



Preparing for the Year Ahead

In this Issue

Preparing for the Year Ahead	1
Keep Up with Campus News	2
Financial Aid Update.....	2
Go Big Read Begins Second Year	2
Did You Know?	2
Updates: Tuition and the Madison Initiative	3
Advice for Off-Campus Moving Day.....	3
Give the Gift of the Arts....	3
First-Quarter Housing Bill.....	4
Career Corner	4
Managing Textbook Costs.....	5
Making a Trip to Madison? Planning Is Easy	5
The Wisconsin Idea	5
The First-Year Experience.....	6



Lori Berquam,
Dean of Students,
Division of Student Life

I hope that both you and your student have had an enjoyable summer. There is a flurry of activity taking place on campus, all designed to welcome students back to UW–Madison. I’d like to ask your family to also do a little preparation for what we hope will be another successful year in Madison.

Here at the Division of Student Life, we believe that parents and family members are the greatest allies and resources in our efforts to support the success of our students. Beyond simply packing or buying supplies with your student, I hope you will help us get off to a great start by bringing yourself up to speed on several important campus matters, and by talking with your students before he or she returns to campus.

- Take a few minutes to talk to your student about what he or she is doing outside of the classroom. There are significant opportunities for students to integrate in-class and out-of-class learning experiences through their active, creative, and entrepreneurial engagement in real-world problems — something we call the Wisconsin Experience. Urge your student to take advantage of as many opportunities as possible to avoid missing out. For more information, visit www.cfli.wisc.edu.
- Encourage your student’s commitment to UW–Madison’s academic rigor. A good starting point for resources is www.wisc.edu/academics. Additionally, we expect honesty and integrity from our students. Information about academic misconduct policies and procedures (UWS Chapter 14) can be found at www.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/academic_misconduct.html.

- As you know, the number-one problem on college campuses across the country is high-risk drinking. Consequences can range from missed classes and poor grades to long-term health risks. Talk about this with your student, reflecting your own family’s values and expectations, and revisit the topic throughout the semester. For more information about starting the conversation, visit www.pace.uhs.wisc.edu/parents.php.

Madison is generally a safe community in which to live and work, but it isn’t immune to the challenges of a growing city, including crime. UW–Madison views safety as a shared partnership among students, staff, police, and our community. We ask that you remind your student to walk with friends or use SAFE Night-time Services, let others know where he or she is going and when to expect him or her to return, always lock doors and windows, and carry a cell phone. For safety resources and information, visit www.safeu.wisc.edu.

Your student is a part of the Badger culture, one committed to upholding the values of the Wisconsin Experience and the university. Badgers are ethical and curious in their academic work, seeking opportunities to engage critically and deeply. Badgers show respect for the dignity of others, pursuing opportunities to learn and grow. And lastly, Badgers incorporate their education into their lives, applying the knowledge they learn and sharing it with the world. I am excited that your student is a part of this growing legacy!

Please keep in touch with us, and don’t hesitate to let us know if there’s anything we can do to help. I have a newly redesigned Web page that I’m launching in early fall at www.students.wisc.edu. Be sure to stay up to date with the latest news and information at www.parent.wisc.edu.

Thank you for being a partner in reinforcing these important messages with your student. Together, with your student, we can make it a safe and successful year!

Lori Berquam

The Parent Program is here for you.

www.parent.wisc.edu
parent@uwmad.wisc.edu
877-262-3977

Professional staff:
Nancy Sandhu
Patti Lux-Weber

Student interns:
Nicole Daniels
Neil Jackson
Sarah Katsandonis



Keep Up with Campus News

Stay on top of the steady flow of news and announcements related to campus life by checking out these options:

- On the Web: Bookmark UW–Madison’s official news page at www.news.wisc.edu for daily updates.
- Facebook: You can also “Like” us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/UWMadison or www.facebook.com/pages/Madison-WI/UW-Madison-Parent-Program/
- Twitter: Get the news, and send us your comments and questions, at www.twitter.com/UWMadisonNews. Explore the network of Campus Twitterers at twitter.com/UWMadisonNews/lists.

Did You Know?

Students: Sign up for WiscAlerts

WiscAlerts, UW–Madison’s emergency notification system (launched in April 2008), provides important information via e-mail, text message, and—for campus employees—phone.

All students are encouraged to enroll in WiscAlerts–Text, the text-messaging part of the system. To do so, students can log in to the My UW Portal and look for the WiscAlerts logo. Registration is simple and takes just a few moments. The service is free, but students must have a phone or plan that can receive text messages, and students will be responsible for normal SMS charges from their cellular provider. WiscAlerts–Text will be reserved for the highest level of emergency and will never be used for advertisements or spam.

Although UW–Madison parents are not eligible to receive text messages, the Parent Program will send an update in the event of an emergency to parents with a valid e-mail address.

Financial Aid Update: Direct Lending Is Here

The Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) is excited to announce a change in processing loans and delivering funds at UW–Madison. Beginning with the summer session, OSFA moved to direct lending for the processing of federal student loans, as mandated under the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.

The change applies only to student Stafford and Grad PLUS and Parent PLUS loans. Under the program, there is one lender, the U.S. Department of Education. No private financial institutions are involved. The change makes the process much more efficient for schools and borrowers.

All current borrowers must sign a new Master Promissory Note (MPN). OSFA sends continuous e-mail reminders that the new MPN must be signed before students will be allowed to get their loans.

OSFA highly encourages you and your student to pay very close attention to mailings from your loan servicer. Borrowers can track their federal loans on the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) by logging onto www.nsls.ed.gov.

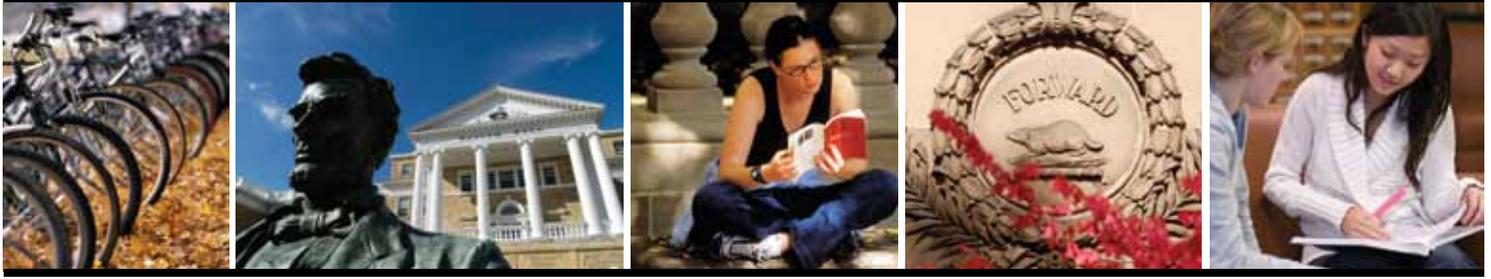
For more information, visit www.finaid.wisc.edu.

Go Big Read Begins Second Year

Go Big Read, UW–Madison’s common-reading program, has thousands of people reading, talking, and sharing their reactions and opinions. Initiated by Chancellor Biddy Martin, the program—now in its second year—engages members of the campus community and beyond in a shared, academically focused reading experience.

This year’s book choice is *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. You and your student—along with other students, faculty, staff, and community members—are invited to participate by reading the selected book and taking part in classroom discussions and campus events.

For more information about the program visit www.gobigread.wisc.edu.



The increase is slightly above the overall system rate because UW–Madison is in the midst of implementing a surcharge called the Madison Initiative for Undergraduates to pay for more professors, increase financial aid, and improve student services.

As of late spring 2010, the Madison Initiative has led to the authorization to hire about 55 faculty, 25 staff, and more than 50 teaching assistants to directly benefit undergraduate education.

UW–Madison’s tuition will still be the second lowest in the Big Ten conference, according to UW System figures. For more information on tuition rates, visit registrar.wisc.edu/tuition_&_fees.htm.

First-Quarter Housing Bill

If your student will be living in University Housing, the first-quarter bill was e-mailed to your student’s WiscMail account during the second week of July. Payment is due by Monday, August 2. If your student is using financial aid for housing, the due date is Tuesday, September 7. Students may give parents and others access to view bills online and make electronic payments by setting them up as authorized payers. For more information, visit www.housing.wisc.edu/billing/authorizedpayer.php. The \$50 deposit and \$250 advance payment, which were paid prior to your student moving in, will be credited to the fourth-quarter bill, which will be issued in February 2011.

Career Corner

Student jobs can enhance the college experience

Working a part-time job often proves to be a very important and beneficial part of student life, both financially and for learning valuable time-management skills. In fact, studies have shown that students who have a job while taking classes receive higher grades because they learn how to effectively budget their time.

Many campus positions can be scheduled around a student’s class schedule with a reasonable time commitment; in fact, University Housing has positions available in which students work as few as seven hours each week.

Whether working in a residence hall, food service line, office setting, or a position related to an academic interest, student employment can enhance the college experience. Not only do part-time jobs and internships serve as an outlet for students to get involved, gain leadership skills, and prepare for future careers, they also can serve as a great way to meet new friends and create a social network.

In addition to the UW Student Job Center, another helpful resource for student employment is Career Services. Each school or college has a Career Services office, which features resume workshops, career fair information, and individual career-counseling ap-



pointments. Regardless of a student’s year in school, it is never too early to start preparing resumes, practice interviewing, and looking for jobs or internships.

Many campus divisions recruit summer interns during the summer months, so encourage your student to begin job hunting today. For more information about student employment and for a complete listing of on- and off-campus positions, visit the UW Student Job Center or the University Housing websites. And encourage your student to connect with Career Services for jobs and internships within the Madison community.

Fall Career and Internship Fair
Wednesday, September 15
4:30–8 p.m.
Kohl Center

All UW–Madison students are invited to attend this fair. Business professional attire is recommended.



Making a Trip to Madison? Planning Is Easy

Welcome to Madison, UW parents! A city between two lakes, Madison offers students a world-class education in a vibrant metropolitan community.

The Greater Madison Convention and Visitors Bureau offers many resources to help you plan your visit and explore the city's unique opportunities beyond the university experience. The organization's Web site at www.visitmadison.com is a great place to start.

Develop your trip itinerary with the site's comprehensive calendar of events as well as restaurant and lodging information for the Greater Madison area. Get started by booking your hotel room directly from the Web site's hotel search engine, powered by Travelocity. You can then build your own personalized itinerary or view a few sample itineraries, such as "Like a Local," "Shopping Experience," or "Summer Itinerary." For ideas about some on-campus things to do, look at "University of Wisconsin Highlights." Plan to check out some of Madison's main attractions or tour architectural wonders, such as the State Capitol and the Monona Terrace, or walk through one of the many Madison museums or gardens. Plenty of exciting events are always going on in the area; a favorite event is the Dane County Farmers' Market, one of the finest farmers' markets in the country. It takes place outdoors around the Capitol Square from April through November, drawing about 18,000 people each Saturday.

Further resources for Madison information can be found in the Official Visitors Guide of Madison and visitor e-newsletter. You can view the current guide online or request a printed copy. The guide provides detailed information on attractions, shopping, dining, accommodations, maps, and much more. And be sure to sign up for the visitor e-newsletter to receive insider information on Madison specials and promotions.

Managing Textbook Costs

To help students and families manage textbook bills, UW-Madison is providing detailed information to students about books and their costs.

By receiving information on costs via Course Guide, students can shop around online for the best deals or make early decisions on which courses to take. Students can also participate in early-semester textbook swaps sponsored by the Associated Students of Madison.

UW System recently endorsed this approach, adopting new guidelines that encourage professors to identify textbooks early, asking instructors to use the same textbooks for multiple semesters and to develop creative options to lessen costs. For more information and advice, visit registrar.wisc.edu/textbook_information.htm.

The Wisconsin Idea

Students helping students

No Badger Left Behind is a new student organization created to help first-year students transition to life on campus. At the beginning of each semester, the group's members—who are easily identified by their lime green shirts—are out and about on campus, ready to answer any questions students might have about their classes or the campus in general. The club's Web site provides descriptions of student organizations, a calendar of events, and links to key campus Web sites. Students can benefit from these resources or help fellow students by joining the organization. For more information, visit nobadgerleftbehind.com.

The First-Year Experience

Wisconsin Welcome

A weeklong event beginning Sunday, August 29, and continuing through the first weekend of the semester, Welcome Week is the perfect way for your student to become familiar with campus traditions, meet new people, and rekindle friendships made during SOAR. Designed for both new students and returning students, it offers a chance to get lingering questions answered, learn about academics, find one's way around campus, learn about Wisconsin history and culture, and discover all the campus has to offer. Your student can attend the Chancellor's Convocation on September 1, academic orientations, a Student Resource Fair,

a New Student Night at the Overture Center featuring local and national performing acts, an introduction to the UW's Fifth Quarter, and a traditional tailgate, among hundreds of other events. Students can visit www.newstudent.wisc.edu/wiwelcome, to create a personalized calendar of activities.



Parents' Weekend: November 12–14

First-Year Parents' Weekend (FPW), hosted by the Wisconsin Alumni Association (WAA) and scheduled for November 12–14, is an opportunity for parents to come to campus and participate in activities that are part of the student experience. Parents are encouraged to develop their connections to the university by exploring the campus; asking questions; learning about opportunities; connecting with other parents, staff, and faculty; and attending a Wisconsin football game against Indiana.

For online registration and more information, visit www.uwalumni.com/fpw. The FPW package includes special lectures by UW faculty, a Q&A session with Chancellor Biddy Martin, a Badger Huddle tailgate ticket, and a football ticket.

After the FPW sessions on Friday, November 12, join the Parent Program for a complimentary parent reception at the Red Gym.

For a complete listing of accommodations, visit www.visitmadison.com.

Web chat for parents of new students

If you are the parent of a new student, you'll want to mark Tuesday, August 10, from noon to 1:30 p.m., on your calendar. The Parent Program will be hosting a special Web chat to help answer questions about your student's initial transition to campus life. If you need a refresher after completing your sessions at SOAR — or other questions have come to mind — this lunch hour chat is for you. Topics will include housing move-in, homesickness, academics, health and safety, and financial aid. To sign in, visit www.parent.wisc.edu.

August 27–28: It's time to move in

Campus will be buzzing with activity on Friday, August 27, and Saturday, August 28, when thousands of UW–Madison students will be moving into the residence halls.

Although the process may seem overwhelming, the University Housing staff does everything it can to make the transition as smooth as possible. Residents are scheduled to arrive during a two-day period, divided by floors within the same hall. "Badger Buddies" will be on hand to help students move belongings and set up lofts.

During the second week of August, an e-mail will be sent to your student's WiscMail account. It will include information on where to check in, the unloading process, parking, and where to ship belongings.

Students who have been hired for campus jobs can move into residence halls on Wednesday, August 25.

Here are a few tips and resources to ease the move-in process:

- Make sure funds have been deposited to your student's Wiscard account. To make an online deposit, visit www.wiscard.wisc.edu.
- Consider investing in a renter's insurance policy to protect your student's belongings.
- Although residence hall rooms have lockable desk drawers, remember to bring your own lock.
- If you need any assistance moving your student into the residence hall or a place for storage, contact Lazybones at 608-222-4475 for information.