Florida State University
Dean of Students Department
Office of New Student & Family Programs

What's Going 'Round
February 2015

Important Dates

February 26: Searching for a Job chat
March 2: Health insurance enrollment for 2015-2016 begins
March 7: Residence halls close at noon
March 9-13: Spring Break - no classes
March 15: Residence halls reopen at noon

For more information, visit the Registrar's Office

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Student Government Association

The Student Government Association (SGA) at FSU is the governing body of our campus which provides representation, services, and advocacy for students within the overall university structure. SGA provides leadership opportunities for students and is a great entity for any student to become involved in.

Similar to our national government, the SGA is broken up into different branches. The Executive Branch houses the Student Body President, Vice President, and Executive Cabinet. The Legislative Branch houses 80 student Senators. The Judicial Branch has a Supreme Court and oversees Student Conduct Review Board. Elections for various positions within SGA are held each semester. This semester’s election is coming up on Wednesday, February 25th, so be sure to encourage your student to go online and vote!

Additionally, SGA oversees several different agencies and bureaus that are designed to help students get the most out of the university.

There are currently six different agencies within SGA:

- The Asian American Student Union
- The Black Student Union
- The Hispanic/Latino Student Union
- The Pride Student Union
- The Veterans Student Union
- The Women Student Union

The bureaus within SGA are:

- The Center for Participant Education
- The Office of Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- The Office of Government Affairs
- The Inner-Residence Hall Council
- The Office of Servant Leadership
- The Office of Student Sustainability Initiative
- The Student Council for Undergraduate Research and Creativity

February is National Black History Month and the Black Student Union is hosting some exciting programs to celebrate history and empower change for the future. The theme of BSU’s programming this year is “Lift Every Voice” which aims to teach the significance of events currently occurring in our society and encourage everyone to lift their voice and speak up for what they believe in. Some of the events happening include a Fireside Chat on

February 26: 10AM
Searching for a Job: On-Campus, Off-Campus, and Post-Graduation Employment

March 19: 10AM
FSU Outdoors: Staying Healthy and Active

Go to family.fsu.edu and click on FSU Chat to get started! All chat times are EST.

Parents' Weekend 2015

The date of Parents’ Weekend 2015 has been announced. It will be October 30-31, 2015. Registration for Parents’ Weekend will open June 1, 2015.

Be sure to check pw.union.fsu.edu frequently for the most up to date information about Parents' Weekend 2015.

Spring 2015 Family Weekends

Why wait until Fall to come visit your student? Spring Family Weekends are just around the corner. Family Weekend is a great time to come to Tallahassee, spend some time with your student and even catch the Flying High Circus, Spring football scrimmage, or a baseball game!

The dates for Family Weekends 2015 are:
April 2-4
April 10-12
and April 17-19

Don’t miss out on all FSU has to offer! For the most up to date information on Family Weekends, visit studentaffairs.fsu.edu/fw/

The Dean of Student Department & Office of New Student & Family Programs would like to say thank you to the outgoing members of the Family Connection Advisory Council:

Tom Bastin
February 16th, which is a dialogue between alumni and current students, and Vital Information occurring on February 24th.
For details and an extensive list of the events, visit sga.fsu.edu/bhm

Through SGA, your student will never have a lack of plans. There is an event held by an agency or bureau nearly every day. Here’s a highlight of some of the reoccurring events that SGA sponsors:

- **Golden Tribe Lecture Series** - In collaboration with Union Productions, The Golden Tribe Lecture Series is an initiative that aims to connect students with academic speakers. Some past speakers include Elie Wiesel, Spike Lee, and Bill Nye.
- **Seminole Allies and Safe Zone Training** - A development aimed at bringing awareness and sensitivity to LGBTQ+ issues. The training also aims to promote support and acceptance for the LGBTQ+ community.

Be sure to encourage your student to explore all the SGA and its agencies and bureaus have to offer! For more information about the Student Government Association and all they offer, check out sga.fsu.edu

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**Family-to-Family: Gearing Up for Graduation**

Written by: Bob Shultz, Family Connection Advisory Council Member

As a parent of a senior in his final semester the FOUR years has flown by incredibly fast for us and even faster for our son. I remember sitting in our orientation groups and feeling totally overwhelmed. The questions of on-campus or off-campus housing was a major decision and on-campus was chosen (he must have enjoyed it as he stayed on campus for 3 years). The day we moved him into his first residence hall. The day it was decided he would not have his pickup truck at school the first year (he wasn’t happy) but looking back he admits it taught him how to get around and that he met more people because of it. The first time we hugged and kissed him goodbye and drove home without him (brutal). The coming home his first summer and feeling that the friends he went to high school with had changed when in reality he had been away and did most of the changing. The flood of new friends, some stayed, some could be life long, and most were gone quickly. The clubs and groups that he joined and the ones he wanted nothing to do with. The home football weekends that we drove up and the Sunday morning breakfast before our drive home. The Parents’ Weekends, trips to the bookstore for a shirt and all of the activities, including the circus. The hours we kept, of him being awake and asleep that was totally foreign to me but it works for college students. The cramming of study time into study groups at Stroz at exam time. The weekend, spring break, and summer trips with peoples names you have heard. We are looking forward to Graduation which is what he has been working towards but the reality of not being in school full-time has set in and we are all really thinking about what is next.

Graduation is definitely something that can sneak up on a student and their family. It is crazy to think how quickly time flies by when it’s the time of your life. As family members,

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**Student Spotlights**

Click on the faces of these Florida State University students who are featured this month on Blackboard campus.fsu.edu. Read their stories on research, teaching, community service, career goals, and leadership!

- **David G. Miller**
  Critical Thinking Initiative inspires religion major to dig deeper

- **Sarah Tepper**
  Biology student delves into research, reaches out to community

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**FSU Law School ranked No. 1 in Florida, one of the best nationally**

At Florida State, we are always pushing ourselves to have the best programs and resources available to our students. Recently, FSU’s College of Law was recognized as the best in the state and is among the top 50 in the country.

For this full story and others like it, be sure to visit news.fsu.edu
we should aim to be a support system for our student throughout all of their time away from home. We should also aim to utilize some of the great resources the university has to offer family members:

- **Family Connection** - The people behind this newsletter! Family Connection is like the PTA of the college world at Florida State with the goal of keeping family members informed and involved to the greatest extent. You can simply benefit from the information and resources such as family chats, publications, blogs, social media, etc. or seek a more active role by applying for the Family Connection Advisory Council.
- **Parents’ Weekend** - Each Fall the university hosts Parents’ Weekend, a weekend full of programs and activities aimed at giving parents and family members the full FSU experience. The weekend is centered around a home football game, so next fall be sure to come to Tallahassee to cheer on the 'Noles and spend time at your student’s home away from home.
- **Family Weekend** - Similar to Parents’ Weekend, Family Weekend is held in the Spring and centered around several different activities that both students and family members love, including the circus!

If your student is graduating this spring, be sure to make accommodations for the ceremony as soon as possible if you haven’t already done so. Here is the graduation schedule for May:

- **Friday, May 1st at 7:30PM** College of Arts and Sciences, College of Human Sciences, College of Medicine, College of Motion Picture Arts
- **Saturday, May 2nd at 9:00AM** College of Applied Studies, College of Communication and Information, College of Criminology and Criminal Justice, College of Engineering, Graduate School, College of Social Sciences, College of Visual Arts, Theatre, and Dance
- **Saturday, May 2nd at 2:00PM** College of Business, College of Education, College of Music, College of Nursing, College of Social Work
- **Sunday, May 3rd at 11:00AM** College of Law

For more information about the graduation ceremonies, visit [http://registrar.fsu.edu/services/graduation/spring_info.htm](http://registrar.fsu.edu/services/graduation/spring_info.htm)

It has been a great four years for him and he is coming away with fantastic memories and a great education. It has also been a great four years for my wife and I, seeing all of this from a distance and having all of these memories. We have been involved as much as appropriate but I would recommend everyone be involved as much as your student is comfortable with as when the time is gone, it’s gone.

If you haven’t yet had the chance to take advantage of these opportunities on campus, be sure to do so sometime soon! Your student’s graduation will be here before you know it!
On FSU Family Connection Blog, you can read blog entries regarding the FSU family experience, which may include advice pieces, news articles, photos and reflections. No account is needed! Just click fsufamily.wordpress.com to read.

Family Connection Poll

Click on the Family Connection Poll to respond to this month’s question. Your response may be featured in next month’s issue!

Our January poll asked: What is one of your New Year’s resolutions that will help support your student’s success at FSU?

Top Three Responses:
1. Help my student learn from their experiences instead of being critical
2. Sending my students random messages/care packages as a pick me up
3. Help teach my student financial independence (sending less money & giving spending advice)

Question Corner

Click on the Family Connection Question Corner icon to ask us any questions you may have about supporting your student at FSU. You can also email us at family@admin.fsu.edu.

Donate to the FSU Family Fund

Please donate to the Family Fund within the Division of Student Affairs by clicking the box above. Your gift helps fund student support services throughout the academic year to meet the needs of FSU students!
Want a Student's Perspective?

Ask The Experts!

Click the image above to get your questions answered by current FSU students.

We Love Feedback!

In order to give you the best experience possible, we need your feedback! Please click the Suggestion Box above and let us know what you like, what you do not like, and what you would like to see included in future editions of "What's Going 'Round!"