

Bronco Family Association



Inside this issue:

Financial Aid FAQs for 2006-2007

Phi Eta Sigma Freshman Honor Society

Sophomore Summer Improvement Grant

Calendar of Events

Student Privacy and Family Concerns

Volume 1, Issue 1

February 2006

Learning Communities

2

This academic year many freshmen have had the opportunity to join a learning community, a set of courses linked by a common theme. Generally, the same students are enrolled in the linked courses. The instructors in the learning community collabo-

rate on the content of the course and tailor them to address the shared theme from the perspective of their particular discipline. During the fall semester, four learning communities were offered: *Bronco Men*, *African-Americans in US History and Literature*, *Critical Approaches to Criminal Justice*, and *Diversity Amid Globalization*. This spring, *Bronco Men* continued, and *Community Ethics and Literature* and *Values in Action* were added. Most students preferred this approach to learning and would recommend it to other students. Students in learning communities earned more credit hours and had fewer low grades or withdrawals.

2

2

3

3



Values in Action Learning Community with Dr. Blanche Radford-Curry

The First Edition — Read All About It!

You are reading the first edition of the Family Association Newsletter. The Newsletter is an opportunity for FSU to communicate with our most important partners in education—the families of our students. You are the most important reason your student is attending FSU. Your commitment, your values, and your sacrifice

have made a college education possible for your student. Your support will be one of the most important factors in his or her success. We honor your dedication, and we value your continued engagement in the education of your student.

We will send you a Newsletter at least once each

semester. Let us know what you would like to see in it. We want the Newsletter to help you help your student achieve her or his academic goals.

We also hope to expand the activities of the Family Asso-

Newsletter Staff

Dr. John I. Brooks III,
Supervising Editor

Ms. Linda Baha'i

Ms. Vicki McKenzie

Mr. Walter Patterson

Ms. Elois Wingfield

Understanding Financial Aid

The financial aid process is an important but often confusing process that you and your student will need to complete. Our goal is to simplify this process by assisting you with new terms and helping you complete and understand new forms. Please look at the following frequently asked questions about financial aid. This will tell you the first steps you need to take towards applying for financial aid.

How can I contact the financial aid office?

910-672-1325
800-368-4210
FAX910-672-1423
Email:
finaid@uncfsu.edu

What is financial aid?

Financial aid is money for students to help them pay for college (tuition, fees, room and board). Some of this money you have to pay back and some you do not.

How do you get this money?

You must complete a form called the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (**FAFSA**). You can find this form at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. You can also get this form from your high school counselor. FSU's institution code is 002928.

When should you fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)?

March 1 is the priority deadline but you can apply after that date.

PHI ETA SIGMA – NATIONAL FRESHMAN HONOR SOCIETY

Phi Eta Sigma is a national honor society for college freshmen. Its goal is to encourage and reward academic excellence among freshmen in institutions of higher learning.

The oldest and largest freshman honor society, Phi Eta Sigma was founded at the University of Illinois on March 22, 1923. There are now more than 300 chapters throughout the United States and more than 500,000 members.

Phi Eta Sigma was voted membership into the Associa-

tion of College Honor Societies in 1937. Only three societies have had longer continuous membership.

Fayetteville State University has inducted more than four hundred members since its inception at FSU. We currently have two hundred members and expect to induct members in April. First time freshmen are eligible if they earn a 3.50 or better GPA and complete 12 credit hours their first semester of enrollment. Within the near future, the 2005-2006 freshmen who are eligible will receive invitations to join.

Be sure to periodically check the FSU Scholarship Opportunities posted at <http://www.uncfsu.edu/plret/scholarshipindex.htm>

Sophomore Summer Improvement Grant



This summer Fayetteville State University will offer a Sophomore Summer Improvement Grant to recognize freshmen who have improved academically since fall semester and who would benefit from attending summer school to earn needed credits. After midterms, eligible students will be sent an invitation to apply for this grant, providing \$700 to help cover tuition, fees and books during Summer Session I, 2006. Interested students will fill out an application form and submit it to University College. Recipients will be chosen based on the quality of the application, and awards will depend in part upon verification that improvement at midterm is confirmed by final grades for Spring 2006.

Calendar of Events

Monday, February 27	Mid-term exams begin
Wednesday, March 1	Deadline for Filing Financial Aid Application
Saturday, March 4	Mid-term exams end
Monday–Saturday, March 6-11	Spring Break
Friday, March 17	Last day to withdraw from a class
	Deadline for clearing “I” grade from previous semester
Thursday, April 6	Honors and Awards Day
Saturday, April 8	Admitted Students Preview Day
Sunday, April 9	Founders’ Day
Monday, April 10	Registration for Summer and Fall begins
Wednesday, April 12	Last day to withdraw from the university
	Last day for WN appeals
Friday-Saturday, April 14-15	Good Friday holiday
Monday, May 1	Last day of classes
Tuesday-Monday, May 2-8	Final Exams
Saturday, May 13	Commencement
Friday, May 19	Last day of registration for Summer I
Monday, May 22	First day of Summer I classes
Wednesday, May 24	Late registration and Drop/Add ends
Monday, May 29	Memorial Day – No classes



Student Privacy and Family Concerns

Every year at First Steps many families listen in disbelief when we tell them that, with few exceptions, we cannot tell them about their student’s grades. “You mean I’m paying for my child’s education, and I can’t find out how she’s doing!?” is a typical response.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, known as FERPA or the Buckley Amendment, protects the privacy of student educational records and ensures students access to their own records. The Act was designed to make sure that educational institutions did not share sensitive information (grades, financial records) without explicit authorization and that institutions did not share erroneous information without giving the student an opportunity to correct it. Before FERPA, institutions had great discretion in sharing or withholding information without student consent.

However, because the privacy and consent rights of FERPA pertain to the student, it is the student who must give consent for the release of information or apply to inspect educational records. This means that in most cases, FSU may not release such information to parents or others without written authorization.

There are exceptions. Parents who can prove that they claimed their child as a dependent on their most recent tax return have the right to receive information regarding their child’s educational records. Students may also consent, in writing, to disclosure of the student’s education records to third parties.

Outside of these exceptions, University officials, including instructors and academic advisors, are prohibited from discussing protected information with family members. Moreover, our effectiveness as advisors and counselors depends on the trust students have that the information they discuss with us will remain confidential.

In University College, we will do everything we can to keep you informed while also complying with the federal law regarding the rights of students. That way, everyone wins.

“...our effectiveness as advisors and counselors depends on the trust students have that the information they discuss with us will remain confidential.”

Fayetteville State University

1200 Murchison Road
Fayetteville, NC
28301-4298

Phone: 910-672-1060
Fax: 910-672-1846
Email: jibrooks@uncfsu.edu

We're on the web!
[Http://www.uncfsu.edu/family/](http://www.uncfsu.edu/family/)

1,000 copies of this
publication were printed
at a cost of \$.22 per copy

FSU: Where Your Future is Our Focus

**FSU on the Move! Construction Site in
Front of the Lyons Science Building
February 1, 2006**



Non Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Fayetteville, N.C.
PERMIT NO. 247

Students wishing to take summer courses at other institutions ...

...must obtain pre-approval for the courses to be completed. In the absence of such pre-approval, credits earned at other institutions may not be used to fulfill FSU degree requirements. To obtain approval for study at another institution, students should consult their department chair. Freshmen and students who have not declared a major must initiate the approval process with Dr. John Brooks, Director of University College. Credit will be awarded

courses in which students earn a grade of C (2.0) or higher. Since grades earned at other institutions do not affect the FSU GPA, students seeking to improve their GPAs should not pursue study at other institutions.



Fayetteville State University is a Constituent Institution of the University of North Carolina. FSU is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants, students, or employees based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, or disability. Moreover, FSU values diversity and actively seeks to recruit talented students, faculty, and staff from diverse backgrounds.