Dear Johanna,

Welcome to fall at STU!

It's an exciting time in your student's life, and a time of transition for you. We've included some helpful tips and tools to help you to be a support to your student during this important transition.

The Parents and Families Program encourages you to take a moment to learn about the happenings on campus, and other interesting news and notes that may be helpful to you as an STU parent or family member.

Enjoy!

Dealing with Homesickness

The truth is I miss them too!

A little more than a month ago, chances are, you transitioned from a parent with a full time live in student, to a parent with a student living on a college
Parents Association to make sure you don't miss any updates!

campus. Even if your student commutes to STU, you may still be experiencing the growing pains of parenting a college student. While it's expected that your student will experience being homesick, parents often feel a void of not having their student at home everyday. That feeling has a name, it's called "empty nest syndrome".

The other side of the empty nest syndrome coin is learning how to parent a college student. During STU's recent Parent Expo, Dr. Judith Bachay presented "Parenting in the Transition", and gave some tips and tools about how parenting roles change when a child goes off to college. The truth is, many parents have struggled with their changing roles, and that is evidenced by the many books and articles that have been written on the subject. Here’s a short list of resources, compiled by Paper Clip Communications, entitled "9 Books for Parents of College Students." I find that I used at least one of these books as a reference guide when parenting my own student during the college years. I hope that you will find this list helpful as you continue your journey as a parent of a college student.

Understanding FERPA

Access to Student Grades and Records

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) governs who has access to educational records. As a parent or guardian, you have always had access as your children have completed their different stages of schooling. However, when your student became a young adult, and a college student, your access to their academic records changed. All of the rights that you previously enjoyed have now shifted to your college student. You can learn more about how FERPA works here.

Since FERPA prevents STU from providing academic information directly to parents and guardians without a student's current and express written permission, the best way to find out how your student is doing is to ask them. Perhaps one of the side effects of the legislation is that it gives students and parents an opportunity to communicate about the college experience, including parental expectations and student responsibility. It can also give you and your student a reason to explore time management, talk about extra curricular activities, and explore whether or not additional academic resources are needed.

Transportation Options at STU

Getting from here to there!

Finding transportation to take care of necessary errands off campus has never been easier at STU. Student options include Car2Go, Bobcat
Shuttle, and an Emergency Ride Home Program.

Car2Go is a way for students to car share a vehicle whenever they have transportation needs that fall outside of the boundaries of the Bobcat Shuttle. For a nominal fee, students can borrow a car for an hour, a couple of hours, or a whole day. Students must register in advance to use this service.

Bobcat Shuttle travels in a continuous loop from the Tri-Rail Station to STU, and new this year, the shuttle has been enabled with a GPS feature through the SmartTraxx app. The app provides real time tracking and enables students to see the shuttle route in its entirety as well as stop locations. Additionally the app provides alerts and announcements regarding the shuttle. Having this information on hand will allow your student to know exactly where they need to be at what time to meet the shuttle.

Commuter students who carpool, vanpool, ride transit, bike or walk three or more days per week, can register for the Emergency Ride Home Program. The service provides a free taxi ride home in the event of an emergency or unexpected late days when public transportation may not be available. South Florida Commuter Services provides this service and it is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Users must register in advance of the need for the service. Registrants will receive six free taxi cab vouchers per year for use in the event of an emergency. Visit South Florida Commuter Services Emergency Ride Home Program for full details.

Visit Transportation at St. Thomas University to see the full range of transportation options provided for students, as well as the weekly schedule for the Bobcat Shuttle. Remind your students of these safe transportation options.

Join Us for an Art Exhibition & Cocktail Reception
Mark your calendar for Thursday, October 16, 2014 from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. for *ecclesiaticus*, an exhibition of paintings by Emilio Hector Rodriguez, an important member of the Miami arts community. His work is exhibited throughout South Florida, as well as in South America, Europe, and Asia.

Emilio Hector Rodriguez is a Cuban born artist and was trained in the field of Pure Mathematics and Computer Science. A unique feature of this collection is that somewhere, almost hidden within the painting, is a verse from The Book of Ecclesiasticus that can apply to any person of any religion. You can learn more about the artist and his art by visiting his [website](#).

Attendees will be able to meet the artist and view his paintings at the event, which will be held in the Sardinas Gallery on the 2nd floor of the Main Library. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the art work will be used to support the gallery. This is a FREE event.

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**All You Can Eat Stone Crab Dinner**

**Presented by:**

Pomeranz & Associates, PA

**STU Presents Sixth Annual Stone Crab Dinner**
Dr. Jan Bell, Faculty Athletics Representative and longtime Director of Sports Administration Programs at St. Thomas University, will become the 10th inductee into the Bobcat Sports Hall of Fame at the sixth annual Stone Crab Dinner for Athletics on Sunday, November 2 at the Fernandez Family Center for Leadership & Wellness. The induction comes in advance of Dr. Bell's retirement as Professor of Sports Administration after a tenure of 30 years at St. Thomas University.

The Stone Crab Dinner is an annual event to raise funds for the St. Thomas University Department of Athletics. STU student-athletes serve as wait staff to patrons who are able to directly interact with the beneficiaries of the proceeds to the Department of Athletics.

Tickets for the event are on sale now.

School of Science Summer Research Institute

Scientists in the Making

This summer, over 120 undergraduate students conducted research in all major fields of STEM with over a dozen professors in the 2015 Summer Research Institute.

The Institute is a continuation of STU's Science & Mathematics Fellows Program, which commences during the fall and spring semesters, and follows the recommendation of the National Math and Science Initiative's mandate to prepare underrepresented populations for careers in the STEM field, which has been identified as the fastest growing segment of job opportunities.

By providing an opportunity for undergraduate students to work hands on with terminally degreed scientists, an experience normally reserved for graduate students, participants are armed with the experiences they need to further their education in STEM graduate programs or to enter the STEM workforce. In addition to providing hands on research opportunities for undergraduate students, the Summer Research Institute provides a stipend of $2,500 per student for completion of the program, as well as the potential for individual recognition. Past participants have won first place in the Florida Academy of Science poster competition, received a National Science Foundation Scholarship to attend workshops in Tennessee, and presented research at the 19th Conference for Advances in Oncology in Athens, Greece.

Join us in congratulating the 2015 Summer Research Institute participants on a job well done. Learn more about STU's School of Science Technology and Engineering Management's opportunities for undergraduate research program and research scholarships by visiting the school's website.
STU Parents Fund

Supporting STU’s Annual Fund

STU is proud to support its students with scholarships and financial aid each year. More than 90% of students attending the university receive some type of financial aid, and many of our students are first generation college students.

Without the support of our alumni, friends, donors, and parents, the university would not be able to fund institutional scholarships, maintain and expand academic programs, such as the Undergraduate Summer Research Institute, and allow student athletes to compete in national championships.

Whether you choose to support the Annual Fund with $10, $100, or $500; every dollar you contribute will help a student to open windows of opportunity for themselves, and develop their leadership skills to benefit our global community for life.

Click here to support the STU Parents Fund today!

The STU campus is alive with many exciting developments, too numerous to list here. To stay abreast of the latest news and events, visit our website at www.stu.edu where you can learn about all the latest STU news. To stay connected with the Parents and Families Program, complete our Parents Association Signup Form and like us on Facebook.

We're looking forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,