

Parent CONNECTION

News for Families of Johnson & Wales University



JOHNSON & WALES
UNIVERSITY

NORTH MIAMI CAMPUS

PAWS

Parent Ambassadors
Working for Students

Spring 2010

www.jwu.edu/northmiami/parents

paws.mia@jwu.edu • 305-892-5366

FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

Dear Parents and Families,

It is easy to understand why the Spring term is one of my favorite times during the academic year. The spring months offers a time for students to successfully conclude the academic year and it gives staff and faculty the chance to recognize student achievement at commencement and our various awards ceremonies.



Ismare Monreal
Dean of Students &
Parent Liaison

To families of graduating students, I wish you my heartfelt congratulations. Students do not pursue their college education alone; they rely on the support of family and friends along the way. Your child's graduation from college is truly an accomplishment for your entire family to celebrate.

For families of students returning to JWU for the 2010-2011 academic year, I encourage you to take time before the end of the term to ensure you are prepared for the upcoming year. If you haven't done so already, make sure your child has registered for fall classes, met with their financial planner to prepare for 2010, and registered for a room in residential life (if he/she is planning to live on campus).

Additional information about the 2010 commencement ceremony and our FAST FORWARD campaign for returning students is included within this edition of *Parent Connection*.

As we approach the summer, campus staff and faculty are also preparing for the 2010-2011 academic year. Not only will we be busy with our usual preparations for student programs and courses, but we are also getting ready for the opening of new 200-bed residence hall and our student life and athletics center during the 2011 calendar year. We look forward to sharing some of these developments with you in our Fall 2010 newsletter.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about your child's experience at JWU. I may be reached at ismare.monreal@jwu.edu or 305-892-7567.

Campus teams up to help Haiti earthquake survivors

In response to the devastating earthquake in Haiti, Johnson & Wales University's North Miami Campus has organized a united effort to provide assistance to Meds & Food for Kids, an organization which generates ready-to-use therapeutic food to prevent starvation and malnutrition in children in Haiti.

Beginning on January 19, students, faculty and staff members kicked off the JWU relief effort by making contributions as they purchased lunch from on-campus dining services in the Mix.

On the following evening, the campus community gathered for a candlelight vigil sponsored by the offices of Student Activities and Student Success to offer sentiments of support and prayer.

In exploring an opportunity to raise significant funds, a class of honors leadership students proposed a *Sleep Out* to contribute



JWU students Ashley Johnson, Ricarda Turner, Lashantavia Campbell joined approximately 200 North Miami students and employees who participated in the Sleep Out for Haiti event in late January as part of the campus' fundraising efforts for earthquake survivors.

to the efforts. As momentum grew, students, faculty and staff sought pledge donations in support of their participation in sleeping

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Prepare for graduation, 2011 academic year

Whether your child is walking in the 2010 commencement ceremony or returning for the 2010-2011 academic year, now is the time to ensure he or she is fully prepared. For more information, call the North Miami Campus at 305-892-7000.

My child is graduating...

What does my child need to do to prepare for graduation?

Students who will complete their degree in November 2009, February 2010, May 2010 or September 2010 qualify to walk for graduation on May 22, 2010.

Cap & gown pickup: through May 21 in the Bookstore. Students who are unable to pick up their cap and gown during these times may pick it up on site at the ceremony.

Where is the ceremony, and where can I get more information?

Saturday, May 22, 2010, 10 a.m.

(*Graduates must arrive by 8:30 a.m., guests must arrive by 9:30 a.m.*)

Miami Beach Convention Center, Hall C
1901 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach
Guest tickets are not required.

For more information visit

www.jwu.edu/commencement/northmiami

My child is returning to JWU for the 2010-2011 academic year...

The university strives to outreach to students to complete Fall 2010 term start business through a program called FAST FORWARD. This is an opportunity for students to complete all university business for the fall

■ See **PREPARE**, Page 2

Preparing for graduation, next academic year

■ From **PREPARE**, Page 1

2010 term prior to leaving for the summer break.

Following are five of the most important steps students should complete before the end of the Spring term:

1. Self-schedule for fall 2010 at <http://uconnect.jwu.edu>.
2. Create a fall term payment plan with Student Financial Services (305-892-7006).
3. Extend school insurance coverage to include summer (call Klais & Company: 330-867-8443).
4. Sign up for on campus housing for 2010/2011 (visit <http://housing.jwu.edu>)
5. Make sure all holds are cleared by checking uconnect.

Fast Forward clearance is only the first step to getting ready for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Even after a student has successfully completed the Fast Forward process during the Spring term, students must still monitor their JWU e-mail throughout the summer to ensure they satisfy any other university requirements (i.e., payment plans and schedule for fall 10 classes) and clear any holds before the start of the 2010-2011 academic year.

Returning students must be completely cleared for the fall term by Aug. 6 or they will receive a hold. Fall term schedules and housing assignments will be deleted on Aug. 10.

Questions? Call JWU at 305-892-7000 or 1-866-596-3567.

PARENT PERSPECTIVE

“Foodie” family shares JWU experiences

Peter and Eija Svoboda, parents of culinary arts freshman Rebekah Svoboda, spoke to Parent Connection about their family's experiences with the North Miami Campus. The Svoboda family is from Venice, Fla.

How did Rebekah become so interested in culinary arts?

Our family could be classified as “foodies.” We love to eat, to cook, and to explore cultures through their food. Rebekah grew up helping in the kitchen, but more importantly, she has realized how food can bring people together and how food choices can either cause harm or contribute to the well-being of a person - and families. She also has friends who have serious diet restrictions and struggle to find foods that will satisfy both their health needs and their taste buds.

How did your family learn about JWU?

When Rebekah was considering her career options, we found JWU which offered the bachelor's degree in Culinary Nutrition [at the Denver and Providence campuses]. That grabbed Becky's interest, because it would provide her with the skills and credentials of a chef and a dietician - exactly what she wanted. We contacted the school, attended a presentation in Tampa and liked what we saw and heard.

What do you feel makes JWU the right fit for Rebekah?

Actually, not many universities offer the culinary nutrition program. JWU has an excellent reputation, the graduates seem to place well. We knew Rebekah would receive a seriously valuable education and have opportunities to be involved in culinary events, community service, and other activities in addition to regular schoolwork. She has embraced these opportunities,



The Svoboda family includes (from left to right) culinary freshman Rebekah, her parents Peter and Eija and sister Sarah.

worked hard and found herself enjoying the challenges and the creative outlet a kitchen can offer.

What advice would you share with parents who are going through

the college transition with a child for the first time?

It is hard to let your child go, but to watch her fly is definitely worth the pain. Parenting involves letting go, allowing the student to learn life, to make decisions, to pursue his or her choices and take their consequences - and yet being close enough, involved enough to be able to answer questions and provide the hugs and support when those are needed. We parents need to listen to our children; we need to encourage and affirm the good choices they make. Just stay involved - from a distance.

How do you think students can have the best experience possible at JWU?

The students who understand the value of their education - monetary and otherwise - and take it seriously will succeed. They have an opportunity to learn from knowledgeable, experienced professionals, who recognize and reward willingness to learn. The school can open important doors for future success - it would be foolish to waste the various opportunities available through the school. Still, work can be enjoyable, the mixture of fellow students and their quirks, entertaining. The student needs to keep his or her eyes and ears open, yet be smart concerning life choices.

To be interviewed for the Parent Perspective column, e-mail paws.mia@jwu.edu.

JWU helps Haiti: campus raises \$10,000

■ From **HAITI**, Page 1

Peter outdoors for an evening.

Prior to the *Sleep Out*, an additional effort was made in an afternoon *Give-a-Dollar, Make-a-Wish for Haiti* balloon release. *Wishes* for the people of Haiti were purchased and put inside balloons for a simultaneous release (without string, in an effort to be environmentally friendly).

Later in the evening, students began to pour into Arch Creek Field on-campus for a night out (literally), bringing only blankets, cardboard boxes and tents as

makeshift sleeping quarters. Nearly 200 attendees participated, including students, faculty and staff members. A special guest appearance was also made by City of North Miami Mayor Andre Pierre.

Professor Michael Moskwa and his class of honors leadership students, at the forefront of the *Sleep Out* efforts, devoted countless hours to planning and promoting the event.

“While I have been fortunate to experience many wonderful events at this campus, Thursday evening's *Sleep*

Out captured the essence of who we are as a campus and as a university... [it] is a testament to the deep commitment we all have to community service and showing our students how they can positively impact the lives of others,” said Professor Moskwa.

Exactly a week following the *Sleep Out*, Student Government Association, Men of Distinction, Ground Breaker and O.W.L.S. in C.U.S. partnered to spearhead a *Dress Down Day* on-campus in exchange for a \$5 donation to the Haiti relief effort. Approximately 200 wristbands were sold.

Does your child want to learn about the world? Consider JWU study abroad

Many Johnson & Wales students are taking advantage of the opportunity to see and explore the world before graduation by participating in the study abroad program. But you might be wondering what makes the program a valuable use of your student's time and money?

Taking a term to study abroad enhances a student's marketability after graduation. As the American economy becomes increasingly global, companies will seek employees with language and cultural skills to help meet the challenges of a global marketplace. In addition, students learn how to work and thrive in different cultural environments and develop critical thinking skills and a global perspective to problem solving.

"Studying abroad was an excellent learning experience," said Chiara Espinal, a management senior who studied in South Korea last summer. "Not only do you learn about another country's culture and customs, but you also learn how to handle yourself outside of your regular experiences and you have to interact in a new language. Seeing a new country up close is nothing like seeing it on TV or reading it in a book."

A study abroad experience makes a student immediately stand out from the crowd in today's competitive marketplace. They will also develop life-long friendships with students from around the world.

If your student is interested in studying abroad they can earn college credit towards graduation. The Study Abroad Brochure identifies programs available to students in each major. Many students are also eligible to study abroad as early as freshman year and, with proper planning, can study abroad multiple times before graduation.

To find the application and all study abroad support services, visit www.jwu.edu/studyabroad. The Study Abroad office is located at the Providence Campus and is the central resource for all study abroad information. Our staff advises students from all campuses and can help identify programs that best fit your students academic and career goals. For more information, contact the Study Abroad office directly at 401-598-1406.



Students from JWU's four campuses have the opportunity to participate in numerous study abroad opportunities through the university. Pictured: students pose in a hand-painted cart at a coffee and sugar cane plantation in the Monteverde region of Costa Rica.

News for veterans & families

Members of the military on active or reserve duty, veterans of the armed forces and family members are eligible to receive educational benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Applying for Educational Benefits

To determine your student's eligibility and to start the process, visit www.gibill.va.gov. There you will find information on educational benefit programs offered and application forms. Processing of your application by the VA takes approximately six to 10 weeks. The VA will mail you a certificate of eligibility which you need to provide to your campus certifying official. For help in determining which application you should submit, contact the VA at 1-888-442-4551 or contact Veterans Affairs Certifying Office Sharlene Mitchell (305-892-5318).

It is the student's responsibility to be informed of the requirements the Department of Veteran Affairs has in place regarding educational benefits and to inform the VA and campus certifying official of any changes in your attendance, major and address.

Post 9/11 Transferability of Education Benefits

The Department of Defense (DoD) is now accepting applications for the transferability of education benefits (TEB) under the Post 9/11 GI Bill. To determine if your child is eligible or for more information go to http://www.defenselink.mil/home/features/2009/0409_gibill/. Upon approval, family members may apply to use transferrable benefits with the VA by completing VA-Form 22-1990E through the VA website at www.gibill.va.gov.

North Miami students claim big spring wins



In March, culinary arts sophomore Luis Young (center, posing with food critic Katie Lee and Chef Ralph Pagano) won \$10,000 San Pellegrino's national Almost Famous Chef competition.



Led by Sun Conference Coach of the Year James Palmer (left), the men's golf team won the Sun Conference tournament in April and is advancing to the NAIA finals.

Mark Your Calendars

May 2010

- 14-20 Finals
- 20 Spring term ends
- 21 Residence halls close at noon
- 22 Commencement
- 31 Residence halls open for summer students

June 2010

- 7 Summer session 1 begins, summer co-op/internship begins

July 2010

- 1 Summer session 1 ends
- 5 Holiday, U.S. Independence Day
- 6 Summer session 2 begins
- 7 - 16 FASTRACK Summer Orientations for new students
- 9 New student fall payment deadline
- 29 Summer session 2 ends

This calendar is for planning purposes only and is subject to change.

August 2010

- 6 Returning student fall payment deadline
- 21 Summer co-op/ internship ends

September 2010

- 1-6 September Term Start activities
- 2 New resident student early move-in
- 3 New resident student general move-in
- 4 Returning resident student move-in
- 7 First day of classes, Fall 2010 term
- 17 Join Work Unite service day, a Student Involvement production

Has your child completed the following for Fall 2010?

- Registered for Fall 2010 classes
 - Filed a FAFSA and established a payment plan
 - Cleared all holds
 - Extended health insurance through the summer
- If not, call 305-892-7000 today to take care of these important steps.**



Commencement is scheduled for Saturday, May 22 at the Miami Beach Convention Center. For details, visit www.jwu.edu/commencement/northmiami, and see the story on Pages 1 and 2.

ABOUT PAWS

Parent Ambassadors Working for Students (PAWS) is an initiative led by the Office of Student Affairs at the North Miami Campus to engage parents in the university experience. *Parent Connection* is published twice a year and mailed to each student's permanent address. To add your name to our e-mail distribution, e-mail paws.mia@jwu.edu with your name and your student's name. For more information on PAWS, visit the university's Web site at www.jwu.edu/northmiami/parents, call **305-892-7567** or e-mail paws.mia@jwu.edu.

Would you like to receive *Parent Connection* and other notifications via e-mail? E-mail your name, your student's name and your student's # (if available) and to paws.mia@jwu.edu and we will add you to our mailing list.

TO THE PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF:

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