were 78,435 riders. This year, during the first two weeks of the semester, the number has increased by approximately 900 each week compared to last year for the same two weeks. One-half of those riders are on the evening shuttle.

Students have come to appreciate and rely on this service. Positive comments regarding the benefits of the shuttle buses have been a buzz around campus: "I'm happy there is a nighttime loop," "The drivers are friendly," and "It's a great service that I use often." Physically challenged students are also appreciative of the service which alleviates some of their transportation worries.

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What Is Open Room Change?

At the end of each fall semester, our current residents are given an opportunity to participate in a housing process that allows them to select a different room for the spring semester. A list of vacancies due to cancellations during the spring semester are made available in each residence hall. Room change forms also will be available at residence hall lobby desks. Completed forms and signatures from the current roommate and the new roommate are required to participate and secure a vacant space.

To change to a different room in the same residence hall, students should take their complete room change form to the designated resi-

dent coordinator office on Tuesday, November 30 between the hours of 10 a.m. to noon. Those students interested in changing to a different building, must take their completed room change form to the Old Main Concourse on Thursday, December 2 from 10 a.m. to noon to complete the process. Please note that this process is held over the free hour (11 a.m. to noon) on these designated days.

Any student participating in open room change will be required to completely check out of their fall assignment at the end of the fall semester. All belongings must be removed, and keys returned to the residence hall lobby desk.

Students will receive more information in November in their residence hall mailbox. Information also will be posted on our website at www.kutztown.edu/admin/harlo.

ON CAMPUS HOUSING RENEWAL FOR FALL 2005/SPRING 2006

To renew on-campus housing for the 2005/2006 academic year, students must participate online starting Monday, November 1 through Friday, November 12.

During this online process current residential students can roll over their \$125 housing deposit from spring 2005 to secure a space in the residence halls for the 2005/2006 academic year.

Simply go to www.kutztown.edu/admin/harlo, select 'Housing Renewal' enter your Social Security number and PIN number, click on login, select housing, and follow the instructions to roll over your housing deposit. If you do not remember your PIN number, please contact the Registrar's Office in 115 Stratton Administration Center, 610-683-4485.

Students will be notified in advance through two on-campus mailings, posters, KUTV bulletins, building announcements, and Bear Essentials, the electronic student newsletter.

You must participate in the housing renewal process to secure an on-campus space for the next academic year.



C-store opens in GBVS

The C-store, a new convenience store located in Golden Bear Village South, officially opened on September 16 with a ribbon cutting ceremony; store name contest; raffles; refreshments; and entertainment by the KU Dance Team, and KUR, the university's radio station.

COUNSELING SERVICES *continued from front page*

As an AOD specialist, Bartkus meets with students who are referred to her or come to her for help. She does an initial assessment, determining what level of help the student needs. While many students benefit from on-campus counseling, others may need to see off-campus counselors or be referred to outpatient treatment at a detoxification center. Students who are not recommended for off-campus counseling continue to meet with Bartkus for weekly one-hour sessions. Some students opt to participate in support groups off-campus while meeting with Bartkus.

In addition to helping troubled students, Bartkus also presents programs in the residence halls and aids professors in developing class materials relevant to drug and alcohol awareness.

Bartkus encourages students to talk to her if they suspect their friends have a substance abuse problem. She can also offer assistance to students experiencing difficulties with alcohol/drug abuse in their families.

According to Bartkus, warning signs of abuse include an increased tolerance for alcohol, drinking more than one intended, and a decreased interest in academics and extracurricular activities.

Bartkus is available for appointment by calling 610-683-4075. However, walk-in visitors are welcome and emergency service is available through Public Safety and Police Services after hours.

The Health & Wellness Center will provide a flu shot program for students. The program is scheduled for October 28 from noon to 3 p.m. in the center. Pre-registration is required to ensure enough vaccine is available. The cost is \$10 and is payable at the time of vaccination. Cash, check, or money order will be accepted. Please check the website (www.kutztown.edu/admin/healthcenter) for additional information about the program.

Family Day '04



Fun was had by all on

Family Day, September 25.

This year's dinner theme

was the 70s inspired

"Boogie Nights."



REMEMBER TO FILE YOUR FAFSA EARLY!

Kutztown University's priority filing deadline for scholarships and campus-based aid is February 15 (incoming freshmen) and May 1 (incumbents) each year. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be filed to be considered for university-based scholarships and various aid programs such as Stafford loan, Perkins loan, SEOG grant, and Work Study. If students meet this filing deadline, they will be evaluated for the Pell grant, PHEAA state grant and Stafford loan. May 1 marks the deadline for the PHEAA state grant program for Pennsylvania residents.

First-time aid applicants must file the original FAFSA while most former applicants may file the renewal FAFSA that is mailed to them.

The FAFSA is used to apply for all forms of federal, state and institutional aid offered at Kutztown University. KU scholarships and student employment are also determined by the FAFSA. A student can file the FAFSA electronically by completing and submitting it online at: www.fafsa.ed.gov. The U.S. Department of Education requires students to sign their FAFSA either on paper or by a personal identification number (PIN), which serves as an electronic signature. If a student does not have a PIN, one can be applied for at: www.pin.ed.gov. If a student is required to provide parent information, then a parent's signature is also required. Parents can apply for a PIN on the same Website. Printing and mailing a paper signature page is not necessary.

Students who wish to apply for a Stafford loan for the 2005-06 academic year, need to answer "yes" to question #27 on the FAFSA. This will initiate the processing of the Stafford loan; therefore, it is no longer necessary to pick up the application from the lender. Parents interested in applying for PLUS loans must continue to pick up their application through the bank previously used. Loan processing for incumbents will begin after spring 2005 grades are posted to determine eligibility. (Loans are processed in the order in which they are received.)

Students should remember that eligibility for financial aid is determined by the results of the FAFSA and continuing students must meet the satisfactory academic progress requirements. Federal regulations require a university to establish an academic progress policy as part of eligibility requirements for all federal financial aid programs. (PHEAA grants are state aid with different eligibility requirements.)

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New Zoned Parking Created

In an effort to lessen traffic between north and south campus, and to maintain residential student parking near residence halls and commuter student parking near academic buildings, zoned parking has been implemented for the first time this fall.

The number of credits and which residence hall or apartment complex a student lives determines the parking decal type and lot for which the student is assigned.

A few examples: An upperclass student (more than 48 credits) who lives in University Place has been assigned lot C2 (lower lot by Uni-

versity Place) and a "UP" type decal for his/her vehicle. An upperclass student who lives in Old Main, Beck, or Deatrick has been assigned D1 (upper lot by Deatrick) and an "R" purple type decal. A resident freshman (less than 48 credits) must park on the Fairgrounds lot ("RF" decal). An upperclass commuter student may park in the white spaces in the Beekey, Lytle, Grim, or softball field lots ("C" decal).

The university hopes this new initiative will help alleviate some of the ongoing parking problems and confusion related to them. Questions regarding KU's zoned parking may be directed to Crystal Taylor, assistant director for parking and security, at 610-683-4956 or ctaylor@kutztown.edu.