



**The Parent & Family Newsletter**

is a

**Monthly Publication**

**by the**

**FGCU Parent Office**

<http://enrollment.fgcu.edu/Parents/>

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**FGCU Parents & Family Newsletter**

**April 2007**

Dear FGCU Parents and Family,

The spring semester at FGCU is at its final stage; students, faculty, and staff are busy finishing up the term.

I am sure everyone is starting to think about the summer plans—vacation, summer jobs, summer internship, etc.

I also hope you will take this summer’s opportunity to enjoy your student being home again and catch up with each other.

What a year this has been for your students at Florida Gulf Coast University!! For many students, this was the first year in college; it was a new milestone for every-one involved.



**Paula Machlin**

In closing, it has been a very gratifying and rewarding experience working with many of your students this year with respect to registrations, course selections, and other issues. It has also been a pleasure to watch them adjust, learn, and grow into the college life!

Have a Great Summer!

Sincerely,

*Paula Machlin*

**Paula Machlin**

Coordinator of Advising and Parent Relations

Parent Office



***Seasonal Student Issues***

There’s a seasonal ebb and flow when it comes to student issues. Here are a few things your student may be experiencing this spring:

- Some students lose their motivation for the final push
- Spring fever hits and problems arise as students become restless
- Anticipating the end of the year
- Frustration and confusion develop because of class registration
- Papers and exams are piling up
- Summer job panic
- Feeling like they are no longer accountable for their actions – may turn to irresponsible behavior.

**Important Dates**

<i>Last day of Spring Term Classes</i>	4/23
<i>Finals for Spring Term</i>	4/24–27
<i>Commencement</i>	4/28
<i>Summer Session A</i>	5/7-6/15
<i>Summer Session B</i>	6/18-7/27
<i>Summer Session C</i>	5/7-7/13

**Registration Dates for**

**Summer & Fall 2007 Enrollment**

3/26 –Honor Program Students, Graduate, Athletes, Post-Baccalaureate, Seniors, Teacher Certification students

3/29 –Juniors

4/2 –Sophomores

4/5 –Freshmen, High School DE

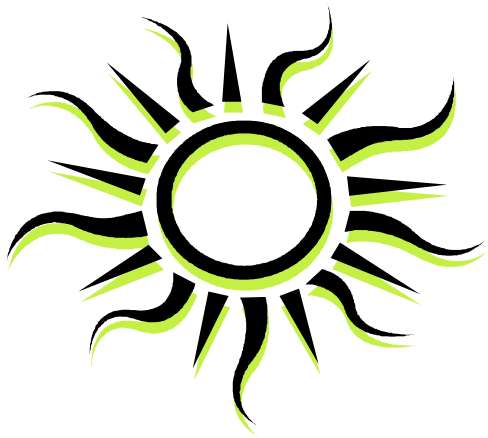
**In-Person Registration:**

4/9 –All Degree-seeking students

## Putting Summer Plans in Place

*As your student determines what the summer will hold, there are some things you can do to help:*

- **Ask What He/She's Interested In.** What does it mean to “have a worthwhile summer” in your student’s eyes? Ask her! Seeing what’s important to her will help you put her goals first instead of imposing your own.
- **What About Classes?** Is your student planning to take a class or two this summer? Discuss the pros and cons.
- **Direct Him/Her to Career Services.** The good folks in this office can help him look for summer jobs, internships and more. They won’t get the job for him—that’s up to him! Yet, they’ll provide support and resources throughout the process.
- **Put Out Some Feelers.** It’s not your job to “fix” the summer plans issue for your student. Yet, if he asks and will be with you for the summer, put out some feelers in town. Let community members know that your talented, hard-working kid will be around and looking for work!
- **Talk Realistically About Money.** It’s easy to have grand dreams about the summer yet, it’s also important to be realistic about what needs to be done. Have an intentional conversation with your student about money and what needs to happen in order to cover next year’s college costs. If she knows that she’s responsible for spending money and books and other expenses, that will help her gauge her work schedule over the summer while also seeing if she can fit in the volunteer gig she’d like to try. Providing complete information so she can make adult choices is a great step in fostering self-responsibility.



### **Attention Parents of Returning Students:**

#### ***Financial Aid Facts***

Here’s a friendly reminder that financial aid forms need to be filed during the month of April. For specific deadlines, please check with us, as deadlines vary from institution to institution.

Here are some useful financial aid web sites for you to utilize in securing a financial aid package:

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid • [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- College Board: Connect to College Success • [www.Collegeboard.org](http://www.Collegeboard.org)
- The Financial Aid Information Page • [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)
- Scholarship Search • [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- Internal Revenue Service (for information on tax benefits for higher education) • [www.irs.ustreas.gov](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov)

### **\$\$\$ Bright Future Scholarship Recipients \$\$\$**

<http://www.firn.edu/doe/brfutures/>

**1-888-827-2004**

If your student is taking classes over the summer in order to maintain certain GPA:

- ◆ **GPA 2.75 for 75% Tuition/ Fees Award (Florida Medallion Scholars Award)**
- ◆ **GPA 3.0 for 100% Tuition /Fees Award (Florida Academic Scholars Award)**

Please contact the **FGCU Financial Aid Office** and let them know about your student’s summer plans and ask them to calculate GPA immediately after the summer term.

**\*\*\*\*NOTE:** Bright Future Scholarship does not cover tuition/fees for the summer enrollment but summer grades and hours can be used to meet the renewal criteria for the scholarship.



## Summer Possibilities Abound

Many students will be talking with advisors, professors and peers throughout the semester about how to get the most out of summer break. Some will take classes, while others will choose to get academic credit in an internship or volunteer for an organization. If your student is interested in spending his summer in an academic-related internship, job or volunteer position, there are plenty of resources available to help make this happen!

The process of deciding what to do can be challenging for students. Sometimes, they end up so overwhelmed with the possibilities that they procrastinate. Often, this results in missed deadlines and opportunities. Encourage your student to start the decision process early.

The first stop your student can make is the campus career development office. Typically, the office will have access to internship listings in every field. The staff can also offer students guidance on what types of experiences will help them gain the best professional experience and where to go to get more information.

If your student is interested in doing some research on her own, the Internet is invaluable! Here are some websites to begin gathering ideas:

**Idealist.org: Action without Borders** ([www.idealists.org/](http://www.idealists.org/))

Idealist.org features jobs, internships and volunteer opportunities in 165 countries, primarily in the non-profit sector. In addition to offering internship and job listings, Idealist features information and advice for careers in the non-profit sector.

**Intern Web** ([www.internweb.com](http://www.internweb.com))

Intern Web is a free service that lists internships in a variety of fields and for students at all levels.

**Book Jobs** ([www.bookjobs.com](http://www.bookjobs.com))

Book Jobs, created by the Association of American Publishers, offers listings for jobs and internships in the field of publishing. The searchable database includes opportunities for college students and graduates at every level of their studies.

**GreenBiz: Environmental Jobs** ([www.greenbiz.com](http://www.greenbiz.com))

This website offers a database of jobs and internships in the environmental field for all levels of professional and educational experience.

**Hill Zoo** ([www.hillzoo.com](http://www.hillzoo.com))

This website lists a variety of internships and jobs available on Capitol Hill and around Washington, D.C., as well as resources for finding housing or part-time jobs. Students who want to work in Congress should contact their Senator or Representative directly, as most have internship programs.

Students need to be encouraged to go after what they want out of their summer experience. The opportunities are out there for those who seek them! Students should never be afraid to contact organizations directly, even if they are not advertising open positions. It's likely that they will contact your student if a position becomes available... and sometimes even create an opportunity for those who are persistent.

*Special Note: Allison Chandler, a current senior at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY, contributed to this list of resources.*

***Have a Great Summer!!***

