Home for the Holidays: 
What to Expect during Your Student’s Visit

Welcoming your college student home for the holiday break is exciting, but it can also be stressful. There is much to accomplish in a short period of time, and some degree of disruption to your household’s typical routine is inevitable. The family has likely adjusted and achieved new equilibrium while your student was away at college, and his/her return home can upset the balance all over again. Students and parents often have different expectations when it comes to the holiday break. Your priorities may be enjoying meals or holiday traditions together, resolving issues related to the coming semester like computer problems and financial concerns, and visiting extended family. Your student, on the other hand, is likely to want to rest a lot, catch up with hometown friends and spend time with his/her significant other.

Equally as important as recognizing the growth in your student is realizing that coming home is a vacation. Winter break is a reprieve from the stress of college, especially demands on time and mental energy. Therefore, I invite you to spoil your student … but do not do everything for him/her. Cook your student’s favorite meals, do his/her laundry, let him/her pick what movie or game the family will enjoy together. These activities can reinforce the idea of home as your student’s sanctuary. Expect your student to want to sleep and do nothing the first few days of vacation. He/she is probably exhausted from the semester, particularly from exams, and will need a few days to rest and acclimate. Similarly, try not to bombard your student with questions, particularly in the first few days he/she is home. Your student only just got away from the college campus; he/she probably wants to talk about anything but that, at least at first. It is OK to show interest, but do not pressure your student to share.

Your student’s trip home from college is an important milestone for the entire family. It is exciting to hear how your student has grown throughout the semester and what comes next, but it can also be stressful figuring out your student’s new role in the family. In fact, many college students feel like they do not fit in anywhere during their first semester or two of college. Your student is not yet a full adult but is not an adolescent anymore. He/she probably feels a mixture of nostalgia and independence and recognizes his/her inability to return to his/her previous place in the family, regardless of whether he/she wants to. This in-betweenness or groundlessness is normal and OK, and it is more than possible to have an enjoyable and fulfilling holiday visit with your student, particularly if you remember the strategies discussed here. Your student has grown tremendously, but he/she is home on vacation. Allow him/her to enjoy both worlds. Set that later curfew, but remind your student he/she is an adult sharing the home with other adults, and ask him/her to come home quietly and respectfully. Let him/her visit hometown friends on Wednesday with the agreement he/she will go visit grandparents and have dinner with you Thursday. Remember: Plan ahead, be patient, communicate expectations and wishes, and compromise. And may your holiday visit with your student be pleasant and bright!

-Kendall Irvin

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The Thomas W. and Robin W. Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts, an intellectual center and cultural heart of Coastal Carolina University, offers a wide array of opportunities each year for community members, students and their families, from a robust cultural arts schedule to cutting-edge digital projects to leadership training and development.

Upcoming events on the cultural arts calendar include two concerts and a music faculty recital in December, and tributes to Pete Seeger and Cole Porter in the early spring; the senior exhibition in the Rebecca Randall Bryan Art Gallery will be held in December, followed by Nick DeFord’s exhibit in January and Denise Stewart’s charcoal drawings in March. Theatrical performances of “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying” and “Pride & Prejudice” will take place during the spring semester.

To complement the contributions of the fine arts departments, the humanities disciplines in the college also offer a variety of programs on campus. The Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies will be wrapping up its Mindful Thinking and Philosophy and Science series in December. Plans for 2016 include a Philosophy Corner discussion of torture, the Jackson Center’s Tea & Ethics series on social justice, and panel discussions about the tiny house movement and the ethics of cosmetic surgery. The history, English and political science departments will continue a speaker series; War & Society film series; The Words to Say It series; and Great Decisions in Foreign Policy (sponsored by the Dyer Institute for Leadership and Public Policy).

While much effort goes to showcasing the achievements of faculty and students, and thus providing cultural events for the general public as well as the student body, the Edwards College consistently strives to enhance the educational experience of our majors and the other students at the University who take core classes in our disciplines. From offering bi-monthly professional development seminars for the faculty, to developing new degrees and holding discussions about our proposed contributions to the new core, to creating state-of-the-art spaces for learning, we have been extremely busy during the 2015-2016 academic year. The new program in digital culture and design will begin recruiting majors this spring, and the art history degree is set to roll out in the fall of 2016. The intelligence and national securities studies degree is now part of the Academic Common Market, promising to attract even more students from out of state, and work is proceeding on an ethics certificate. Ashes2Art, courses in digital culture and design, and projects sponsored by the Athenaeum Press are enjoying new computer facilities in EHFA 106 and renovated meeting and work spaces in EHFA 108 and 109. While photography is taking advantage of the new studio in EHFA 110, communication and theatre will be utilizing the new video facilities in EHFA 255 in the spring. Professors who wish to capture their lectures for online dissemination now have equipment available to them in EHFA 253.

Finally, Oct. 30 marked the dedication of the Chauncey statue that art professor Logan Woodle designed and created, with the help of his students, and the sculpture facilities that were built for this project continue to be utilized by art studio majors.

The humanities and fine arts faculty excel in scholarship and performance, and the Edwards College celebrates their achievements through an annual report, annual awards and with an Author’s Reception held each spring. Posters of all the books published by our faculty line the halls, along with the artwork of students and faculty members. The halls of Edwards are rarely quiet, even at night; they are filled with the sounds of dance, music, debate and acting, as students learn through doing both in class and through extracurricular activities.

Opportunities abound for students to get involved in the Edwards College, like Model UN, South Carolina State Legislature, Mock Trial, the Athenaeum Press, honor societies, clubs and internships. We offer leadership training through two programs: the Jackson Scholars and the Edwards College Research Fellows. The Jackson Scholars Program, which focuses on ethics, recruits from the entire University. Research fellows, who are selected from the freshmen who have declared majors in the college, are trained in primary and secondary research skills as they help produce the alumni magazine for the college, serve as peer mentors for our discipline-specific First-Year-Experience classes, and eventually work one-on-one with a faculty member in their home department. Both groups receive financial assistance—the Jackson Scholars for two years and the Fellows for three and a half years. Scholarships are also granted by our board of visitors, which sponsors two command performances a year to help raise funds for that purpose. The board also meets with student leaders from the college at networking dinners held each semester. We have also continued the successful academic coaching sessions, held three times a semester, to support student achievement, especially in core courses offered through our college.

To the families and students of Coastal, we extend an invitation to take advantage of all that the Edwards College has to offer. You will be assured of a warm welcome should you come to admire the art, attend a play or a musical performance, listen to a guest speaker, or engage in spirited discussion.
What’s been going on?

**University Strategic Planning**
During the fall, Coastal Carolina University started the process of creating a strategic plan for 2016-2021. The steering committee has held multiple focus groups with faculty, staff and students to get feedback on where the University is headed over the next several years. To view minutes from these discussions, visit coastal.edu/administration/strategicplanning.

**Chauncey’s Night 5K - 2015**
Nearly 750 runners registered to participate in the third annual Chauncey’s Night 5k on Friday, Oct. 30, 2015. The 3.1-mile glow run started on Chanticleer Drive near the baseball hitting facility and ended on the teal turf of Brooks Stadium. All finishers were able to watch themselves finish on the video screen and received a finishers Chauncey hat. The event was hosted by Coastal Carolina Athletics and Campus Recreation; 10 percent of the proceeds went to support Sigma Sigma Sigma’s philanthropy.

Congratulations to the top three female and male runners:

1. Forrest Dow, 17:37  
2. Ryan Dion, 17:50  
3. Michael Jones, 18:05

1. Kelsey Ehnle, 20:07  
2. Chelsea Leroue, 20:30  
3. Stephanie Kiley, 20:58

**Setting the Table 2015**
On Nov. 16, 2015, the Office of Leadership and Civic Engagement held the fifth annual Setting the Table Event. The event’s purpose is to participate in filling a basket of food and/or any Christmas items that will be distributed at Catholic Charities’ Thanksgiving Turkey and Trimmings Drive and Christmas Assistance Program. This year, more than 57 baskets were collected!

**Alternative Break Trips, Winter 2015**
After exams end, the Office of Student Life will take about 30 students on two different alternative break trips. Some students will be traveling to Give Kids the World in Orlando, Fla., to serve with the Office of Leadership and Civic Engagement. Students will volunteer their time to assist at a resort where families who have children with terminal illnesses can stay for free during their vacations in Orlando. Students will serve up meals, deliver pizzas and cookies, and celebrate an array of holidays and celebrations during the week.

Another group of students will be traveling with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life to volunteer at a homeless shelter for men in Atlanta, Ga. The students will stay in the facility for a week to assist with the daily operations of the facility. This group is collecting flip-flops, unopened medicine, cough drops and other daily essentials for the men at the facility. If you are interested, please send donations to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, 100 Spadoni Park Circle, Conway, SC 29528.

For more volunteer opportunities contact Elaine Giles, Coordinator of Civic Engagement, at 843-349-2939 or egiles@coastal.edu.
Chanticleer Athletics in Review

Women’s Soccer
The Chanticleer women’s soccer team had an excellent 2015 season. The Chants ended their regular season with an overall record of 12-7-1. The Lady Chants went 7-2-1 in conference play, unfortunately falling in the Big South semifinals. Head Coach Paul Hogan received Coach of the Year honors for the second consecutive season.

Men’s Soccer
The Chanticleer men’s soccer team ended the regular season ranked No. 19 in the nation. Even though they lost in the quarterfinals of the Big South Championship, they advanced to the NCAA Tournament. The Chanticleers fell to the Tarheels 2-1. The team ended the season with an overall record of 13-2-5.

Cross Country
Letitia Saayman finished first in the women’s 6k event on Nov. 13, 2015. Letitia is the only Chant to complete this feat in program history.

Football
The football team ended their season with a 41-38 loss to The Citadel in the first round of the NCAA FCS Tournament. The team finished the season with an overall record of 9-3.

Volleyball
The volleyball team finished its regular and conference tournament season with an overall record of 25-4, repeating as Big South Champions for the first time in school history. Leah Hardeman was named Big South Tournament MVP. The team will face Creighton in the first round of the NCAA tournament in Chapel Hill, NC on Friday, December 4.

Congratulations to all fall athletes who received All-Big South recognition awards!

**Winter Break Reminders**

Classes end Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2015.
Residence halls will close at noon on Friday, Dec. 11, 2015.
Coastal Carolina University will be closed Dec. 24-Jan. 1, 2016.
Residence halls will reopen at noon on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2016.

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