Dear CSU Parents and Families;

We’ve almost made it! Final exams begin next week and students leave campus to return home for the summer, travel to far away places, or boost their work hours to earn additional money for school next year… (Or recover from the academic stress by sleeping for the next few weeks)! During Finals Week, please encourage your student to focus on studying, complete assignments and prepare for the end of the semester and then celebrate your student’s persistence on May 11, 2007! Mark this time for your student and family – you all have made it through the year and may look back on the year with both good and bad feelings. After a few weeks, use these reflections to enter into conversations with your student about assessing the year and plans for next year. Listen to your student’s perspective and coach him or her to develop strategies for the upcoming year without jumping in and solving the problems for them. Summer can be a great time to temporarily escape the pressures of school, so try to honor students’ needs for distance and assure them you are willing to dialogue about school when they are ready.

If you are a family member of a first year student, be aware that our first year students may experience final exam anxiety, apprehension/excitement about returning home for summer, sadness over leaving new friendships, and thoughts of attending summer school courses. Returning students may experience the realization of how college influences life decisions, a carefree attitude, and excitement about closing another year or graduating, and the start of a summer job or internship.

If your student is returning home for the summer, now is also a good time to discuss expectations at home such as curfews, chores, and other family responsibilities. Encourage your student to get phone numbers, addresses, and emails of college friends to stay in touch over the summer. Ask your student to complete a summer project with you. This will help him/her to feel valued and involved with the family.

As this is the final newsletter for the 2006-2007 academic year, it includes timely information relevant to the end of the semester. Attached is a safety and security briefing written by Chief Yarborough of the Colorado State University Police Department that was presented to President Penley after the Virginia Tech tragedy. The campus Emergency Management Team meets regularly to evaluate campus safety and plans for emergencies as well as proactive measures to keep our campus safe for students, faculty, staff and visitors. Renee Estes, Assistant Director of the Career Center offers timely advice on “Five Ways to Help Your Student Maximize The Summer.” Also included is an article by Lindsay Sell, Coordinator of Student Programs for the Alumni Association about how current students can utilize the numerous services and resources of the CSU Alumni Association. Karlen Suga, practicum student in the
Student Affairs in Higher Education graduate program reflects upon her own graduation and how families can celebrate their students’ accomplishments in an article entitled, “Here’s to You, Families of the Class of 2007!”

Below is a “potpourri” of timely information for the month of May. Please also check our website for the most current news on campus: http://parentsandfamily.colostate.edu/.

**Finals week at CSU begins on Monday, May 7 and runs until Friday, May 11, 2007.**

Finals week can be a very stressful time for college students as they prepare for examinations. 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. Your student can check out his/her final exam schedule by visiting http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/Registrar/SP07.finalexams.html or by talking to faculty members.

**End of Academic Year & Summer School**
Residence halls close at 10pm on Friday, May 11, 2007. At that time all students in the halls are expected to vacate. For students staying for the summer, the summer session runs from May 13 to August 4 with 4, 8, or 12 week options. Residential housing and meals are also available for summer students. For more information on summer housing, meals, courses, fees, and application materials visit http://www.summer.colostate.edu/index.cfm

**Spring Semester Grades**
Spring Semester grades will be available to students on May 17, 2007. Students can access their grades online using RAMweb at 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.

**Ram Welcome: Experience CSU!**
The 4-day Welcome Week begins August 16 before school starts on August 20. Encourage your student to sign up to volunteer to help welcome the new students and their families to Colorado State University. Students can learn more about next year’s Ram Welcome by going to the website: www.ramwelcome.colostate.edu. The volunteer sign up is a link at the top of the page.

**Congratulations to Graduating Students and their Families!**
Commencement ceremonies for students who are graduating from Colorado State University will occur on Friday, May 11, 2007, and Saturday, May 12, 2007. Congratulations to the graduating students and their families! It’s time to celebrate! The spring 2007 commencement schedule can be found at http://commencement.colostate.edu/. Parents and families attending graduation ceremonies can get travel information and a list of things to do in Fort Collins at http://welcome.colostate.edu/index.asp?url=visit.

Please let me know if we can do anything to improve your experience as a CSU family member. We truly are partners in helping your students be successful academically and personally. Take care and enjoy your summer!
Alumni & Students Connect
By Lindsay Sell, Student Program Coordinator
Alumni Relations

Alumni are a valuable resource. They represent the University’s rich past and the bridge to the future. They represent the many different directions a college degree may lead, and they serve as an important source of information and connection for students and other alumni. The CSU Alumni Association is committed to helping students manage their transition into life after college, and connecting current and graduating students to the vast array of alumni experiences.

Students transitioning from their college experience into life after college often face unique joys and challenges. Moving from student to alumni is both exciting and slightly frightening. While this transition is what all college graduates look forward to when completing their time as students, it is also important to feel supported and connected to their Alma Mater. There are a variety of options for staying connected that range from being involved in a regional or geographic CSU alumni network or joining the CSU Alumni Association and receiving special publications to keep alumni connected to CSU happenings. Sometimes simply finding other CSU Rams in one’s area can serve as a welcome relief.

For current students, it can be immensely helpful to begin conversations with alumni and think about the alumni experience prior to graduation. These conversations provide direction to students regarding the paths they may take in their future, and may also help calm fears about life after college. These interactions can become a way for current students to feel more connected to CSU and form beneficial networks both during and after college. For many, simply meeting alumni who have previously walked the same sidewalks and halls is powerful and rewarding.

The Alumni Association provides many ways for students to be connected to alumni including: Student Alumni Connection (the student organization that plans events for students to interact with alumni over dinner), Homecoming, and through interaction at Alumni Association events. These exchanges lead to ongoing relationships and long-term friendships and networks that remain helpful during and after college.
For more information about how current and graduating students can remain connected to alumni and CSU, please visit www.csualum.com.

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Here’s to you, families of the Class of 2007!

By: Karlen Suga, Practicum Student,
Student Transitions and Parent and Family Programs

It’s hard to believe another academic year is coming to a close! Soon, Colorado State University will celebrate with parents and families for the Class of Spring 2007’s Commencement Exercises. A schedule of the Spring 2007 Commencement Exercises can be found at http://commencement.colostate.edu.

For those of you with students graduating this semester, I want to extend my sincerest congratulations. Although it was indeed your student who worked hard for this achievement, I also believe that you provided essential support in this endeavor. Whether it was sending some extra cash for books and supplies, sending care packages, or supporting their decision to move away from home to attend CSU, you played a significant role in this major life achievement! Thank you for all you have done!

If your student is graduating, you might be thinking of how to best celebrate this life achievement. Besides the typical graduation dinner/party or giving your student a gift you know they’ve had their eyes on since the holidays, how about asking your student to name 5 significant peers, faculty, or staff members that have been especially supportive during their college career and inviting them out for a celebration. Or, you may wish to write them a note of thanks. This is a great way to not only celebrate your student’s accomplishment, but also acknowledge those who helped make it possible.

The topic of graduation has been on my mind a lot lately, as I prepare to graduate with my Master of Science degree later this month. I am going through a broad range of emotions right now, from the nostalgia and disbelief that two years have gone by so quickly, to the excitement that this part of my life is coming to a close. I am feeling incredibly grateful for all of my family, friends, faculty, coworkers, and colleagues who have taken this journey with me and provided me with unconditional support and care. My parents in particular have been amazing, as they let me make the decision to move thousands of miles away from home in Hawai’i to pursue this degree. Although I am very proud of myself for this accomplishment, I also know there is more in store for me in the future. My experience
at Colorado State University has taught me to never stop learning and growing. No matter what, there will always be journeys to take and new people to meet.

Again, congratulations to you, parents and families of the graduating class of Spring 2007! Take care and thank you again for providing your student with the challenges and support they needed to get to this milestone in their life!

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Five Ways to Help Your Student Maximize the Summer  
Renée Estes, Assistant Director, The Career Center

With summer approaching, you may be anticipating your student’s return home. In order to help your student maximize summer break, the Career Center has provided you with a list of ways you can help your student make the best use of warm, summer days.

**Summer Internship**  
If your student has not already done so, encourage him or her to obtain a meaningful summer job or internship. Summer jobs and internships are great ways for students to learn about an area of work they may want to pursue upon graduation, without the commitment of a full-time job. Help your student explore what he or she does or does not like about these summer job or internship work environments to begin thinking about work environments he or she may fit well within.

**Help Your Student Increase His or Her Network**  
Do some of your friends or colleagues share a common professional interest with your student? If so, what ways can you connect your student with your network of friends and colleagues? Social and professional networks can be invaluable in helping your student search for undergraduate and professional opportunities before and beyond graduation.

**Job Shadowing**  
Has your student ever spoken with or shadowed a person within an occupation he or she has thought of pursuing? People are often willing to speak with or take a student under their wing through job shadowing. Your student can access an online database of Colorado State University (CSU) alumni who have volunteered to be career mentors for CSU students through CareerRAM. CareerRAM can be accessed through the following link:  [http://www.career.colostate.edu/careerRAM/](http://www.career.colostate.edu/careerRAM/)
Talk With Your Student about How to Get Involved On Campus this Upcoming Academic Year

Encourage your student to take advantage of opportunities to get involved on campus. By doing so, your student will gain leadership and technical skills to use in the workplace. In addition to their major, employers are looking for students who have taken advantage of opportunities to get involved in major and non-major related activities.

Volunteer

Help your student search for local opportunities for to volunteer within a field that he or she is interested in pursuing after graduation. Although often unpaid, volunteer opportunities are another way your student can begin to explore an occupation and work environment. Additionally, by having these experiences, students will begin to increase their professional network.

For more information about The Career Center at Colorado State University, please visit our website at:  www.career.colostate.edu

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Emergency Operations

By Chief Yarborough, CSUPD

Emergency Management Team

- CSU has an Emergency Management Team this is comprised of administrators from various key units around the university. It is led by the CSU Chief of Police.

- CSU has an Emergency Operations Plan that outlines responsibilities and addresses concerns in case of emergencies.

- The Emergency Management Team meets monthly to assess problems and issues and to ensure that communication is essential and appropriate.

- The Emergency Management Team has been instrumental in developing responses to Pandemic Flu, water-borne illnesses, and radiological problems. It is currently working on approaches to respond to active shooter situations and weather related disasters.

- If an emergency were to occur at CSU, a command post would be assembled at police headquarters in Green Hall.

- A University Safety Team meets often to assess minor needs on campus (heart defibrillator machines, first aid/CPR training).
Communications

- The CSU Police Department has a 24 hour a day staffed 911 Communications Center. This center has the latest in technology and monitors hundreds of alarm points as well as video cameras that are strategically located around the campus. This center is connected with the four other 911 Centers in Larimer County (Fort Collins Police, Larimer County Sheriff’s Office, Loveland Police Department, and Estes Park Police Department).

- Land-based 911 calls as well as cellular 911 calls are answered by the CSU Police Department.

- In case of emergency, the CSU Emergency Telephone Network allows us to make a conference call to key 50 areas on campus to alert people to an emergency.

- Reverse 911 – This allows us to call all or specific land-based phones in a targeted area in Larimer County – not just at Colorado State University.

- Email – Thousands of people can be notified of an emergency quickly.

- Emergency Broadcast System - Cable and broadcast stations can be interrupted with an emergency notification.

- The Emergency Management Team is exploring other technologies, including a cellular text-based messaging system to get information out to thousands of people.

- The Emergency Management Team is exploring obtaining a siren/audio system for the main campus, combined with campus FM radio to alert as many people and as quickly as possible under normal conditions as well as if there were no power and phone service.

- Each CSU building has a proctor that can be notified immediately and is responsible for assisting in getting out information and helping secure buildings, if necessary.

- There are a number of blue light emergency phones strategically located around campus that provide instant contact to the CSU Police Department.

Police Department

- The CSU Police Department has police officers trained in active shooter protocols

- CSU police officers qualify quarterly in firearms and defensive tactics training

- CSU police officers can access campus by motor vehicle, motorcycle, bicycle and foot.

- The CSU Police Department has a K-9 that is trained in narcotics detection and search and rescue.