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

What's Going 'Round
January 2015

Important Dates

January 16: Last day to pay or defer tuition
January 19: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No classes
January 23: Last day to apply for Spring 2015 graduation
January 29: FAFSA & Financial Aid Chat
February 12: Healthy Relationships & Mid-Semester Blues Chat

For more information, visit the Registrar's Office

Office Spotlight:
The Center for Leadership & Social Change

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Info from University Housing
FSU News
Join the Conversation!

Upcoming Online Chat Events
January 29: 7PM
FAFSA and Financial Aid

February 12: 5PM
Healthy Relationships and Mid-Semester Blues

February 26: 10AM

http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?ca=4a2a7ec7-c56f-45a9-a643-3f08eed676... 2/11/2015
The Center for Leadership and Social Change (The Center) at Florida State encourages students to learn, serve, and transform through several different programs.

The Center facilitates learning through some programs such as:

- The Service Learning Program which combines both classroom instruction and community service
- The Social Justice Ally Program which aims to educate members of the FSU community on social justice issues in order to develop the ability to create an inclusive environment in addition to becoming social change agents in a diverse society

The Center also has several programs aimed at service including:

- The Community Outreach Program which gives students the chance to get involved with different community service projects
- Partnering with recognized student organizations at FSU which align with the mission of The Center

The third goal of The Center is to encourage students to transform through programs such as:

- The Service Leadership Seminar which is a week-long experience for incoming freshman which provides an opportunity to learn about community service, identity, and leadership

Encourage your student to take advantage of some of the great programs The Center offers. One service that is offered through The Center that a lot of students are unaware of is the ServScript program. This allows students to log community service hours that will then appear on their official FSU transcript, so be sure to tell your student about this opportunity if they are not already taking advantage of it!

For more information about The Center for Leadership and Social Change and all of the programs they offer, check out thecenter.fsu.edu

Family-to-Family:
Getting a Great Start to the New Year

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.

It's FAFSA Time!

Have you and your student completed the FAFSA for the 2015-2016 school year yet? UniversityParent has some tips and a guide if you still need to complete it and need some help! Check it out here.

Information from University Housing:

Summer & Fall 2015 Admitted Students
Congratulations to students admitted for Summer and Fall 2015! Your housing contracts will be available no sooner than January 21, 2015. Until then, please explore our website to learn about our programs!

Spring 2015 Housing Contract
Assignments have been made for new Spring 2015 students, who can view their room assignment on the myHousing portal. The reassignment request for Spring 2015 will become available the first week of January for students assigned to permanent spaces. Reassignments will be processed on a space-available basis starting in late January. See more information about the reassignment request here.

Returning Resident Re-Contract
Continue your journey with University Housing for Fall 2015/Spring 2016. The returning resident contract is available through January 16, 2015 via the myHousing portal. For more information visit housing.fsu.edu/return2housing.

For more information on Housing & Important Dates, please visit

http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?ca=4a2a7ec7-c56f-45a9-a643-3f08eed676... 2/11/2015
Happy 2015! A brand new year signals an opportunity to take a look at how things are going for us, and if needed, to make necessary changes. So here are 5 of the top New Year’s Resolutions and how Florida State University’s resources and services can help students and parents meet their goals.

- **Get healthy and fit**

  Studies show that exercising reduces the risk of some cancers, increases longevity, enhances mood, lowers blood pressure, improves sleep and helps achieve and maintain weight loss. The vision of FSU Campus Recreation is to move people to total wellness. Current FSU students have access to the Leach Student Recreation Center and the Fitness & Movement Clinic, healthy cooking classes, wellness testing, and access to the FSU Reservation for a day of relaxation or recreation. The FSU Reservation offers swimming, canoeing, sailing, kayaking, instructional clinics, picnicking, beach volleyball, a recreation hall with game tables, and more! Students can also purchase guest passes for a nominal fee so Mom and Dad can work out or visit the Rez with their student when in town. Check out their [website](http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?ca=4a2a7ec7-c56f-45a9-a643-3f08eed676) for more information.

- **Have an adventure**

  This is your time. Use this opportunity to do something extraordinary you will remember forever. Take a road trip. Serve as a missionary. Work at a summer camp. Be smart and be safe, but be bold. One way to do this is study abroad with Florida State University’s International Programs (FSU IP). As a student of IP, you will be able to take classes that meet your major and/or minor requirements, study with experts in their field, earn FSU credit, and truly change your life forever! FSU IP offers over 50 diverse programs in 20 different locations around the world. And parents, FSU IP is consistently ranked in the top 15 of US study abroad programs. For more information [click here](http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?ca=4a2a7ec7-c56f-45a9-a643-3f08eed676).

- **Better manage your finances**

  It goes without saying that college is expensive. Between tuition, textbooks, off-campus and on-campus activities, and the need for personal cash, having (and utilizing) a budget is a necessity for getting through the semester. If you want to keep your account balances automatically up to date, consider using the app Mint. You can manage your bills, taxes, and track your spending. Sell your unwanted possessions on eBay or your artistic creations on Etsy. It’s never too early to apply for internships in your field or a part-time job to pay for school. Both look great on a resume and it gives you the experience to get ahead. Head over to FSU’s Career Center and talk with them about options for internships and occupational opportunities. Parents also have a great resource through Student Business Services. They will help you and your student have a smooth transition into the college life by providing self-help tools and financial literacy information. For more information about The Career Center [click here](http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?ca=4a2a7ec7-c56f-45a9-a643-3f08eed676). You can also visit [Student Business for Parents](http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?ca=4a2a7ec7-c56f-45a9-a643-3f08eed676) for tips on how to support your

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**Written by: Cathy VanDeMark, Family Connection Advisory Council Member**

**Student Spotlights**

Click on the faces of these Florida State University students who are featured this month on Blackboard [campus.fsu.edu](http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?ca=4a2a7ec7-c56f-45a9-a643-3f08eed676). Read their stories on research, teaching, community service, career goals, and leadership!

- **Molly Gordon**
  Biology student bridges gap between art and science

- **Mari Kyle**
  Studio art major determined to raise awareness of home-insecure youth

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**FSU's Relay for Life is Nationally Recognized**

Philanthropy is a big part of the community here at FSU and it’s great when the hard work of our students gets nationally awarded.

For this [full story](http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?ca=4a2a7ec7-c56f-45a9-a643-3f08eed676) and others like it, be sure to visit [news.fsu.edu](http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?ca=4a2a7ec7-c56f-45a9-a643-3f08eed676).

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**Plan your trip to Tallahassee TODAY!**

[Visit Tallahassee Florida's Capital City](http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?ca=4a2a7ec7-c56f-45a9-a643-3f08eed676)
student financially.

- **Get better grades**

Grades can get better, it all depends on you. Gather a study group and meet at least once a week. Go to your teacher for help or questions. ACE, or Academic Center for Excellence, is FSU’s learning center whose mission is to help the diverse population of undergraduate students develop the study skills and personal success habits that enhance learning and encourage the highest level of scholarship and academic achievement. ACE Learning Studio features group study rooms, tutoring, advising, and collaborative learning technology, and laptops/iPads for individual checkout. ACE offers workshops on time management, note taking and test preparation. And parents, they offer peer tutoring employment opportunities that can help with Resolution #3! For more information visit ace.fsu.edu

- **Help others**

Whether you choose to spend time helping out at your local soup kitchen, mentoring a child, or building a house, there are many nonprofit volunteer organizations that could really use your help. Or if your time is really in short supply, donate the furniture, clothing and other household items that you no longer need to local charities. FSU’s Center for Leadership and Social Change offers over 40 programs that provides opportunities for students to learn, serve and transform through programming focused on diversity, leadership and service. For more information you can visit their website here.

The Student Activities Center at FSU believes that student involvement outside of the classroom contributes to important learning gains and a well rounded college experience that prepares students for life after graduation. They hope to create programs that foster interactions among the diverse members of the University and inspire students to become active members of the campus and community. Parents, encourage your student to get involved. With over 600 Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs) on campus, students should have no problem finding an organization that they can connect with to help others and themselves. For more information you can click here.

We hope that these are useful resolutions - for any time of the year. Good luck and Go Noles!

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**New Year, New President**

Written by: Kathy Pham, Family Connection Advisory Council Member

Best known as Florida’s capital city, Tallahassee shares a deep-rooted history and culture with unparalleled natural adventure and an upbeat vitality. From performing arts to outdoors and nature, Tallahassee offers something for everyone.

For information on local attractions and upcoming events, please visit: [http://www.visittallahassee.com/](http://www.visittallahassee.com/)

**Stay Connected, Join the Conversation Today!**

The FSU Family Connection program utilizes current online social media outlets to help Seminole Family Members stay connected and up-to-date with news, announcements, advice, and other items relevant to being family members of college students.

Through Twitter, you can “follow” the account @FSU_Family to receive brief updates from the family connection program in a Tweet announcement. Just create your own Twitter at [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) to follow us!

On Facebook, you can “Like” the FSU Family Connection Fan Page to see photos, receive news and participate in discussion commentary to stay connected with other FSU families and the FSU community. Just create your own Facebook account at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com).

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](http://fsufamily.wordpress.com) to read.
The Florida State University President, John Thrasher, is an exceptional advocate for FSU. I recently attended a reception at the Biltmore Hotel in Miami that was hosted by the Alumni Association and I was impressed with the comments by the President. He spoke about a number of issues that distinguish Florida State:

- The pre-eminence status attracts funding and allows FSU to attract top faculty and improve faculty salaries.
- US News and World Report rated FSU the most efficient high quality university in the country. Read more about this report [here](#).
- The graduation rate is the second highest in the state.
- The Law School and Medical School are both well respected and highly ranked.
- There are plans in the works for a new Business school.
- A University goal is to continue to move up in the rankings into the top 25.
- An entrepreneurship program places business students in other areas to help other students learn how business applies in their fields.
- FSU is veteran friendly, with a number of programs designed to welcome and serve veterans.

You can read additional details about the President's vision for FSU [here](#).

After providing all those details he mentioned that part of his mission as president is to make sure that FSU has the necessary resources to meet all of its goals. So he introduced the Raise the Torch Campaign, which has a goal of 1 billion dollars. Over half of that amount has already been raised, but the campaign continues so that the University can continue all of the great work that it is doing.

Learn more about the Raise the Torch Campaign [here](#).

And in addition to the financial resources and goals he also spoke about how an FSU degree opens doors. He said that everyone in the room had probably had a door open because of the FSU degree. His "ask" for the audience was to go out and tell stories. He charged us with talking about the good things that happen at Florida State.

So I encourage family members to take on that task as well. If you love Florida State as much as I know your student does, then take on the President's challenge. Tell your friends. Spread the Seminole news.

**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 December poll asked: **What are ways in which you can help your student prepare for their spring semester?**

**Top Three Responses:**
1) Reflect on what could have gone better in the fall semester and make the appropriate changes
2) Help with time management
3) Encourage them to get more plugged into campus life

**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?**
AN EASY WAY TO SUPPORT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Display your pride in Florida State University with the purchase of an FSU license plate. Proceeds from plate sales are applied to the university’s general scholarship fund to support need- and merit-based scholarships for Florida State students. Rebates for first-time buyers, as well as gift certificates and information on purchasing your FSU license plate are available online at fsu.edu/mytag.

FSU Family Connection
Florida State University
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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!"