Happy December 2007 from Colorado State University!
This email newsletter is packed with a lot of information to bring you up-to-date on the happenings, resources, and services at CSU to help you support your student.

During December, first year students may experience some anxiety over preparing for finals, excitement/anxiety about going home for holidays, over-involvement in end-of-the-semester social activities, sadness about leaving friends at school, financial concerns about purchasing gifts, and a desire to play to avoid all this stress! Returning students may also experience concern for finances, anxiety over final exams, excitement for a December graduation, excitement/anxiety about returning home for the holidays, and relief at having a break between semesters!

We’re excited to announce the creation of the RAMFAM Association! That’s right, the CSU Parent & Family Council has been renamed and will meet again this Saturday, December 8, from 10:00 a.m.- Noon in the Vice President for Student Affairs Office, rm 201 Administration Building. If you are unable to attend but are interested in participating, you can call in on the conference call system. Attached are instructions for dialing in. Also attached are minutes from the November meeting and the agenda for this Saturday. We encourage all interested parents and families to be involved in the RAMFAM Association!

Finals week at CSU occurs during the week of December 10 - 14. Finals week can be a very stressful time for college students as they prepare for examinations and complete papers. Consider sending a note or package with your student’s favorite snacks or goodies. Care packages do not have to be expensive or elaborate, but this simple gesture can be a real morale booster for students who are busy and stressed. Also, encourage your student not to forget to stay balanced during the examination time. Encourage exercise, quiet personal time, sleep, and fun with friends, in addition to studying.

Winter break at CSU begins Saturday, December 15 and ends Monday, January 21, 2008. For students living on campus, the halls close at 10pm on Friday, December 14 and reopen at 8am on Saturday, January 19, 2008. It is crucial for student to take everything they will need over break because the halls are locked between semesters. Campus dining centers reopen with limited service until January 22 when they return to
full service. Classes begin on Tuesday, January 22, 2008.

While winter break is an excellent opportunity for students to reconnect with their family and friends from home, the transition from college-life to home-life can be a stressful one for students and their families. It is important to talk to your student about expectations before he/she returns for winter break. Because your student may enjoy a different level of freedom and responsibility while at college, it may help to renegotiate curfew hours and family responsibilities. Also recognize that your student may feel overwhelmed by the need to connect with everyone from home, including friends and family. Set reasonable expectations for family time and plan activities that everyone can enjoy.

**Fall Semester grades will be available to students online on December 27, 2007.** Students can access their grades online using RAMweb at [http://ramweb.colostate.edu](http://ramweb.colostate.edu). Colorado State University does not mail grade reports. The fastest and easiest way for you as a parent to receive your student’s grades is for your student to share them with you.

It is not unusual for first-semester, freshman-year grades to be significantly lower than the grades students earned in high school. College courses require new study and time management skills, and it can take several months for students to adjust to all of the changes they are facing.

You can support your student by encouraging him/her not to get discouraged. Remind your student the new semester offers a new opportunity to perform. You can also encourage your student to converse with his/her academic advisor. The upcoming break may also be a good time for students to consider working on their resumé and future planning. Students can call the Career Center and set up an appointment for their return to campus.

**Congratulations to Graduating Students and their Families!** Commencement ceremonies for students who are graduating from CSU will occur on Friday December 14, 2007, and Saturday December 15, 2007. The fall 2007 commencement schedule can be found at [http://commencement.colostate.edu](http://commencement.colostate.edu). Parents attending graduation ceremonies from out of town can get travel information and a list of things to do in Fort Collins and the surrounding areas at [http://welcome.colostate.edu/index.asp?url=visit](http://welcome.colostate.edu/index.asp?url=visit).

You can either scroll down this email to read the articles or click on the links to get to the articles directly. In this email you will find:

- **“RAMFAM Association Minutes & Call-in Procedures”** All CSU parents & families are members of the RAMFAM Association. Learn about how you can get involved!

- **“Grades and Grade Point Averages: Assisting Students in Academic Difficulty”** offering numerous resources and advice for helping students deal with a less than satisfactory semester.

- **“Tips to Help your Sophomore Student s with Career Decisions”** an article which is
part of a new campus initiative focused on sophomore students.

- An “Update on the Parents Fund” with examples of how your generous donations are dedicating to enriching the lives of students out of the classroom. Many of you responded during the “Call-A-Ram” phone-a-thon, and we will continue trying to contact those families who were not at home when we called in October.

- “Making the Move that is Right for Your Student” focused on things to think about if your student wants to move off campus next year.

- “Off Campus Accountability” explaining Colorado State’s policy and practice of holding students accountable for their off campus behavior.

- “Pets N’ Profs” at CSU

- “What’s Up @ CSU” campus calendar offering a selection of the diverse activities occurring during the month of December.

- “CSU Athletic Calendar for December” highlighting men’s & women’s basketball and other sporting events for this month.

In closing, I just want to offer you one last bit of advice…What makes a great gift for CSU students? Anything from the CSU bookstore! The CSU bookstore is located on two levels in the Lory Student Center. The bookstore is the place to get insignia clothing, gifts, reading books, art supplies, school supplies and ironically enough class books! There’s something for everyone here! Check out the inventory at http://www.bookstore.colostate.edu/index.asp.

Happy Holidays to you and your family. Enjoy the festivities with family and friends. I know I will!

Sincerely,

Jody
Jody Donovan, Ph.D.
Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs/
Director of Parent & Family Programs
201 Administration Bldg
Fort Collins, CO  80523
(970) 491-5312
RAMFAM Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2007 – 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Jeff and Debra Wood, Ed and Linda Carpenter, Sally Goodnight, Nancy Mullen, Jody Donovan, and Kacee Collard
Members Present via Conference Call: Joe Garrity and Vicky Green

Debra, the former President of the University of Colorado Parents’ Association (CUPA), provided an overview of the CUPA model. (See attachments: CUPA Overview and CUPA Handout).

- CUPA formed in 1983 for all parents of current students to be members, run by board of directors of 45 parents of current students – no dues/fees required for the Association
- Board of directors has an executive council consisting of president, president-elect and secretary (See attachment: CUPA Constitution)
- Meets once per month during the academic school year
- CUPA functions under the Office of Parent Relations, which is under the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs at CU
- There are several committees under the executive council
  - Alumni Relations
  - Parent Programs –
    - $40,000 in grants to support on-campus activities not already funded by the university (i.e. flashlights for the health center for student safety)
    - $20,000 in scholarships based on merit, grades and an essay
    - Parent and family weekend
  - Communication – newsletter, legislative liaison
  - Diversity
  - Finance – in conjunction with the Director of Parent Relations, sell bricks, raffle for amount off of tuition, and Parent Fund
- Office of Parent Relations staff paid through general fund money and all grants and scholarships paid through Parent Fund (See attachment: CUPA MOU with VCSA)
- Activities include:
  - Parent and Family Weekend – 3-day weekend planned by parents; events include Chancellor’s breakfast, President’s lunch, golf game, etc. (See attachment: CUPA Family Weekend 2005)
  - Parent-Hosted Orientation Dinners – entertainment, CUPA welcome, information and recruiting piece
- Debra said the best part of being on the council is the “behind the scenes” information – Director of Parent Relations offered insight to the university

Debra asked about the structure and funding related to CSU’s Parent and Family Council.
Jody indicated our structure is similar to CU’s – the Parent and Family Council is under the Director of Parent and Family Programs (Jody Donovan), which falls under the Vice President for Student Affairs.

Jody indicated there are two weeks in the fall dedicated to soliciting donations from parents and families. This funding, along with other donations, makes up the Parents Fund.

The Parents Fund is available to student organizations to create or enhance programs that lead to the academic and personal success of Colorado State students; provide financial assistance to programs that expand the sense of community at Colorado State; and support University-wide programs and projects that enrich educational opportunities for Colorado State students. The Parents Fund Committee comprises members from each unit within the Division of Student Affairs. The members review the request and vote to approve.

Linda asked if the Parent and Family Council have representation on the Parents Fund Committee. Jody said she is on the committee and is the voice for Parents and Families.

Jody described CSU’s Parent and Family weekend.

- Linda suggested maybe parents and families in the community could host incoming families to help defray the cost by opening their homes and allowing parents and families to stay with them.
- Jeff suggested utilizing existing events to help recruit for the Parent and Family Council, such as the Alumni Pancake Breakfast or having the Greeks host a brunch for their families.

With regard to parents and families forming a panel for the Preview and Next Step sessions, Jody suggested the Parent and Family Council attend one of the sessions. Staff will record that session to be broadcast throughout the summer sessions.

Touching on this, Linda suggested podcasting the session. She also suggested using the existing Parent and Family website ([www.parentsandfamily.colostate.edu](http://www.parentsandfamily.colostate.edu)) to promote the Parent and Family Council and noted the council should think about branding.

Jeff asked how parents and families get on the distribution list for the monthly newsletter. Jody indicated she works with Admissions to obtain a listing of all e-mails on applications of admitted and attending students at CSU.

Debra indicated CU’s Office of Parent Relations mailed two newsletters annually to help recruit for CUPA. Jody indicated a printed newsletter in the fall would help reach the non-email population. (See attachment: CU Parent).

The Council discussed the recruitment process. Debra described the recruitment process CUPA used, indicating the Director of Parent Relations would forward names of interested parents to the Membership Chair. The Membership Chair would then call the interested parent and tell them about the board. The interested parent would then attend one meeting and the membership would vote on the individual. Once accepted, the new member would be invited to attend the next meeting. (See attachment: CUPA
The members discussed the subcommittees in a bit more detail. Jody described the structure of the subcommittees would likely have a parent co-chair paired with a university employee co-chair. The co-chair for the Development and Fundraising subcommittee would be Eveline Yang, Director of Development; Student Issues co-chair would be Anne Hudgens, Executive Director of Student Life; Recruitment and Retention co-chair would likely be a representative from Admissions; and Jody and Kacee would be the co-chairs for the Programs and Services subcommittee. Jody talked about the partnership with the Fort Collins community in terms of a grant that asks CSU to provide education around drugs and alcohol and this will likely fall under the Student Issues subcommittee.

- Vicky and Nancy indicated they would be interested in the Student Issues subcommittee.
- Kacee mentioned Angie Flores seems interested in the Recruitment and Retention subcommittee and Jeff said he would like to serve on that subcommittee as well.
- Debra said she would be interested in helping with Programs and Services.

Debra brought up another idea to invite guest speakers in to the monthly meetings to speak about issues on campus. She suggested podcasting the lectures to help parents and families.

The Council decided to print a generic Parent and Family Council brochure to be mailed out before the beginning of next semester to help recruit parents and families. (See attachment: CUPA Recruiting Brochure). Jody suggested pairing a recruitment event with the spring Ram Welcome festivities. The Ram Welcome Steering Committee discussed hosting a session for parents and families but struggled on the best date to host an event. Debra suggested the Parent and Family Council host a dinner on Thursday, January 17, 2008 and breakfast and coffee on Saturday, January 18, 2008 to catch parents and families early during orientation and later, when they may be more apt to be on campus over the weekend.

Debra suggested an article in the December Parent and Family Newsletter that talks about what the council has accomplished and the direction it is taking – then using this information to solicit help from all CSU parents and families. She also suggested a letter from the council that talks about the experience of being on the council and about the great things that can be done with the Parents Fund at a later time to help with fundraising. (See attachment: CUPA Parent Letter and CUPA Parent Fund Brochure).

The members brainstormed ideas for the council name that ranged from Colorado State University Parents and Family Association (CSUPFA) to RAMPFA. The members feel it is important to capture both the school spirit and the diverse family structures of students. The present members voted on the official name for the Parents’ Association – **RAMFAM Association** and the governing board – **RAMFAM Board of Directors**. The members also brainstormed a mission statement and goals and objectives.
Mission Statement:
The primary purpose of the RAMFAM Association is to advance the CSU student and family experience in the university’s ongoing mission of excellence.

Goals and Objectives:
- Support for families and students
- Enhance the connection between families, students and the university administration by serving as a direct link for families to the university
- Provide feedback to the university with regard to family and student issues
- Communicate family concerns to elected government officials through a legislative liaison
- Assist with the recruitment and retention of students and the recruitment of RAMFAM Board of Directors members

The members discussed the details of the brochure to be sent out to all parents and families before the start of next semester. This brochure will list the mission and goals and objectives of the RAMFAM, talk about the programs and subcommittees under the umbrella organization, and list activities RAMFAM will host (Parent and Family Weekend, Orientation dinners, Ram Welcome activities). The brochure will specify that all parents and families of current students are automatically RAMFAM Association members with no dues or fees, but we need involvement for the RAMFAM Board of Directors. The brochure will have a perforated panel to send in to Jody if parents are interested in serving on the Board of Directors.
  - Kacee and Jody will work on the brochure and it will be discussed at the December meeting.
  - Jody asked council members to send pictures of their families to begin a photo gallery for brochures and newsletters.

Finally, the council discussed topics for the December meeting:
- Final vote on mission statement, goals and objectives
- Brochure finalization
- Details on hosting events for spring Ram Welcome
- Voting on officers and subcommittee co-chairs

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**RAMFAM Association**

**Dial-In Instructions & Agenda**

**Location:** 201 Administration Building  
**Date:** December 8, 2007  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
**Dial-In Number:** 970-491-1238  
**Dial-In Instructions:**
1) Call in just before 10:00 on the morning of Saturday, December 8.
2) The first person to call in will experience continual ringing until someone else calls in.
3) Once two people have dialed in to the system, the party line will engage and the first two individuals will be able to speak to one another. As RAMFAM Association members call in, you will hear a click and then will be able to engage in conversation.
4) Please be aware that all members will be able to hear you at any given time and will also be able to hear when any member has ended the call.

Topics for Agenda:

- Introduction of Dr. Blanche Hughes, Vice President for Student Affairs, and Dr. Joyce Berry, Vice President for Advancement and Strategic Initiatives
- Final vote on mission statement, goals and objectives
- Brochure finalization for RAMFAM Association and Parents Fund
- Details on hosting events for spring Ram Welcome
- Voting on officers and subcommittee co-chairs

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Grades and Grade Point Averages:
Assisting Students in Academic Difficulty
Haley Richards, Academic Advisor
Center for Advising and Student Achievement

As students return home for winter break the fruits of their fall semester labor will be posted online on December 20. Encountering academic difficulty during college is a common occurrence, especially during students’ first semester. Several factors contribute to students’ academic challenges, including a lack of preparation for college, a lack of knowledge of academic resources on campus, and a failure to place academics as a top priority in the midst of their transition. Below is a list of strategies and resources for students who want to boost their academic performance in the classroom. As a parent or family member, please share this information to assist your student for second semester.

- Be prepared
  A plan of action is a key strategy to doing well, as is setting goals for grades. Help your student develop a plan with specific strategies and measurable goals.
- Do research prior to the first day of class
Utilize web resources such as http://www.ramratings.com or http://www.ratemyprofessors.com to read about other students’ experiences with certain professors. Be sure to recognize the limitations of these types of websites. Also, check out the professor’s individual website and see if they post a course syllabus. Does your students’ learning style match the professor’s teaching style?

- Make personal connections in class
Encourage your student to introduce him or herself to at least two professors in person each semester. If students know their professors and classmates, they are more likely to attend class and succeed.

- Use professor’s office hours, and be prepared.
“To me, it’s meaningful when they walk in and take that first step,” says Leslie Diverdi, assistant professor in chemistry. She recommends that students bring in questions on homework problems or even class notes. A brief glance through students’ notes can tell professors if students understand the material.

- 15 credit hours = 15 hours in class + 30 hours studying outside of class per week. Professors generally abide by this equation and expect students to adhere to this if they want to earn top grades.

- Ask for help early
“Students wait way too long before starting to get help,” says Diverdi. Encourage your students not to wait until the semester is half over to ask for help. Seeking assistance from the beginning – before a paper or exam is due - will help students be more successful.

- Utilize resources
Colorado State University provides a wide range of services and resources for students experiencing academic difficulty.

  o The Center for Advising and Student Achievement (CASA) has advisors available to meet with students on academic probation. The CASA website offers resources on topics such as test taking, critical thinking, and learning styles. http://www.casa.colostate.edu
  o The Learning Assistance Center can help students improve their study skills through individual one-on-one appointments. They also offer information for taking notes, test preparation, textbook reading, memorization, and learning disabilities on their website. http://www.counseling.colostate.edu/LAC/
  o The Academic Advancement Center serves eligible students through mentoring, tutoring, and other academic support. Visit their website to determine if your student is eligible to receive their services. http://aac.colostate.edu/index.html
  o Colleges, academic departments and student affairs offices provide tutoring programs across the university. Review the tutoring brochure for more information about where your student can access free tutoring. http://www.ocssral.colostate.edu/ral/documents/Tutoring_Brochure.pdf
The University Counseling Center offers a stress management program to help students cope with stress and test anxiety.
http://www.counseling.colostate.edu/SMP/index.htm

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Tips to help your sophomore students with career decisions

By Susan LeBlanc, Career Counselor

Is your sophomore student struggling with answering “what are you going to major in?” when home for visits? If the answer is yes, your sophomore is not alone. Sophomore year can be a stressful time in your student’s life—the pressure is on to find some direction and an answer to the “major question.” Colorado State University requires all students to declare a major by the time they complete 60 credits. Typically this is around the second half of their sophomore year. Unfortunately, many students at this stage may not feel ready to pick a major.

The Career Center at Colorado State offers a wide range of services to assist students with their career development. Students can meet individually with a Career Counselor to ask questions about majors and careers, as well as help evaluate interests, skills, and values and connect those to a satisfying career. Encourage your students to take advantage of this office—that’s what we’re here for! Students can make an appointment by calling 491-5707.

Here are some of the top career tips for students during their sophomore year:

- **Take a career assessment.** The Career Center offers many career assessments to help your student evaluate their interests, skills, and values, and how those relate to different careers. To figure out which assessment is the right one to take, students can stop by our new walk-in office in the Lory Student Center, right next to the coffee shop Sweet Sinsations. A quick 15 minute meeting with one of our counselors can determine which assessment would be best for your student.

- **Do an internship.** Internships are a great way to gain career-related experience, and can also help your student try out different industries. CareerRAM is our online job and internship posting database where students can apply for hundreds of career related opportunities:
  www.career.colostate.edu/careerRAM.

- **Explore the resources on the Career Center’s sophomore website** at
  www.career.colostate.edu/students/sophomores.html. This site is specifically
designed for sophomores, and addresses some of the common questions your students may have, including how to choose a major and how to write a resume.

We look forward to meeting with your sophomore student soon!

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**Update on the Parents Fund**

The Parents Fund at CSU is available to student organizations for programs or events with the following criteria: to create or enhance the Division of Student Affairs programs that lead to the academic and personal success of Colorado State students; to provide financial assistance to the Division of Student Affairs programs that expands the sense of community at Colorado State, where all students feel welcome and important; and to support University-wide programs and projects that enrich educational opportunities for Colorado State students.

Thank you to all of the parents and families who donated during the “Call-A-Ram” event! All of your donations went to the Parents Fund to enhance programming. If we missed you in October, please know “Call-A-Ram” is ongoing phone-a-thon for donations to this fund and we appreciate your support!

Here are a few of the events supported by the Parents Fund:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Event/Program</th>
<th>Dollar Amount Funded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apartment Life</td>
<td>World Fest</td>
<td>$600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Outreach and Prevention Services</td>
<td>Balance: Your Life, Your Future</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESA at Fort Collins</td>
<td>Treasurers of Egyptian Folklore Troupe</td>
<td>$156.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSUPD</td>
<td>Citizen’s Police Academy</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-Campus Student Services/Resources for Adult Learners</td>
<td>SMART Fair</td>
<td>$735.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-Campus Student Services/Resources for Adult Learners</td>
<td>RAM Wheels</td>
<td>$1,253.00</td>
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<td>Hartshorn Health Services/Residence Life</td>
<td>Liquid Soap Making</td>
<td>$185.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office of Outreach and Prevention Services</td>
<td>Celebrate EveryBody</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Community</td>
<td>Transnational Identities in the 21st Century</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Making a Move that is Right for Your Student

By Jeannie Ortega, Director
Off Campus Student Services/Resources for Adult Learners

As your student returns home for winter break, the topic of where to live next fall might come up! It may seem a long way from the next academic year, but it gets here sooner than you think.

You may wonder if your student is READY for moving out of the residence halls. Each student is different – some students may be prepared to handle the responsibilities of living on their own; others may find the challenges of living off campus too overwhelming, negatively impacting their studies. Only you and your student can make that decision.

To help you get started, here are a few questions to have your student answer for him/herself:

- Can I really afford moving off campus?
- Do I know what type of housing and amenities I want?
- Do I want to be more independent and take on more responsibilities?
- Am I okay with the fact that living off campus can be isolating (especially if I don’t have a roommate)?
- Can I find a roommate or two that I can really live with?
- Do I have a budget planned and can I stick to it? I will have expenses other than rent: food, utilities, cable, internet, transportation, furniture, rental insurance, etc.
- Am I ready to spend extra time commuting to and from class?
- Am I okay with having to travel back to campus for extracurricular events or study sessions after class?
- What will I use to get back and forth to campus (walk, car, bike, bus)?
- Is cooking going to be a problem?
- Will I be able to get along with roommates and neighbors, and handle conflicts positively and maturely if they arise?
• Am I familiar with city ordinances and codes and how they can affect me should I break them?

The above questions are just a few provided to help you determine if moving off campus is right for your student. In January, we will offer more information on housing options for your student as well as helpful tips, should your student choose to live off campus. In the meantime, if you have any questions, feel free to call Off-Campus Student Services at 970-491-2248 or visit our website at www.ocssral.colostate.edu.

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**Off Campus Accountability**

_by Paul Osincup, Assistant Director_  
**Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services**

You may be aware that Colorado State University, like most universities, meets with students to address disruptive or inappropriate behavior that occurs on campus. For example, an underage student drinking alcohol in the residence halls meets with a University Hearing Officer to determine if they have violated any policies in the Student Conduct Code. But, did you know that we also meet with students regarding their behavior in off-campus incidents?

Law enforcement agencies in the region partner with CSU by sending copies of police reports and citations involving CSU students to the office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services (CRSCS). After reading the reports, if we determine there is a reason to believe the students’ actions in the incident may be in violation of the CSU Student Conduct Code, we send them a letter of notice to come to a meeting. While we may meet with student s for a wide variety of incidents that take place off-campus, some of the most common reports we receive are: unreasonable noise citations, driving under the influence, minor in possession of alcohol, domestic violence, and disorderly conduct.

As you can imagine, the first question on most students’ minds when they come to our office for a meeting regarding their off-campus behavior is “Why do I have to address this with CSU if it happened off-campus in my own personal time?” When students ask me this question in a hearing (and they do almost every time), I usually ask them if they can answer it first. “Why do you think CSU wants to meet with students regarding off-campus related incidents?” Students usually respond by saying they think we want CSU to have a good reputation in the community and if they are violating laws, they are damaging the reputation of the University. While this may be true, it is not the primary
reason we hold these meetings.

Simply put, we care about students. Two of our primary goals are to help students as they overcome mistakes, and foster a safe and welcoming environment for other students and community members. By holding students accountable for their behaviors on and off-campus, we keep the CSU community safe, and also help students involved in off-campus legal difficulties find the resources they need to learn from the incident and move in a positive direction.

It can be easy for students to stuff their books in their backpack, leave campus Friday afternoon, and forget about classes for a couple of days only to frantically start the cycle again Sunday night as they begin to study. Although students who meet with me initially question CSU’s involvement in their off-campus behaviors, by the end of our meetings, students typically acknowledge good decision making, treating other people with respect, and overall responsible behavior are not things that can simply be forgotten about in their backpacks and only applied while at school.

For further information about the office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services or the student conduct process, please visit our website at www.conflictresolution.colostate.edu

Paul Osincup
Assistant Director,
Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services

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Pets ‘n Profs

Pre Veterinary RLC resident assistants Caitlyn Cornell and Shawna Strickland recently hosted a "Pets ‘n Profs" program in Edwards Hall to give students the opportunity to interact with professors and staff members in a relaxed, comfortable setting. Further, the evening was all about animals!

Professors and staff members brought everything from rats to cats and dogs, giving residents the chance to get their furry friend fix while conversing about college life. Two-legged guests included Donna Rouner, Brian Jones, LisaMiller, Oscar Felix, Meredith Carpenter, Michael Katz, Emily Seems, and Jody Donovan, who accompanied their four-legged family members Mr. Fibble, Domingo, Pumba, Oscar, Matty, Henry, Mia, and Tonka. RA Strickland’s dog, Jaschi, even made an appearance, acting as program mascot and touring the halls to recruit students’ participation. A total of approximately 40 students came to play with the pets and
professors. Conversations ranged from current and future classes to residence life to summer plans, and the atmosphere was warm and welcoming.

For the most part, students, faculty, and staff members alike reclined on the floor, playing back and forth with tennis balls and the dogs. The attending rat, hamster, and cat claimed a room for themselves, taking advantage of a calmer ambience and playing host to the refreshments: cookies baked fresh by RAs Cornell and Strickland. Special young guests from the Rouner and Felix families also interacted with the students, helping with the handling of the rodent members of the program.

Fortunately for all participants, the program achieved its desired goal: students interacted with other members of their community in addition to taking advantage of the faculty members' presence. The program further demonstrated the sense of community introduced by animals and the positive effect of their unique relationships with humans to all participants. The commonly upheld barriers between student and professor or resident and residence life staff were dismantled for one evening, thanks to the help of several four-legged friends. All in all, the program was a smashing success, and plans are in place to hold a similar event in the spring to give participants a second chance to relax and escape from the stressors of college life.

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**What’s Happening at CSU?**

Here are just a few of the diverse involvement opportunities available at Colorado State University for the month of December. When your student says "there's nothing to do here," you'll be ready to suggest some really interesting and fun events! For more ideas, visit What’s Up @ CSU at [http://www.whatsup.colostate.edu/](http://www.whatsup.colostate.edu/) to view the calendar.

[http://events.colostate.edu/event_view.asp?EID=20777&ID=7&cTYPE=1&month=12&year=2007&cate=](http://events.colostate.edu/event_view.asp?EID=20777&ID=7&cTYPE=1&month=12&year=2007&cate=)

December 4, 2007 – Roommate Round-Up  
[http://events.colostate.edu/event_view.asp?EID=11522&ID=7&cTYPE=1&month=12&year=2007&cate=](http://events.colostate.edu/event_view.asp?EID=11522&ID=7&cTYPE=1&month=12&year=2007&cate=)

December 6, 2007 – Creative Writing Readings: MFA Series  
[http://events.colostate.edu/event_view.asp?EID=20329&ID=7&cTYPE=1&month=12&year=2007&cate=](http://events.colostate.edu/event_view.asp?EID=20329&ID=7&cTYPE=1&month=12&year=2007&cate=)

December 7, 2007 – Last Day of Class for Fall Semester  
[http://events.colostate.edu/event_view.asp?EID=10394&ID=7&cTYPE=1&month=12&year=2007&cate=](http://events.colostate.edu/event_view.asp?EID=10394&ID=7&cTYPE=1&month=12&year=2007&cate=)
December 10-14, 2007 – Final Exam Week
http://events.colostate.edu/event_view.asp?EID=10395&ID=7&cTYPE=1&month=12&year=2007&cate=

December 14, 2007 – Fall Commencement
http://events.colostate.edu/event_view.asp?EID=10396&ID=7&cTYPE=1&month=12&year=2007&cate=

December 20, 2007 – Grades Available to Students on RAMweb
http://events.colostate.edu/event_view.asp?EID=10387&ID=7&cTYPE=1&month=12&year=2007&cate=

December 24-26, 2007 – University Closed for Holiday
http://events.colostate.edu/event_view.asp?EID=10399&ID=7&cTYPE=1&month=12&year=2007&cate=

December 29, 2007 – CSU Men’s Basketball vs. Western State
http://events.colostate.edu/event_view.asp?EID=20858&ID=7&cTYPE=1&month=12&year=2007&cate=

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**Athletics Update for December**

*By Michele Fargher, Assistant Director  
Marketing & Licensing*

CSU BASKETBALL TICKET PACKS:
Stocking Stuffers – Just in time for the holidays!

Men’s Basketball HOLIDAY PACK – Only $25
Includes: Colorado (12/22), Western State (12/29), UNLV (1/5) & Oklahoma Panhandle State (1/8)

Men’s Basketball MOUNTAIN WEST PACK – Only $80
Includes all 8 conference games + Oklahoma Panhandle State

Women’s Basketball REGIONAL RIVALS PACK – Only $12
Includes: Colorado (12/1), Air Force (1/23) & Wyoming (1/26)

Women’s Basketball MOUNTAIN WEST PACK – Only $50
Includes all 8 conference games
GROUP TICKETS – Make it a group outing!
Groups of 20 or more:
$8 tickets or
$10 tickets – Includes a Pepsi & hot dog or pretzel

FOR TICKETS OR MORE INFORMATION:
1-800-491-RAMS
CSURams.com

UPCOMING GAMES:
12/1 WBB vs. Colorado  7 pm
12/4 WBB vs. Pacific   7 pm
12/5 MBB vs. Denver    6 pm
12/22 MBB vs. Colorado  7 pm
12/29 WBB vs. NM State 4 pm
12/29 MBB vs. Western St. 7 pm