Dear Colorado State University Parents and Families,

We continue to experience winter weather with snow flurries and freezing temperatures here in Fort Collins. We’re trying to stay positive, celebrating the moisture for the earth and the powder for our ski resorts! February is a short month and Spring Break is right around the corner (although for most students, it isn't close enough!). Many students return home for Spring Break, however, many others choose to stay on campus to focus on school, work extra hours to earn additional money, experience the winter activities here in Colorado, escape to warmer temperatures in the South, or participate in an Alternative Spring Break experience through our Student Leadership and Civic Engagement Office. Begin talking with your student about Spring Break plans for March 12-16. Next month’s issue will include information about staying safe over spring break.

This month’s parent and family e-newsletter is full of articles to help you partner with us to support your student. New this month is an option for a printer-friendly copy of the newsletter (thanks to the parents who suggested this!). As always, we are eager to hear your feedback. Click on the following links to read great information about the following:

- Returning to the Residence Halls for Next Year
- Considering a Transition to Off-Campus Living
- CSU Freshmen & College Choice
- Stepping Up to Affect Change
- Senior Class Gift & The Importance of Giving
- Walk4Wellness
- Black History Month Events

After you’ve read the articles, check out the parent and family website. Each month, families have an opportunity to participate in a new poll. This month’s question focused on your favorite part of spending time with your students over Winter Break. 67% of the respondents enjoyed “family togetherness and traditions.” Families also enjoyed “hearing stories about their students’ college adventures” (18%) and “celebrating their good grades and academic progress” (12%). Fortunately, only 3% responded that their best part of Winter Break was “sending your student back to campus!” Please go to our website: www.parentsandfamily.colostate.edu to participate in February’s poll asking: “What do you love most about your student?”

Finally, on behalf of Colorado State University, thank you for your generous gifts to the Parents Fund. To date, we have received $97,248 in gifts and pledges from 1,759 parent/family donors through our Call-A-Ram phonathon and other fundraising initiatives. Parent and family support and gifts have made sustainable impacts to Colorado State University students. It is worth noting that some parents/family members continue sending donations after their students have graduated. One parent shared, “I am going to continue to support CSU because it has given a wonderful future to my son!” It is our commitment to you and your students to provide an educational experience second to none. We appreciate your partnership in helping your students maximize their opportunities and take advantage of all the resources and services available at Colorado State University.

Best wishes for a terrific February. As always, please contact me if you have questions or concerns.
Students Return to the Residence Halls: Breaking the Urban Legend
By Mary Ellen Sinnwell, Director of Residence Life

Question: What is the most common “urban legend” of the Colorado State University Housing system?

Answer: That all first year students MUST move off campus for their sophomore year and beyond.

Students living on campus achieve and retain higher gpa’s than their off campus counterparts and Housing and Dining Services values upper-class students living in our halls.

The Fall Semester 2006 cumulative grade point average was obtained for all freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior students living in the residence halls and living off-campus. **Residence hall students obtained a higher cumulative grade point average in all four class groups when compared to their off-campus counterparts.**

Each year students currently living in the residence halls are given priority to select the room of their choice for the upcoming fall semester. Beginning January 29, 2007, we would like to invite your
student to make a room selection for fall 2007.

If your student is interested in reserving a space in the residence halls for next fall, they can start the process in one of two ways.

1. Talk with the office manager at the front desk of the hall in which they would like to live.
2. Go online to www.housing.colostate.edu/halls/renew and complete a request for room information to be sent to the office manager of the hall in which they prefer to live.

To meet the various needs of all students, we offer suites, upper-class only floors, singles in various halls, three-room units with two private bedrooms and a shared common space, and a limited number of double rooms being offered as singles.

If students have not selected a room by April 2, 2007, their $150 housing deposit will be refunded to their student account. Students will receive a refund check for their housing deposit, minus any outstanding charges on their student account. It will be mailed to their residence hall address or directly deposited to their bank account if direct deposit was selected. If they choose to select a room after the deposits have been refunded, students need to make another $150 deposit.

IMPORTANT 2007-2008 ROOM SELECTION INFORMATION

DATES FOR ROOM SELECTION:

♦ January 29 – February 6: Residents have priority in selecting their current rooms. If their room is on a Living Learning Community floor and they are not eligible to live on that floor, they may select an available room in the hall of their choice. Students currently in a Key Program who are accepted to the Key Plus Academic Program for fall 2007 should make their Room Selection at Braiden Hall. Residents of "The House" are eligible to select an available room in the hall of their choice during this time.


ROOM SELECTION CANCELLATION DATES:

♦ January 29 – April 1, 2007: Cancellation of Room Selection can be made without penalty.
♦ April 2, 2007: Beginning on this date, a Room Selection cancellation will result in a $350 cancellation charge.
♦ April 3, 2007: For those students who have not selected a room for fall 2007, the $150 housing deposit will be refunded to their student account. Refunds should be received about April 9, 2007.

UPPER-CLASS STUDENTS are WELCOMED in our HALLS!
HELP US BREAK THAT URBAN LEGEND!
Spring semester is underway, and with that comes the conversation between students, parents, and family members about the possibility of moving off campus for fall 2007. Colorado State University’s Residence Halls and Apartment Life offer wonderful opportunities for your student to continue living in a positive environment, right here on campus! Please visit their website at http://www.housing.colostate.edu/ for more information about options for your student.

Should your student be considering a move off campus however, Off-Campus Student Services (OCSS) is here to help in a successful transition into the Fort Collins neighborhoods. Below is a list of opportunities to consider when planning a move off campus. We hope you will encourage your student to be a well-informed resident of the community.

- This year (around mid-February), all students living in the residence halls will receive in his/her residence hall mailbox a handbook titled “Who Ate My Chips? Get a Taste for Off-Campus Living.” The guide offers a number of helpful tips and information on what to think about when moving into the community. Topics covered include: managing a budget, negotiating a lease, roommates, utilities, safety, good neighboring tips, being aware of City Codes and Ordinances that impact students (noise, occupancy limit, nuisance gatherings, parking, snow shoveling, etc.), resources, and much more! Please encourage your student to READ this guide!

- Grab some popcorn and watch The Rental World video! The Rental World is a short video that addresses issues commonly faced by students who move off campus for the first time. Filmed as a parody of MTV’s “Real World,” it traces the lives of Donnie, Elainea, Tom, Matt, and Missi as they encounter landlords, leases, police, and neighbors. The video is online at: http://ocssral.colostate.edu/clc/rental-world.asp

- Like trivia? Then play the Off-Campus Trivia Game! Students can visit the following website and test their rental knowledge by viewing this true/false and multiple choice powerpoint (and the answers are included). Check it out! http://ocssral.colostate.edu/clc/living-off-campus.asp

- Does your student need a roommate or a new place to live for summer or fall? The Roommate Roundup on Wednesday, April 18 and April 25th, 5-6pm, located in the LSC Commons is designed for students to meet potential roommates, as well as take in a brief presentation. Students should bring flyers, scratch paper, and a smile!

- The HOUSING FAIR 2007 occurs Wednesday, March 21, 9am-4pm in the LSC Main Ballroom, where your student can visit with scores of landlords, apartment complex managers and property managers and gather information on places to live around town. Also, other services such as storage places, City services and resources in the community will be present. A free round-trip ticket and three-nights’ stay in Las Vegas will take place!

- Use our ONLINE RENTAL LISTING SERVICE and find a new place to live. Our listings are updated daily and include vacant places as well as shared situations. There is no cost to use our service and students can view our listings at: http://ocssral.colostate.edu/ocss/listings.asp.
• **As a parent or family member** of a CSU student, you may be interested in the helpful link that provides a lot of information on City Ordinances and Codes that exist in Fort Collins (ie. Snow removal, grass/weeds, parking, noise, etc.). Please review this site and be informed about these expectations to ensure your student has success living off campus:
  [http://ocssral.colostate.edu/clc/family.asp](http://ocssral.colostate.edu/clc/family.asp).

• Fort Collins has recently increased enforcement of the **Occupancy Limit Ordinance**, effective January 1, 2007, which states that no more than three unrelated persons can live in a dwelling unit. As your student considers moving off campus, please make sure that he/she understands this Ordinance and how it relates to his/her future living arrangements. The following website includes more information: [http://www.ocssral.colostate.edu/clc/occlimit.asp](http://www.ocssral.colostate.edu/clc/occlimit.asp).

• **Avoid Renting a Lemon**: Prior to renting a place, it is important to check the history of the property to see if it has a record of code violations. If a home has had noise violations or tickets for animal disturbances, trash, weeds, parking on yards, or over-occupancy, it may be in jeopardy of becoming a “public nuisance property.” The Public Nuisance Ordinance follows the residence, not the tenants. When looking to rent an apartment or house, you should check to see if the rental has a history of violations. The Neighborhood Services Division, (970) 221-6676 or bsowder@fcgov.com can provide you with this information. Don’t let your student get caught up in someone else’s mess!

• Prior to signing a lease, have your student make an appointment with Student Legal Services. This office provides a lease review service to full-time CSU students, FREE of charge, to make sure the terminology in the lease protects the renter. They also have copies of previously reviewed leases on their website. Go to: [http://sls.colostate.edu](http://sls.colostate.edu).

For other helpful information and resources to assist in a possible move off campus, please visit our office website at: [http://ocssral.colostate.edu/](http://ocssral.colostate.edu/) or call 970-491-2248. We are here to help your student make a successful transition to living in our great City!

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**CSU Freshmen and College choice**

By Dave McKelfresh, Director of Assessment

The fall 2006 freshman survey is conducted by the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA’s Graduate School of Education and Information Studies. Now in its 41st year, the UCLA survey is the nation’s longest-standing and most comprehensive assessment of student attitudes and plans. Conducted in association with the American Council on Education, the survey serves as a resource for higher education researchers throughout the world. In a USA Today article dated January 20, 2007, Mary Beth Marklein reported,

Fewer college freshmen are attending their top choice of schools, and many appear to be doing so not because they were rejected by their first choice but for financial reasons, a national survey shows.

More than two-thirds (67.3%) are attending their No. 1 choice, the survey says. Of those who are not, 52.6% said they were accepted and opted not to go.
That was "quite surprising," says John Pryor, director of the Cooperative Institutional Research Program at UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute, which conducted the survey, out today. "The general assumption is that if you're not going to your first choice, it's because you didn't get in."

The survey, an annual snapshot of student behavior and beliefs, is based on responses of 271,441 first-time, full-time students at 393 four-year colleges and universities and is adjusted to reflect the 1.3 million freshmen who entered four-year colleges last fall.

A higher percentage of Colorado State University freshmen report attending their first choice institution. This is good news for students’ academic success and personal satisfaction during college!

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“Stepping Up” to affect Change
By: Karlen Suga, Graduate Student

During the winter break, many of you had opportunities to spend time re-connecting with your student. Did the topics of sustainability or foreign policy enter your conversations? If so, this is part of a growing characteristic of today’s college students.

In a recent report by the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California at Los Angeles, one-third of the 270,000 first-year students surveyed at institutions around the nation reported talking about political issues on a regular basis. It seems that now more than ever, students are seeing the effect of decisions made on their behalf on campus and in their local, national, and global communities.

To better meet the needs of this new generation of students, the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement (SLCE), in cooperation with the Office of Residence Life and Student Involvement and Activities revised the focus of the annual Multi-Cultural Leadership Retreat (MCLR). The new focus and purpose centered on the concept of Social Justice, which is defined by Adams, Bell, and Griffin (1997) as: “full and equal participation of all groups in a society that is mutually shaped to meet their needs. Social justice includes a vision of society that is equitable and all members are
physically and psychologically safe and secure."

The steering committee re-named the retreat “Campus Step Up: A Social Justice Retreat” to reflect this new concept. The ultimate goal of the retreat is to give students the knowledge and skills to take action on the social justice issues most important to them in their communities.

Campus Step Up took place this year on January 11-13, 2007 on the Colorado State University campus. Approximately 60 student participants representing a variety of walks of life, perspectives, ethnicities, and national and regional identities joined 16 facilitators at the retreat. Topics presented included race and ethnic relations in the United States, the role power, privilege, and oppression play in students’ daily lives, and what it means to be an ally of different communities. There topics were presented through both large group and small group discussions, various forms of print and audio-visual media, and lecturettes presented by Barb Kistler, Director of SLCE, and CSU alumna DeEtta Jones, an independent consultant.

I had the honor of serving as the chairperson of the steering committee and as a small group facilitator during the retreat. It is hard for me to truly express what it was like to meet so many students excited about changing our world for the better. I have no doubt that there are future lawmakers, CEO’s of non-profit organizations, Peace Corps volunteers, and active and engaged citizens of our local, national, and global communities within our group of 60 student participants. It gives me hope for the future.

Please know that you as parents and families contribute to your students’ motivation for making change. Engage your students in conversations about the most important issues facing the world and their generation. In doing so, I’m confident you’ll feel the same optimism that I do.

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**The Importance of Giving**

By Sara Colorosa, Assistant Director of Annual Giving &
Travis Mears, Office of Annual Giving Practicum Student

Have you ever wondered what the importance was in making a gift to your student’s college or university? Giving to Colorado State University is very important and your gift makes a difference! Gifts are used to make significant impacts on the quality of the higher education experience at CSU. The Office of Annual Giving works hard to meet students’ needs through a variety of projects each year.

To celebrate graduating seniors’ successful careers at Colorado State University, members of the Senior Class of 2005 and 2006 have left their legacy at Colorado State University by raising funds to plant commemorative trees. Annual Giving sent emails to all seniors asking to make a gift of $20.05 and $20.06 to commemorate their graduation year for a class tree and student scholarships. Both graduating classes raised enough money to buy their own class tree and also contributed to the Students First Scholarship Fund. The purpose of the scholarship fund is to provide unrestricted, flexible scholarship assistance for students enrolled in degree programs, regardless of major, such as supplemental scholarship awards, scholarships to match awards students bring with them, and one-time emergency
scholarships, etc. The 2005 tree was the first step in creating a “young alumni grove” for future generations to enjoy and gain inspiration. The Class of 2005 raised an additional $300 to plant a second tree and provide scholarships for future students.

The Class of 2006 continued the legacy and also raised enough money to buy their first tree to be planted in the “young alumni grove” in the spring of 2007. The Class of 2007 can contribute to the grove and fund scholarships throughout this academic year. The goal for each senior class is to raise $300 to purchase, plant, and provide perpetual care for a tree to beautify the campus. Any additional funds will benefit the Students First Scholarship.

In 2006, the Office of Annual Giving implemented an internship program to allow student voices to impact the planning and organization of the campaign. The student interns added a more personal contact by interacting with students on campus. The interns and Annual Giving staff are striving to educate the student body at CSU about the importance of giving back to sustain the health of CSU. Between the Class of 2005 and Class of 2006 giving campaigns, students gave more than $2,000 to fund the class trees and the Students First Scholarship.

Senior Class and other student giving projects help educate students about the power of giving and encourages them to take the first steps in supporting their alma mater for future generations of students who follow in their footsteps.

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**Walk4Wellness**

By Gwen Sieving, Health Educator

The purpose of Walk 4 Wellness is to encourage the beneficial practice of regular physical activity to each and every CSU student through pedometer use.

Students can accumulate "steps" from physical activities they participate in, such as walking to class, taking the stairs instead of the elevator, swimming, skiing, and yoga, for example. The equivalent number of steps is calculated and automatically added to the student's daily step count.

Walk4Wellness sells pedometers for only $5 to students who wish to participate. Walk 4 Wellness is a fun and motivating way to help CSU students increase their level of physical activity and overall wellness – mind, body, spirit, and community! To learn more about the program and register to participate, students should visit their website: [http://walk4wellness.colostate.edu/](http://walk4wellness.colostate.edu/).

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**Black History Month Events**
February 1
Black History Month “Opening Ceremony”
Mayoral Proclamation
Noon | Commons, Lower Level, LSC
Hosted by: Black Student Services

Keynote Speaker: Nevil Shed
From the movie “Glory Road”
6:30pm | Theatre, LSC
Hosted by:
United Men of Color, United Women of Color, Student Leadership and Civic Engagement, Office of Residence Life

February 2
Movie of the Week: “One Week”
Noon | Room 204, LSC
Hosted by:
Black Definition Student Organization

February 6
CSU Alumni Luncheon Series
“Spotlight on Colorado State University Lt. Colonel John Mosley (Retired)”
Inaugural Luncheon
(Registration required, $10.00 per ticket)
11:30am | The Budweiser Events Center
Hosted by: CSU Alumni Association

February 7
“Trivia Night”
6:00pm | Room 228, LSC
Hosted by: Black Student Alliance

February 8
“The Negro Baseball Leagues, an American Legacy”
Presented by Byron Motley
6:00pm | Room 210, LSC
Hosted by:
Black Definition Student Organization

February 9
“Muscle of the Week: “Love Jones”
Noon | Room 204, LSC
Hosted by:
Black Definition Student Organization

February 10
“Comedy Show”
Featuring Damon Williams
7:00pm | Theatre, LSC
Admission is free!
Hosted by: Association for Student Activity Programming (ASAP), Black Definition Student Organization

February 13
”Cupid Connection” (Dating Game)
7:00pm | Commons, Lower Level, LSC
Hosted by:
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated

February 14
“Meet CSU’s Black Faculty/Staff and Graduate Students”
Noon | Longs Peak, 2nd Floor, LSC
Hosted by:
ASCSU Diversity & Outreach, Black Student Services

February 15
“The Untold Truth: African American Men Moving Forward”
1:00pm | Room 228, LSC
Hosted by:
Dexter Yarbrough, Chief
(Colorado State University Police Department)

“African Spirituals & Drum Concert”
7:00pm | Theatre, LSC
Hosted by: Association for Student Activity Programming (ASAP)

February 16
“Movie of the Week: “The Untold Story of Emmett Till”
Noon | Room 204, LSC
Hosted by:
Black Definition Student Organization

February 17
“Making Feminism Relevant to the Hip Hop Generation: Race, Gender & Revolution”
Keynote speaker—Lisa M. Calderon, M.L.S., J.D
9:30am | East Ballroom, LSC
Hosted by:
Women’s Programs & Studies

February 19
“The Power of Offensive Words through Images”
1:00pm | Room 220-222, LSC
Hosted by:
Blaine Harding
(Director of Advising & Recruiting, College of Liberal Arts)

February 20
“Power of the Tongue”
Presented by Ge’yah Jones Bradford
6:00pm | Grey Rock Room, LSC
Hosted by:
Black Definition, Associated Students of Colorado State University (ASCU)

February 21
“When the Levees Broke”
Requiem in Four Acts (A Spike Lee Movie)
6:30pm | Room 213-215, LSC
Hosted by:
National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)

February 24
Little Shop of Physics “Open House”
10:00am - 6:00pm | Main Ballroom, LSC
Hosted by:
The Department of Physics

February 27
“Voices of Survival”
7:00pm | Theatre, LSC
Hosted by:
Holocaust Awareness Week

February 28
“Reflections of Black History Month”
Noon | Commons, Lower Level, LSC
Hosted by:
Javon Baker (President, Black Definition) & Dr. Jennifer Williams Molock
(Executive Director, Advocacy Programs and Services)