Dear Ohio State Parents:

College is an exciting and challenging time in a young person’s life, and I share your pride, hopes and concerns as your children embark on this journey. When they arrive at Ohio State, I want them to feel they have a world of opportunity available to them at this great teaching and research university. At the same time, we are committed to making them feel part of an intimate and friendly campus community that cares about them as individuals. That is the learning environment in which they will flourish as students.

One way we help students find their niche on campus is by creating living-learning centers that allow young people with common academic or lifestyle interests to live and study in close-knit communities. Another is through the many offerings of the First-Year Experience program, designed specifically to help students adjust to university life. And many will connect with others and expand their horizons by participating in one or more of the 750 organized extracurricular student activities.

As parents, you are vital partners in education with your student and with Ohio State. I encourage you to stay involved with the university and track the progress of your student. Want to ask about classes, visit when you can, encourage your son or daughter to take part in campus activities. Students who are involved in the campus community often enjoy the most successful college experience. Familiarize yourself with the resources available so you will be able to respond to issues that may arise.

Keep this publication and refer to it when you have questions or concerns. You will discover an entire campus community that cares about your student.

It’s all about the first year!

A strong start means ...
- Navigating complexities; responding to challenges
- Taking control of time; managing independence
- Asking questions; accessing resources
- Pursuing learning; planning for your degree
- Exploring new ideas; recognizing and valuing differences
- Forging new friendships; making Ohio State home

Staying connected to your student

As we welcome the entering class of 2005 to their first year at Ohio State, we know that as parents and family members, you are eager to learn more about the many experiences awaiting your student on our campus. Their new world will be filled with a host of first-year experiences, designed to enhance their academic experience and support them in achieving the ultimate goal: a successful college career leading to graduation.

The important foundation for that success is built during a student’s first year.

Across our campus, you will find many programs, activities and events specifically targeted toward enhancing your student’s first-year experience. Whether it is our award-winning living-learning communities, the first quarter survey classes and support programs conducted by our colleges, Freshman Seminars, or our Buckeye Book Community and Distinguished Speaker series, the university community provides resources specially designed to assist our newest Buckeyes. Many of these programs are outlined in the following pages. All of our initiatives are planned to help students maximize their first year at Ohio State by getting comfortable on campus, becoming connected with the university and thinking of Ohio State as their new home. At orientation, we talk with your student about making the most of this important first year.

Learning to navigate Ohio State
- Navigating the university is more than just learning where classes are located or how to use our Campus Area Bus Service, though these things are important. Being successful means discovering where to turn for help for academic issues, social concerns, financial questions and emotional needs. The pace of college is challenging after high school.
- Learning to avoid being overwhelmed by the amount or difficulty of work is an important skill for new students to grasp.
- First-year students quickly realize that Ohio State is a complex place. Managing that complexity can be a challenge, but the university is committed to supporting first-year students in this new effort. Ohio State isn’t a microcosm of the real world — it is the real world.
- Learning to manage time and newfound independence will result in first-year students who are on their way to graduation.

Getting in the conversation
- Education isn’t a passive experience. It’s a vibrant exchange of ideas. Nowhere is that more true than at Ohio State. We want our newest students to debate, question and contribute in the classroom, in their residence halls and in student activities. Their first year at Ohio State provides an opportunity to explore values and beliefs and to get energized by the diversity of thought and culture that is all around them. Successful students understand the difference between learning an education and getting a degree.

Becoming a Buckeye
- Also key to a successful first year at Ohio State is a heart-felt membership in the greater university community. Involvement may consist of serving on a residence hall council, volunteering at University Hospitals or attending a hockey game. The opportunities are vast, but one thing is true — promising students invest themselves in Ohio State and the people around them. Our campus becomes home to first-year students as they learn the traditions and lore that permeate the university. Students spend their first year discovering the meaning of the last lines of our alma mater, Carmen Ohio: “How firm thy friendship ... O-HI-O!”

Family members as partners
- As your student heads into his or her first year at Ohio State, it’s important to keep in mind that a partnership is forming — among your student, the university and your family. All three have a vital interest in your student becoming an Ohio State success story. We hope that the information and resources provided to you form the basis of a very successful partnership.

Phyllis Miller is director of First Year Experience Programs in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and First Year Experience.

Phyllis Miller is director of First Year Experience Programs in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and First Year Experience.
Dear Family Members:

This may or may not be the first time you’ve sent a child off to college, but I know from personal experience that it is never easy, no matter how much practice you’ve had. You are confronted with a barrage of questions and emotions and your own excitement and high hopes for your child to succeed — and, candidly, there may be a touch of concern.

College is a special time in a young adult’s life, and while he or she may experience much of it on his or her own, we know that it is helpful for students to have the support of family and friends. Transitioning into college also is a new experience for parents and family members, and we hope that the orientation session at Ohio State today will help prepare you, as well as your student, for this special first year.

Ohio State is a successful first-year college is key to the ultimate goal — staying in school and graduating. The editor and staff of onCAMPUS, the faculty/staff newspaper — with the help of other campus offices — have created this special insert called Buckeye2Buckeye that we hope will complement your orientation materials. You might use it as a guide to initiate some conversations with your student on the benefits and challenges of the opportunities and experiences that he or she may encounter during this first year.

While academic pursuit is the primary purpose for a student to come to Ohio State, this will also be a time of personal growth — decision-making, time and financial management, risk-taking and, sometimes, pushing the limits of newfound freedom. The university strives to foster a positive, safe and academically conducive environment. Ohio State has taken a nation-leading role in encouraging responsible college behavior and community citizenship.

Critical to student success is the knowledge and familiarity of the various policies and regulations under which the university operates. Documents, such as the Code of Student Conduct, are made available to every student at various points of orientation and registration through the Office of Student Affairs and on the Web at studentaffairs.osu.edu, and provide the framework of university expectations, values and aspirations. We encourage you to review these documents with your student.

As you will read in this insert, the university offers a number of structured programs and activities to contribute to student success, responsible behavior and a positive college experience.

Our Web site, www.osu.edu, is a great place to search for activities and resources, including those created specifically for parents or addressing issues of particular relevance to parents. Two sites worthy of mention are the Ohio State Parents Web site at parents.osu.edu and the Ohio State Parent Association at osu.edu/parents.

You can help your student build a strong foundation for his or her college career by familiarizing yourself with all that is available to you, and by expressing your support and your expectations. We want the college years to be pivotal to your students’ growth and development so that they may leave the university as educated citizens with talents and skills that will be used well for years to come, however, our students and their family members to truly enjoy the college years and experience the fun, the laughter, the friendships and the many unique college experiences.

We’ve included a regular issue of onCAMPUS to give you a feel for the caliber of our faculty and administration, the spirit of the university, and the breadth of knowledge offices available to help your student — and you! — succeed during this first year of college. We thank you for being a partner with us in helping your student become a successful Buckeye and we welcome you to Ohio State.

Mabel G. Freeman
Assistant Vice President
Undergraduate Admissions and First Year Experience

onCAMPUS wishes to thank the following offices which made this insert possible:

Student Affairs

Multicultural Center
OSU Parent Association
Residence Life
Student Activities
Student Advocacy
Student Wellness Center
Undergraduate Admissions/First Year Experience

An FYE welcome... helps students adjust to college life on their own

By LAURA LEMBO KRAUS (First Year Experience)

There is no doubt that the biggest challenge new college students face is negotiating a successful transition from high school to college and from their hometown to their new home at Ohio State. One of the ways the university community helps students with that transition is through the First-Year Success Series.

All first-year students and some transfer students are required to take a one-credit-hour survey course taught by an academic adviser during the students’ first quarter of enrollment. Intended to assist the student in transitioning academically into the university, the survey course focuses on topics such as the scheduling of courses, use of the library, information about majors or possible majors, career outlooks and academic support services.

Completing the survey course, the First-Year Success Series consists of more than 300 seminars organized around themes that echo the challenges students face during their university transition: dealing with difference, discovering their leadership style, managing choices about drugs and alcohol, staying mentally and physically well, addressing current issues, managing finances and engage in the academic community.

Campus and community experts teach these seminars, ranging in topics from “Women and Alcohol” and “Overcoming Test Anxiety” to “the Buckeye Book and Academic Advising: Partners in Academic Success” and “Understanding and Using Credit.” A number of programs relate to the Buckeye Book Community Year, a pilot initiative. Other sessions focus on bringing community leaders to campus to discuss their career paths and visions of leadership. In recent years, the Success Series has included a prominent person or notable entrepreneur such as John Glenn, Columbus City Schools Superintendent Graduate, President and CEO of the United Way of Central Ohio Janet Jackson, Alumni Association President/CEO and Heisman Trophy winner Archie Griffin, and a range of other business and nonprofit leaders.

Survey course instructors may assign certain sessions, but students are free to attend as many seminars as they would like. Registration for the seminars can be found on the First-Year Experience Web site at fye.osu.edu, and parents are encouraged to participate in this process by reviewing the topics and encouraging their student to attend appropriate sessions.

To discourage a passive experience, students are asked to write “one-minute” reflection papers at the end of each program. Here, students describe or reflect about what they have learned in that program and share what this topic means for them personally. Reflection papers also provide the student the opportunity to ask any questions about the topic in a confidential manner. Completed reflection papers are delivered to the appropriate academic adviser the following week so that advisers can keep abreast of their students’ thoughts and feelings.

Laura Lembo Kraus is associate director in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and First Year Experience.

Money management: Discussion, guidelines encourage sound fiscal practices

By RUTH GERSTNER (First Year Experience)

Parents, have you had “the talk” with your college-bound son or daughter? The one about money? Colleges is a major expense and each family will have its own way of handling it. The important thing is that both parents and students have a clear understanding of how financial responsibilities will be divided in their family.

Larry Christopherson, financial counselor in the Student Wellness Center, offers free classes, workshops and individual counseling for students on personal finance issues. He can be reached at christopherson.dj@osu.edu or (614) 247-7218. His top tips include:

1. Create a budget that shows anticipated expenses: tuition and fees, housing, and food, books and supplies, clothing, entertainment, travel. Don’t forget to include a reserve for unexpected expenses or an emergency. Calculate how much money is available and where it is coming from — student’s savings and income, parental contributions, financial aid, additional funds needed to balance income with expenses?

2. Minimize debt wisely. Paying interest on a student loan used for tuition and fees is a good investment. Paying interest on a credit card purchase for entertainment not. One credit card is sufficient for almost all students and should be reserved for special uses — not everyday expenses. Keep the balance low and pay it off entirely as often as possible. Parents may have to wait until the monthly credit card statement sent to them for the first year at least.

3. Buck-ID and/or a bank debit card provide the convenience of a credit card without the risk of incurring debt. Parents may make deposits to Buck-ID accounts through the Web site or phone.

4. Be wary of any money-making offers that require upfront costs to join, base income on the number of others you recruit to join or emphasize secrecy. These are highly likely to be scams. The university does not permit solicitation for these kinds of businesses on campus, but students are often approached privately and, unfortunately, some do lose money (and time) trying to cash in on what are essentially pyramid schemes.

A 2002 study of student employment showed that two-thirds of Ohio State undergraduates were employed during the academic year. More than 80 percent of them worked part time, averaging about 21 hours per week, at an average hourly rate of $8.24.

For many students, especially first-year students, working on campus is a good choice. Last year, about 12,312 students were employed in part-time university jobs in libraries, offices, laboratories, food service, housekeeping and maintenance operations, and a host of other places. The advantages of on-campus work include no need for transportation, scheduling that takes course work and university holidays into consideration, and, often, a mentoring relationship with faculty and staff. Students interested in finding university employment can attend a job fair during Welcome Week, contact the Student Employment Office, or contact a department or office in which they have interest. Campus jobs are also often advertised by fliers and ads in The Lantern.
**Diversity abounds through Multicultural Center**

By Willa Young

Multicultural Center

The value of diversity cannot be overestimated in today's world. Individuals possessing diversity in race, gender, ethnicity, language, and intercultural competencies are in demand. They are regarded as leaders on campus, in the community, in the workplace and across the globe. Those entering the workforce already equipped with diversity training and diversity experience have an advantage over others.

Leading the way in providing opportunities for involvement with diversity at Ohio State is the Multicultural Center, where the emphasis is on speaking and understanding the language of diversity inside and outside the classroom. The Multicultural Center and its staff offer daily opportunities for learning, exploring and experiencing diversity through its many programs, events and services. The MCC is a great place to hang out, meet interesting people and make friends.

The MCC is located on the fourth floor of the Ohio Union. Offices and its programs include African American Student Services; Diversity Leadership Transcript Program; Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Student Services; Hispanic Student Services; Men's Initiatives; Multicultural Center; Multicultural Initiatives; Rape Education and Prevention Program; and Women's Initiatives. The Multicultural Center and its staff offer daily opportunities for learning, exploring and experiencing diversity through its many programs, events and services.

**Diversity and Multicultural Competencies**

The MCC is a link to diversity-related course work, campus activities and events, student organization participation, community resource building and building alliances and leadership development, internships and friendships.

**Diversity has broad definition**

The University has a broad, inclusive understanding of diversity and multicultural concerns beyond just race and ethnicity. Ohio State is rich with cultural differences in ethnicity and national heritage, gender and sexual identity, spiritual beliefs and affiliations, religious observance, OSU cultures encompass various social, political, regional and international differences.

The University is committed to creating an environment that maximizes student identity exploration and the potential for intercultural dialogue. The MCC leads campus efforts in learning about and appreciating a student's own culture as well as those cultures that may be new to some students.

Cultural support and social justice are central values related to the center's mission. The MCC is committed to promoting intercultural dialogue and learning, the center serves as a campus change agent.

**Events and Activities**

The MCC has a dual mission to serve both academic and student support services. The center sponsors programs and issues programs that stimulate the intellect on multicultural and intercultural concerns, and it promotes student involvement and leadership development through work with many student organizations.

Visit the Multicultural Center to learn what's happening on campus. For more information on multicultural and intercultural topics, visit the MCC online at multiculturalcenter.osu.edu or call 688-8449. Contact MCC offices directly for further information on getting involved or to receive regular e-mail updates from particular offices.

Willa Young is associate director of the Multicultural Center.
Twin students and their father talk candidly about the first-year experience

onCampus invited siblings Sean, undecided, Rachel, a music education major, and their father, Frank Alto, to share their views of the first year of college.

**onCampus: How did orientation help prepare you for Rachel's and Sean's college experience at OSU?**

**Frank:** I am impressed with the resources available at colleges today compared to when I went to school: online scheduling, advisers ready to assist, tremendous recreation facilities and hundreds of organizations and opportunities to get involved. Ohio State is doing everything it can to support its students and give them the building blocks and resources it will take for them to be successful students and graduate. At orientation, I learned it's all here — they just need to take advantage of it all.

**onCampus: Do you think you and your dad/kids had similar expectations for how the first year at OSU would be?**

**Frank:** We definitely talked about expectations. My expectations were that studying had to come first, and I wanted them to enjoy their college experience. They were both good high school students, so I didn't stipulate a certain grade point average. My attitude has been as long as they try their hardest and do their best, that's all I can ask.

**Sean:** I knew I was expected to continue at the level I did in high school, which was pretty good, but I found out quickly that I had to study a lot more. I also approached college with an open mind. I didn't want to be disappointed in my expectations from the good stories I had heard about college, and I didn't want the negative stories to keep me from getting the full experience.

**onCampus: What things caused you stress during this first year and how did you handle it?**

**Rachel:** The amount of studying and practicing music outside of class I took a very full course load — 21 credit hours — and with two to four hours of study and practice per class hour, it was difficult to find the time. I really learned to maximize my schedule by studying or practicing in the mornings before class, and also in the evenings. My roommate and I are complete opposites, but rather than letting that disturb or influence my study patterns, I just found alternative places to study, and met with friends outside of the residence halls.

**Frank:** The first quarter was really difficult for numerous reasons. My wife and I went from a family of four to instant empty-nesters, and I don't think the kids realized how difficult their leaving was on us as parents. We got through it, but we realized how important it is for parents to express openly how their children's new college experience is affecting them also, and the kids need to realize — especially if they are the only child or last out of the nest — that it can be quite an adjustment for parents, too.

**onCampus: How do you balance academics and free time/fun/hobbies?**

**Rachel:** I acquired good time management skills in high school, trying to juggle classes and my music pursuits. [Rachel was a member of the internationally traveled Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony], so college just meant more things to juggle. Since I stay pretty focused, I haven't really had to sacrifice anything.

**Sean:** Unlike my sister, I was eager to have the full college experience and took advantage of my newfound freedom. This caused a little tension with my parents at first, but after my second quarter here, I fell into a more comfortable medium between having fun and taking my academics more seriously. I also had narrowed my circle of friends somewhat, and began to spend more mellow time with them.

**onCampus: What campus programs or resources did you utilize throughout the year?**

**Sean:** I found my professors and teaching assistants to be very responsive to e-mail, so I rarely have trouble getting questions or concerns addressed. I also spend a lot of time at the Adventure Recreation Center, and have really found the First Year Experience programming very informative and useful.

**Rachel:** I have three Ohio State staff members to turn to for help — my major adviser, my arts scholar coordinator and my music adviser — and they have all been extremely helpful. I'm comfortable seeking their advice, whether I have an academic or a personal issue. I've also used the library, the Student Health and Wellness centers, and have enjoyed a number of trips and off-campus outings through my involvement with the arts scholar program.

**onCampus: If you could give other students one piece of advice before they came to OSU, what would it be?**

**Sean:** I would say have an open mind and remember to have fun.

**Rachel:** Get ready. College is a lot of fun, but it's also a lot of work. Expect and embrace change — you'll learn something from everything you do. Try new things and from a social standpoint, be willing to meet people who have different backgrounds or cultures — people you may not normally be friends with. And be open, or you'll lose out on a lot.

**onCampus: Frank, what advice do you have for parents of future Buckeyes?**

**Frank:** Trust that the groundwork you laid throughout their lives was correct and, as hard as it is, you have to give them the chance to make mistakes. When they do, be there to help them, but don't say, 'I told you so.' Expect them to have some failures, but focus on their triumphs, help them through the bad times and expect that they will do well.
Residence halls provide educational, social direction
involvement key to staying, succeeding in college

By JONI BENTZ SEAL

Students living locally with their parents, or traditional first-year students who live off campus and commute to class have the additional challenge of pursuing one's own supportive and social aspects of campus life. Ohio State maintains a strong Office of Off-Campus Student Services that provides a number of programs and community-building resources to help commuter students — about 30 percent of incoming students — meet each other and achieve a sense of community.

“I tell commuter students there is nothing on this campus that isn’t accessible to them,” said Sean MCLAUGHLIN, assistant director of off-campus student services. “It’s just a little more time, a little more effort, but in the end it pays off. It’s just a matter of finding the things that are going to be advantageous to you. Everything that’s here, that’s not, is not going to stay on campus after class, and to become involved. Even if you live on campus, the parent is involved and not,” MCLAUGHLIN said the office, in room 342 of the Ohio Union, attempts to offer a “home away from home” to commuter students. The office provides resources to help commuter students on campus for the day, including a lounge with television and Internet computer terminals, a kitchenette and even lockers so students don’t have to run to their car to drop off or pick up books or lunch. The office hosts a number of events, such as the annual Commuter Preview Day in September, designed to familiarize commuters with campus, parking regulations and important office locations. It also sponsors a Commuter Student Organization, which holds euche events and flag football games, and publishes a quarterly newsletter, Connection.

“We also collaborate with other offices to get commuter students involved with programs that already exist,” he said.

In addition to getting used to the commute, their classes and the campus, MCLAUGHLIN advises commuter students to address the impact their family environment may have on their studies — a factor campus residents don’t directly experience. Students may need uninterrupted study time, and perhaps a more flexible course to accommodate extracurricular and social activities, as well as perhaps a job. Again, MCLAUGHLIN stresses, it’s all about communication and agreeing to the terms.

“In most cases, the family environment needs to change,” MCLAUGHLIN said. “Parents may need to negotiate a new relationship with the student, who now has new responsibilities, new expectations and the potential for a new lifestyle, or at least different needs.”

Looking to meet fellow commuters? Visit offcampus.osu.edu

A number of activities are available in the Off-Campus Student Services lounge for commuter students who are on campus for the day.

By JONI BENTZ SEAL

hall or complex is overseen by a hall director, a full-time staff member with a master’s degree and whose chosen professional career is to work with college-aged students. “On move-in day, parents should get the name and number of the hall director, whom they can call with any question about anything at any time,” Klein said. “Parents who stay connected with the hall director will have a very wise alliance not only when things are running smoothly, but when they aren’t.”

Klein said parents seem so surprised when they call and find a helpful, thorough, kind and concerned staff member on the other end.

“We ask them what do we do,” she said. “Helping, assisting, taking care of, inspiring and motivating their student is what we love to do. Parents should know they don’t drop their student off into an abyss. We’re here, and we’re working hard.”

Academic distractions

While the majority of action on the part of residence life is proactive and positive, they take seriously the hazardous attractions that off-campus living presents. Both residence life and other campus groups create positive social events and activities to keep students busy and enhance academic and social behavior, but they also convey a strong message to students about treating dangers in dangerous waters.

“Students need to understand that participating in off-campus parties that have the potential to get out of control is very dangerous,” Klein said. “It’s not only from a public safety perspective, but if they get arrested in a relationship to a riot, they are likely not to just legal but also judicial consequences, within the framework of Ohio State.”

Klein referred to the suspension and expulsion of students who participated in past riots and cautioned both parents and students that Ohio State is no longer tolerating participation in off-campus disturbances.

“Residence life exists as a proactive approach to encourage involvement and responsible behavior, making students aware of the university’s expectations through sources like the Code of Student Conduct and the Student Handbook, both of which are available online. "But if students don’t listen, then we turn from educational to judicial," she said. “We have to take that stand because any disturbances that garner national attention cheapen the degree students get from Ohio State. We have taken positive steps to eliminate this behavior, and we cannot risk our reputation by allowing such disturbances to happen again.”

Appreciation of diversity among classmates and hall mates also is promoted — an area in which Klein hopes parents will encourage their students to be open-minded and to find value in the differences among the people here at Ohio State. Residence hall students will be advised to decide mid-winter quarter whether they wish to return to the residence hall system the following year. Klein also advises parents to be involved in their student’s housing arrangements for subsequent years, especially if it involves moving off campus.

“Through Residence Life, Off-Campus Student Services and the Student Housing Legal Clinic, numerous workshops and services are offered to students planning to make this move. Parents may want to reinforce the importance of getting this information before signing a commitment to pay thousands of dollars,” Klein said. “In some cases, some leases can leave one tenant responsible for the entire rent or damage fee if less responsible roommates vanish. "The workshops will cover how to avoid such clauses and other pitfalls that first-time renters may not be aware of,” she added.

First-year success boils down to how invested and involved students are in their college experience at Ohio State, academically and otherwise, Klein said.

“We really care about students and students’ success. If parents are worried, they should call. There are an amazing number of resources available to help the student, Klein said. “We see the university, the parent and the student as a triad of success. When we all work together well, that’s what gets the student through. Just the phenomenal student, or just the well-adjusted parent cannot do it alone.”

Joni Bentz Seal is editor of onCampus, Ohio State faculty/staff newspaper.
Get involved! That’s a piece of advice students are going to hear over and over. During orientation and Welcome Week, in residence hall meetings, at First Year Experience events, in e-mails from the vice president for student affairs, the message will be repeated: Get involved! Why is Ohio State pushing involvement so hard? Because research and experience show that involvement in university activities in addition to academics is extremely important to the overall college experience. The benefits are almost too numerous to mention. Compared to those who are uninvolved, college students who are meaningfully involved in at least one thing other than class work:

• Are more successful academically
• Are more likely to graduate
• Are better problem solvers
• Are more connected to their university
• Manage their time better
• Create a larger and more supportive network of friends
• Experience more diversity
• Are happier and more satisfied with college

Despite an army of peers, staff, faculty, mentors and parents constantly extolling the virtues of getting involved, many students still don’t seem to take the message to heart. These students are much less likely to return for a second year, or even a second quarter, and the ratings of their satisfaction with their college experience are dramatically lower than those of students who found an outlet for their stress, creativity and desire to lead and serve.

There may not be a university in the world that offers more opportunities for involvement than Ohio State. There are more than 750 student organizations, hundreds of organizations looking for volunteers, dozens of performing arts groups, and one of the largest intramural sports programs in the nation, just to name a few.

With such a wealth of choices, where does one start? Here are 10 quick ways parents can recommend to their students:

1. The Student Involvement Fair: Held on Monday afternoon of Welcome Week, this event is the first and best way to get an overview of what’s available. More than 500 organizations will host information booths. Food, giveaways and prizes are also part of the fun. More information is at ohiounion.com/welcomeweek.

2. Student Organization Directory. This online directory at the Ohio Union Web site (ohiounion.com) is a quick and easy way to research registered student organizations. You can sort by interest or peruse the whole list.

3. Attend with a friend. It can be a little intimidating to attend an event or meeting alone. Recommend pairing up with a friend from class or the residence hall.

4. Intramurals and sports clubs. There are athletic activities at varying levels of competitiveness, from the nearly-vary to the frankly-just-for-fun, for male, female and co-ed team and individual sports. A majority of Ohio State students participate in at least one intramural sport during their time on campus.

5. Volunteering. Service to the community is a major priority for the university and an essential component of a modern college education. One of the best places to find information about service opportunities is through Project Community in room 211 of the Ohio Union. Call 292-SERV or visit online at ohiounion.com. The Community Connection Database at communityconnection.osu.edu is an incredible resource for students interested in service of any kind.

6. Get a job. Employment on campus is a popular way for students to be involved with the university and earn a little extra spending money. Students can visit the on-campus job fair in the Ohio Union on Thursday of Welcome Week.

7. Religious and spiritual communities. Religion and spirituality is an important aspect of many students’ lives, and one that they hope to maintain or explore in college. The University Interfaith Association (student affairs.osu.edu/wellness_uia.asp) provides students with information on how to find their spiritual community.

8. Campus activities and events. Literally thousands of events occur annually on campus. Most are free and open to all. The Ohio Union Activities Board and the Office of Student Activities present lectures, concerts, comedians, films and special events several times a week. The Office of First Year Experience sponsors a distinguished speaker series. The Wexner Center for the Arts, the College of the Arts, the Multicultural Center, the Frank H. Black Cultural Center, the Schottenstein Center and Department of Athletics also host numerous events. Web sites, ads, posters, e-mail and word of mouth are the ways to find out what’s happening.

9. Late Night Programming. These substance-free weekend events offer a variety of entertaining options over the early morning. Fun and free, they take place all over campus and sometimes off-campus (such as at the Columbus Zoo). A schedule can be found at sac.osu.edu and clicking on “Moonlight Madness.”

10. Campus and community resources. There are many places your student can get involved with on and off campus. A schedule can be found at the Student Activities Office of Student Activities present lectures, concerts, comedians, films and special events several times a week. The Office of First Year Experience sponsors a distinguished speaker series. The Wexner Center for the Arts, the College of the Arts, the Multicultural Center, the Frank H. Black Cultural Center, the Schottenstein Center and Department of Athletics also host numerous events. Web sites, ads, posters, e-mail and word of mouth are the ways to find out what’s happening.

The Parent Association also offers several special opportunities for parents and family members. These include the Ohio State student. The two largest annual events are Family Weekend and Student Weekends.

Family Weekend will be Oct. 21-23. Mark your calendar now for this fun event for family members to visit campus for a weekend of activities that range from tours of Ohio State landmarks to receptions with faculty in the colleges. The highlight is always the big tailgate party at the French Field House to watch a televised Ohio State football game — this year against the Hoosiers in Bloomington, Ind.

Student Weekends, which take place in late April or early May, allows students to host a younger brother, sister, niece, nephew or friend on campus. All the fun activities designed to expose these future Buckeyes to college life and, in particular, to the Ohio State campus.

In addition, the Parent Association offers opportunities throughout the year for parents to volunteer at university programs and events. We encourage you to join the Parent Association and become a partner with the university, and as so many past parents of Ohio State students have done, benefit from the services and programs we offer.

Jadie Lipscomb is program director for the OSU Parent Association.
Every Ohio State student has access to a variety of academic advising services. Advisers can help students explore educational and career opportunities, and decide on strategies for accomplishing goals. In addition, advisers can provide a listening ear, share in achievements (and disappointments), answer questions and offer direction to appropriate university resources.

Here, first-year engineering student Alexis Bohland shares her experience with College of Engineering academic adviser Janeen Sands.

Alexis: Why is it important for students to meet their adviser regularly?

Janeen: Meeting and developing a rapport is crucial to a student’s success. Once that relationship has been developed, it’s much easier for the adviser to look beyond the questions that are being asked; there’s often a lot more involved than what appears on the surface. The need to drop a class, for instance, may indicate underlying difficulties that have nothing to do with academics, such as too many hours on a job or time management challenges. That familiarity of relationship breeds opportunity, and I can more effectively steer the student in a certain direction if I know them more than just in passing.

We also know the curriculum inside and out, so we know the pros and cons of taking courses together and can offer advice on how to balance a schedule or take courses that complement each other, for example.

Alexis: It’s important to put a face with a name, whether it’s your adviser or an instructor. It’s good to know them on a personal level, so they can assist you when you need to change course. The first year, I would suggest meeting your adviser more frequently, maybe several times a quarter. But once you’ve established that relationship, quick questions can usually be handled through e-mail or a phone call.

Society of Women Engineers. Organizations such as these allow students to interact with others within their field, network and gain experience.

Alexis: The First-Year engineering programming was a big factor in my decision to come to Ohio State. I had looked at other colleges, but Ohio State seemed committed to my success through these and other programs. I knew I wanted to get involved, and I learned about a number of engineering organizations that are out there — especially for women. My involvement has opened me up to new disciplines and is preparing me for working alongside others in joint efforts.

Alexis: The adviser-student partnership.

Janeen: We really want students, like Alexis, to be successful. Ohio State admits students that we know have the ability to succeed academically. It’s all the other stuff that gets in the way…. the job, relationships, shyness, even roommates sometimes. As their partner, I can help clear the way through these issues to help the student get back on track. I can help them make decisions and move on.

onCampus: Tell me about the adviser-student partnership.

Janeen: Advisers across the board have a sense of activities, organizations and opportunities that may prove beneficial for students in completing college and preparing them for a career. The First-Year Success Series programming, for instance, offers wonderful opportunities for students to get acquainted with and experience the resources here at Ohio State, and the experts that students have access to through FYE are phenomenal.

Alexis also opted to participate in a Women in Engineering 100 course, so in addition to having an academic adviser in the College of Engineering, she works with the Women in Engineering director, and she’s active in the Society of Women Engineers. Organizations such as these allow students to interact with others within their field, network and gain experience.
N othing is more important to you and to the university than your personal and academic success. Ohio State takes every reasonable step to protect the physical and mental health of students. However, individual safety relies a great deal on individual actions. If students engage in dangerous behavior, ignore safety warnings or thwart safety devices, the risk of crime or injury increases. 

Crime
Crime is a reality in every community, including college campuses and the areas around them. Ohio State is no exception. On-campus crime rates are quite low and off-campus rates are generally higher, but do not indicate an abnormally high crime rate. Nevertheless, students should take reasonable precautions at all times.

The university presents safety messages throughout the year in a variety of ways—residence hall talks, e-mail messages, posters and flyers, and newspaper stories. The messages address a number of issues, especially crime and fire safety, but also the roles of alcohol, drugs, contagious diseases and mental health concerns to overall student safety.

A comprehensive list of safety programs, tips and statistics is available by clicking on “Safety Information” on the Student Affairs homepage or the printed version in the Resource Guide provided at orientation. In short, it prohibits academic cheating of all kinds, violations of state and federal laws, and behavior that is dangerous to the health and safety of others. Violations of the code are subject to sanctions ranging from a warning letter or brief counseling session through permanent dismissal from the university.

For their part, students must fulfill all responsibilities and conduct spells out accepted behavior at Ohio State. All students should read it and be aware of its contents. (Click on “Policies” on the Student Affairs homepage or the printed version in the Resource Guide provided at orientation.) In short, it prohibits academic cheating of all kinds, violations of state and federal laws, and behavior that is dangerous to the health and safety of others. Violations of the code are subject to sanctions ranging from a warning letter or brief counseling session through permanent dismissal from the university.

Student judicial process
The Code of Student Conduct spells out accepted behavior at Ohio State. All students should read it and be aware of its contents. (Click on “Policies” on the Student Affairs homepage or the printed version in the Resource Guide provided at orientation.) In short, it prohibits academic cheating of all kinds, violations of state and federal laws, and behavior that is dangerous to the health and safety of others. Violations of the code are subject to sanctions ranging from a warning letter or brief counseling session through permanent dismissal from the university.

The student judicial process is not a substitute for the civil and criminal justice system. Students who break laws (on or off campus) are subject to prosecution as non-students. The university does not provide bail or legal representation to students charged with crimes.

What parents can do
Aside from urging your student to be careful, what can parents do?

• Support university safety rules, such as not permitting cooking appliances (other than the provided microwave) in residence hall rooms.

Tips from the Student Advocacy Center can help students thrive

By KAREN KYLE
Student Advocacy Center

The expert problem-solvers in the Student Advocacy Center present these tips to help students succeed in navigating the challenges of college. Don’t be afraid to ask questions of professors and TAs.

Classes can be very large at Ohio State, particularly during your first year when you are not yet taking your major courses, but don’t let that intimidate you. It helps for instructors to put a face with a name, and it’s their role to answer your course-related questions. Take advantage of their office hours to ask questions or use e-mail if that is less intimidating.

Know the Freshman Forgiveness Rule
Freshman year can be a tough adjustment, and sometimes even the most intelligent student can do poorly in a class. If you receive a “D-” or “D” during your freshman year (within the first 44 credit hours of college), the original course credit and grade will automatically be excluded from your cumulative GPA. You can do this for a maximum of 15 credit hours. You do need to get permission from your college office if your grade was a “D+” or a “D.” You do not need permission if you received an “E” in the class.

Know that the university realizes that “life happens”
There might be a time in your college career when personal concerns, medical problems or other extenuating circumstances prevent you from being successful in or completing your courses for a quarter. If this ever happens, don’t stay enrolled in classes because you don’t know what else to do. Talk to your college office, academic advisor or the Student Advocacy Center. We can help you withdraw for the quarter or explore your other options.

Need to know your academic adviser
Use your academic adviser to help you stay on track for graduation. If you are in your major program and are assigned a faculty adviser, understand that this person will give you guidance in major course work and on the discipline in which you are majoring. If you need academic advising related to general education courses, graduation requirements, adding or dropping a class, or other administrative questions, turn to your college office. Each college office has academic advisers who handle these questions.

Learn the value of career services now
Ohio State’s Career Connection office can be very helpful to you at this point in your college experience. They can help you identify your strengths and interests and will help you explore a variety of career possibilities. Once you have selected a major and are ready to explore internships and jobs, contact your college office. Each college office has a career services officer that is designated to meet your major’s specific needs and to assist you in finding employment. Many even offer job fairs to help you connect with future employers.

Understand the university’s grade grievance policy
There will likely be an occasion during your college career when you believe that you received a lower grade than you feel you earned. If this happens, the university has a specific policy that outlines how you can voice your concerns. First, talk to your instructor. If the instructor does not agree that an error was made in your grade, then you may meet with the department chair to discuss your situation. If the department chair concurs with the instructor and you still believe an error was made, you may request that a grade grievance committee be established to review your concern.

Remember to pay your “little debts”
It is common for students to receive a parking ticket or return a book late to the library and then find that a hold has been placed on their account because they did not pay those fines. A hold can cause problems because it will prevent you from scheduling courses, receiving grades or transcripts, and using university facilities. Be sure to get the little things taken care of, too.

Get acquainted with the university’s resources
Ohio State is an exceptionally large university that can feel overwhelming to new students. But if you take the time to walk around campus and explore the resources available to you (learning centers, writing labs, libraries), OSU will become a smaller and more manageable place.

Remember the university’s important dates and deadlines
It’s easy to get caught up in your school activities and homework assignments and as a result, forget to write important dates (i.e. add/drop or financial aid deadlines) in your calendar. This can lead to big problems because missing payment deadlines or registration opportunities can result in late fees, waitlists and headaches. Make sure to keep track of these significant university dates and deadlines so that you are timely in handling university matters. Remember that fees are due in full on the first day of each quarter.

Karen Kyle is director of the Student Advocacy Center.

Get some useful tips?
Visit studentaffairs.osu.edu/wellness_advocacy.asp