End of the Year Celebration

On April 7 at 5:30 p.m., your student can participate in the end of the year celebration with their peer mentor. This year’s celebration will be an after-hours event at the Florida Museum of Natural History. In addition to celebrating the scholars’ successes, the celebration will give many students the first opportunity to visit the museum and explore the Cultural Plaza.

Summer 2010 Campus Housing

If your student will be attending classes during summer 2011, encourage them to live in campus housing. The Department of Housing and Residence Education is currently accepting housing contracts from current students for Summer A, B, and C!

To learn how to secure campus housing for summer 2011 please visit:
http://www.housing.ufl.edu/downloads/summerinfo.pdf

Career Workshops in Fall 2011

Looking forward to events and opportunities in fall 2011, your student will be required to attend two career workshops. You’ll recall that first year FOS students were required to participate in financial literacy workshops. In their upcoming second year, your student will attend workshops specifically designed to prepare them to search for internships, focus their major around their desired job field and practice business etiquette.

Counseling and Wellness Center

The Counseling and Wellness Center provides free counseling and consultation services. The Center offers individual, group and couples counseling, outreach, consultation, teaching, medication consultation, biofeedback. In addition, the building houses GatorWell Health Promotion Services. These services are available to help students confront personal, health, academic and career concerns. Learn more at www.counseling.ufl.edu.

UPCOMING CRITICAL DATES

- Advanced Registration for Fall Classes
  March 28-August 17
- Registration
  August 18-19
- Fall Classes Begin
  August 22
- Drop/Add (Closes at 11:59 p.m. of last day)
  August 22-26
- Late Registration (Closes at 11:59 p.m. of last day)
  August 22-26
- Fees Due, 3:30 p.m.
  September 2
- No Classes, Labor Day
  September 5
- S-U Grade Option Deadline
  September 9
- No Classes, Homecoming
  November 4-5
- No Classes, Veteran’s Day
  November 11
- Drop or Withdraw without Failing Grades
  November 21
- No Classes, Thanksgiving
  November 24-26
- Classes End
  December 7
- Finals
  December 10,12-16

For questions regarding FOS please contact:

Leslie Pendleton
Director of the Florida Opportunity Scholars Program
155 Tigert Hall
P.O. Box 113250
Gainesville, FL. 32611-3250
(352) 392-1265
lesliep@ufsa.ufl.edu

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

Florida Opportunity Scholar Checklist

Be sure your student completes the following to ensure that he or she is able to renew the scholarship next year:

- Maintain a 2.0 GPA
- Earn a minimum of 24 UF credit hours by the end of Spring Semester
- Take First-Year Florida, the first year student seminar courses at UF, in their first year at UF
- Connect with their FOS peer mentor
- Attend two Financial Literacy Workshops, one in the Fall and one Spring Semesters
- Renew the FAFSA as soon as possible.

To complete these requirements, your student must:

- Complete the following tasks before the start of the semester:
  - Register for classes
  - Pay tuition
  - Complete the FAFSA

- Complete the following tasks throughout the semester:
  - Attend class
  - Participate in workshops
  - Attend counseling sessions

- Complete the following tasks by the end of the semester:
  - Maintain a 2.0 GPA
  - Complete the S-U Grade Option Deadline

- Complete the following tasks by the start of the next semester:
  - Submit the FAFSA
  - Register for classes

For more information, please visit www.fos.ufl.edu.
Renewing Your Scholarship

At the conclusion of the Spring 2011 semester, FOS scholars will automatically be evaluated for renewal of their scholarship and have must met the academic progress standards as described below:

- Overall GPA of a 2.0 or higher
- Have earned at least 24 credit hours for the current year
- Eared at least 75% or all credit hours attempted

Students will be notified in writing if they did not meet one or more of these criteria after the submission of grades for Spring 2010. Dependent upon the circumstances, a student may petition the Office of Student Financial Affairs if they experienced extenuating circumstances that led them to not fulfill the academic progress standards for the scholarship. Extenuating circumstances are generally medical in nature and are considered to be beyond the control of the student.

Students are also given the option of going to school during the Summer 2011 semester in order to improve their academic standing with the University. If the inclusion of those courses helps to meet the minimum academic standards required to renew their scholarship, then a student will regain eligibility. Please note that if a student elects this option they would not receive the Florida Opportunity Scholarship while taking these courses, however they may be eligible for alternative types of financial aid. Students who may be considering this option are encouraged to meet with their financial aid advisor in Criser Hall.

Summer Plans

Congratulations to your student and you! You have almost made it through the first year of college. The end of the school year goes by in a flash. There is lots of excitement about summer, but figuring out how to do with the summer break can be daunting. Third year FOS student Josh Porter, from Orlando, Fla., shares his thoughts about what to do with the break and how to plan for it:

“With summer break rapidly approaching, there is a sea of opportunities in the summer time that will increase your student’s success in finding a job. An internship is one of the most notable ways to gain experience.

As a political science student, I spent summer of 2010 engaged in an internship with a government relations firm where I was able to learn several aspects and procedures of the congressional system in Washington D.C. Not only did this experience enhance my skills, it also increased my leadership confidence in my profession.

Gaining experience from an internship is the key to success and will allow students to become more competitive in their chosen fields.

Students can talk with their advisor or visit the Career Resource Center (http://www.crc.ufl.edu/) in the J. Wayne Reitz Union to learn about summer internship and jobs that compliment their academic interests.”

Top 10 tips for things families can do to help their student graduate from UF:

And the Top 10 are...

1. Be their biggest fan. Show support in their academics and student involvement. - Angel Cheong
2. Encourage your student to seek advising support early in their career. Advisors can help your student select classes and stay on track to graduate in four years. - Leslie Pendleton
3. Be their guidance, not their decision maker. - Angel Cheong
4. Be supportive of your student’s career choice. If your student isn’t sure what he or she “wants to be when they grow up” encourage regular and early visits to the Career Resource Center. - Leslie Pendleton
5. Let them be independent. Call every few days instead of everyday. - Angel Cheong
6. Encourage your student to do an internship, volunteer or study abroad. Practical, real-world experiences like these can help your student determine a career path. - Leslie Pendleton
7. Surprise them. Send them love packages or greeting cards every once in a while. - Angel Cheong
8. Stress the importance of doing well in all classes. Your student’s GPA will matter when applying to jobs or graduate school after UF. - Leslie Pendleton
9. Help them save money. Make sure they know how to make at least five different basic meals of their own. - Leslie Pendleton
10. Tell your student that you love them! Your love and support means the world. - Leslie Pendleton

Watching your student go off to college is emotional and knowing how to help your student be even more of a challenge. Angel Cheong, a third year FOS student from Deerfield Beach, Fla., and FOS Program Director Leslie Pendleton share their tips for families.

Alumni Spotlight

“After graduating from UF with a degree in public relations, I was hired as a corporate communications associate at RTI Biologics, a leading provider of sterile biological implants for surgeries around the world. My position handles government, community, media and investor relations, as well as internal communications. In the last nine months, I have done everything from planning RTI’s annual fundraiser to handling investor relations with our largest shareholders. I have learned invaluable real-world lessons since graduating, but I could have never made it to this point without the fundamentals my degree provided. I love my job, and I am truly living the dream.”

- Shelby Powell, University of Florida Public Relations Graduate

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