

F O R T H A Y S S T A T E U N I V E R S I T Y FOR PARENTS ONLY

SPRING 2012

NEWS FROM THE FHSU CAMPUS

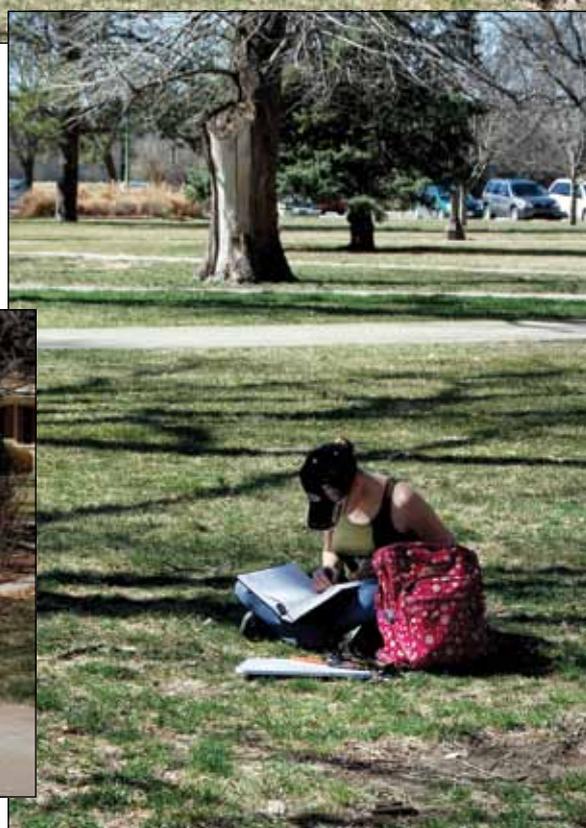
Volume 36, Number 2



A day in March that feels like May

For the last couple of weeks in February and into March, the weather had threatened to turn full-on spring.

Then, one day early in the second week of the month of lions and lambs, spring made an appearance, dressed in May-like warmth. And the Quad drew students like flowers draw bees.



Photos by Jessica Marston, Great Bend junior



Grant will help students hook into network for success

Thriving Tigers, a strategy at Fort Hays State University to encourage students to persist in their educations and finish their degrees, got a \$10,000 boost from AT&T recently.

FHSU President Edward H. Hammond thanked Cindy Zapletal (pronounced ZAP-luh-tall), director of external affairs for AT&T Kansas, at a news conference in Sheridan Hall.

“AT&T realizes, as do we here at Fort Hays State, that keeping students in school until they complete their studies is just as important as getting them in the door in the first place,” said Hammond.

Zapletal said AT&T’s primary mission is keeping kids in school, a project that has two parts.

“The first part of the initiative is to keep kids in school and make sure they get a high school diploma and are ready join the workforce or go on to college,” she said. “The second half is when they go to college, they stay in college and complete their courses of study.”

Thriving Tigers, said Hammond, seeks to boost student success by helping them get active and involved from the start of their college careers, keep them engaged, and put out warning signals when something goes wrong so that corrective measures can be taken.

Dr. Tisa Mason, vice president for student affairs, explained the program.

“At FHSU,” she said, “we recognize that attrition is not just a number. It represents students, real people, whose personal or academic problems go uncorrected until it’s too late.”

While most universities have services and programs to help, the students who need them most use them least. These students are unaware that the services are available, or reluctant to use them, or both.

“The challenge for us, then, is to encourage students to use existing resources when they need them and to become fully engaged in the campus life,” Mason said. “Thriving Tigers was designed to do just that.”

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■ The President's View



It's a fairly simple proposition, really. For today's college graduates to achieve maximum success, their education should be global.

At Fort Hays State University, we recognize that the world is growing smaller and that most careers are impacted by what is happening, not just locally and nationally, but internationally. We want our students to be forward thinking and world ready. Therefore, I thought it would be good to share with you the opportunities FHSU offers your son or daughter to study abroad.

These opportunities are many and varied. Students can participate in semester exchange programs and academic year exchange programs, or they can choose short-term, faculty-led international experiences. Many of our students like to start with the short-term opportunities. Those are often tied to a class they get credit for, and most take place during summer or spring breaks when they have more flexibility in their schedules. Many students feel more secure in the presence of a faculty member who is usually an experienced international traveler.

The Nursing Department has taken students to Brazil and Peru in recent summers and is planning another trip this summer. In another example, the Department of Modern Languages has arranged study-abroad experiences at the University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany.

As you might expect, we have seen that many students are emboldened by their short-term experiences and are inspired to go overseas again for a longer period of time.

A student who is interested in study-abroad opportunities can inquire in his or her academic department or ask for information in the Office of Student Affairs on the second floor of Sheridan Hall. Possibilities include the aforementioned University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany, FHSU's partner universities in China, a summer program in Barcelona, and St. John International University at Turino, Italy.

We also have partnerships with organizations such as the International Student Exchange Program, the Center for Cross-Cultural Study and the Center for Language Studies at Beloit College, Beloit, Wis. These are established partnerships that allow us to place students in various countries with confidence that their hours will count toward their FHSU degree.

Students who find information independently on the Web or elsewhere are also welcome to ask for further information and assistance from Student Affairs.

In some instances, I have been able to create partnerships that allow our students to study abroad at the same cost they would pay in Hays. At St. John International University in Italy, we made arrangements for our students to pay the same rate they would pay here by providing scholarships to cover any difference in the cost of tuition or housing.

Also, as part of our decade-long partnership with Sias International University, I selected three students to go to Sias this summer for a four-week study program at no cost to the students.

These various programs involve about 75 to 100 FHSU students annually, and we are trying to encourage more. They should take advantage of these opportunities while they are young, before they are tied down by jobs and families. In addition to giving them a much richer college education, it gives

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■ TECA students win national awards

Students from the Technology Education Collegiate Association at Fort Hays State University received the 2012 National ITEEA/TECA Manufacturing Team Championship Award at the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association Conference and Competitions in Long Beach, Calif. FHSU was among 16 participating colleges and universities. The students competed in six of the seven contests and placed in five.

FHSU also received a third-place plaque in the Teaching Lesson competition and fourth-place honors in the Transportation, Problem Solving and Communication competitions. FHSU also competed in Technology Challenge competition but did not place.

Two additional awards were given to FHSU. Zach Pixler, Pratt senior, received the TECA student Award of Distinction, and Kim Stewart, associate professor and interim chair of the Department of Technology Studies and the club's faculty advisor, was presented with the TECA Distinguished Faculty Advisor Award.

■ FHSU enrollment climbs to new record

At a news conference in September, FHSU President Edward H. Hammond announced that the official 20th-day enrollment for spring 2012 was 10,723, a 7.7-percent increase from the 20th-day 2011 spring enrollment of 9,955. "This is the first time our enrollment has exceeded 10,000 on the 20th day of a spring semester," he said. The 20th-day headcounts each spring and fall semester provide a snapshot for year-to-year comparisons. The all-time record 20th-day enrollment for spring 2012 will grow by approximately 1,300 students when late-reporting enrollments are received from China, taking it over 12,000.

On-campus enrollment grew by 232 students, to 4,305 from 4,073 in spring 2011, an increase of 5.7 percent. Virtual College enrollment grew by 399 students, to 4,572 from 4,173 students in spring 2011, an increase of 9.6 percent. Enrollment in the Chinese partnerships by the 20th day had grown by 137 students, to 1,846 from 1,709 on the 20th day in spring 2011, an increase of 8.0 percent.

■ FHSU team wins Leadership Challenge

Five Fort Hays State University Department of Leadership Studies students took first place in the recent Collegiate Division Leadership Challenge Event at Washburn University, Topeka. "The students engaged in a leadership simulation that challenged students to work together to solve a problem," said Dr. Jill Arensdorf, chair of the Department of Leadership Studies. "Each team member assumed a particular role through the three different rounds of competition."

The team was Laura Dougherty, Colby senior; Jason Dreiling, Great Bend senior; Tyson Miller, Colby junior; Jill Moeder, Hays senior; and Levi Unruh, Hays sophomore.

■ Forsyth Library is collections model

Fort Hays State University's Forsyth Library is one of six libraries in the nation that will participate in a year-long research study conducted by the Online Computer Library Center. The research focuses on improving the access to print, electronic and digital resources. Forsyth Library will provide collection data, circulation data and information about the library to OCLC. In turn, OCLC will register and provide access to Forsyth Library through WorldCat – the world's largest library catalog and a global network of library content and services – and syndicate the library's collections and services through partners such as Google Books.

OCLC has cited the Forsyth Library Digital Collections website as a model site based on its ease of access and quantity of diverse collections. Collections include the Digital Repository of Space Exploration, the Stafford County Historical Museum Collection, the George Sternberg Photo Albums and Negatives Collection, and the FHSU Art Collection as well as digital copies of academic journals and past editions of The Reveille, the FHSU yearbook. The is at <http://contentcat.fhsu.edu/cdm/>.

FORPARENTSONLY

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From Student Affairs

How can parents help their child succeed?

By Shana L. Warkentine Meyer

Many a college movie starts with the weeping mother blowing her nose as the strong father supports her, waving their goodbyes and blowing kisses as their student heads off to college. Once upon a time, there was no Facebook, cell phones, texting – heck, not even vehicles. Students are no longer going off to college only to be in contact with their parents over academic break times. Now more than ever, parents can have a significant role in their child's success in college.

Research shows that “at-risk” students have challenges in six common areas:

- Less knowledgeable about services.
- Less likely to use services.
- Less likely to get involved in co-curricular activities.
- Less knowledgeable about how colleges and universities are structured.
- More economically uncertain.
- Less parental support.

Parents can help the university tackle these student problem areas. How?

- Familiarize yourself with campus services and co-curricular activities and stress to your student the importance of using these services and getting involved. The website is an excellent tool for getting to know campus and the many available services and opportunities. Students pay an activity fee as part of their tuition, making many of the services available at FHSU free or significantly reduced in cost. Tutoring is FREE through Academic Success Programs, located in Picken Hall, room 117. Counseling for personal issues, test anxiety, and more is FREE through the Kelly Center, also located in Picken Hall, room 117.

- Students can visit the Center for Student Involvement, in the Lower Level of the Memorial Union, to learn about the more than 100 student organizations on campus. It is never too early or too late to build a resumé and develop a skill set by participating in student organizations!

- The university is a complex structure, with various colleges, majors, administrators, advisors, faculty and staff. There are many different buildings on campus, and some students are now living in the residence halls – with more residents than their hometowns! The family guidebook and tons of information on campus policies and services can be found at <http://www.fhsu.edu/parents/current/be-informed/>. The best piece of advice is – ASK. Fort Hays State University prides itself on its small-town feel and friendly people. There truly is no such thing as a “dumb” question. We're here to help!

- When students are economically uncertain, they tend to focus on work and picking up more hours to increase their paycheck. While personal responsibility and working on campus are great retention factors, working too much has the opposite effect. Students must choose to be a full-time student or a full-time worker. They can't be both. Students who work on campus can learn valuable skills while earning money (and learn more about the university!); can apply techniques learned in the classroom; minimize loans; enhance time

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U.S. News & World Report ranks FHSU in top tier nationally for quality of online education

U.S. News & World Report, the news magazine that produces one of the most popular annual rankings of universities, released this year its first-ever national rankings for online education. Fort Hays State University was among the leaders in most of the categories.

The news magazine evaluated online higher education in six categories: bachelor's programs generally, and master's programs in business, education, engineering, nursing and computer information technology. Bachelor's programs were evaluated according to three criteria: 1. teaching practices and student engagement; 2. student services and technology; and 3. faculty credentials and training. The five master's categories were evaluated by similar criteria plus a fourth criterion, admissions selectivity.

Dr. Edward H. Hammond, FHSU president, talked about the results at a news conference. “Out of the many hundreds of universities in the nation that offer online education, we were one of only 40 that was placed on an honor roll, which is the highest designation in the rankings,” he said.

He listed the categories and criteria in which FHSU was ranked:

- Bachelor's programs
- Teaching Practices & Student Engagement – sixth in the nation
 - Student Services & Technology – 10th in the nation
 - Faculty Credentials & Training – 35th in the nation

Master's programs

- Business (MBA), Student Services & Technology – fifth in the nation
- Business (MBA), Faculty Credentials & Training – 30th in the nation
- Business (MBA), Teaching Practices & Student Engagement – 106th in nation
- Business (MBA), Admissions Selectivity – 29th in the nation
- Education, Student Services & Technology – 14th in the nation
- Education, Faculty Credentials & Training – 15th in the nation
- Education, Teaching Practices & Student Engagement – 22nd in the nation
- Nursing, Student Services & Technology – sixth in the nation
- Nursing, Faculty Credentials & Training – 19th in the nation
- Nursing, Teaching Practices & Student Engagement – 15th in the nation

FHSU was given honor roll status in the Graduate Education category, which means it placed in the top third of at least three of the four evaluation criteria. It was among 14 universities that received honor roll status in that category. Those 14 universities were listed alphabetically, not in a numeric ranking order.



Photo by Mitch Weber, Fort Hays State University

Rededication and a gift

Timothy Fowler, executive secretary of the Valley of Salina, Scottish Rite Masons of the Orient of Kansas, presents a check for \$1,000 from the Knights of St. Andrew to Marla Staab, clinical coordinator of the Herndon Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic at FHSU. Looking on is Don Hamilton, almoner for the Valley of Salina Masons. The presentation came in addition to the rededication ceremony April 11. The gift was in addition to the \$15,000 provided by the Kansas Scottish Rite Foundation to support speech-language-hearing services for children who otherwise would not be able to afford care.

■ Thriving Tigers

Continued from page 1

The program is a Web-based initiative that capitalizes on three main findings of research. Students are more likely to stay in school if: they can identify even one person from whom they are comfortable seeking help; they are socially and academically committed to an institution; and they can make connections between what they are learning and life events.

"Thriving Tigers combines all of these elements," said Mason.

The program has three steps: TigerConnect is similar to social network sites, yet it is a "purpose" network – students can connect with the campus and other freshmen and find their purpose at FHSU by setting goals and getting their questions answered; TigerLink engages them further and is a resource for campus organizations as well; and TigerIQ, where warning flags will eventually

show up, creates opportunities to connect students to resources and services precisely when they need them most.

TigerConnect is primarily aimed at new freshmen. The heaviest period is early in the fall, when the freshmen are really new, said Lydia Fuqua, Jetmore junior and an orientation assistant in student affairs.

"I think a lot of kids are really intimidated by college," she said. "TigerConnect kind of eases them into the process."

TigerLink, the second step, is an online meeting place where students and student organizations can find each other, advertise events, coordinate activities and maintain rosters. Individual students will have a record of their memberships and activities to use in increasingly popular and necessary co-curricular transcripts to go with the formal academic transcripts.

For at-risk students, there is TigerIQ.

"Tiger IQ identifies at-risk students before it is too late for them to recover," said Kaley Klaus, Hays senior, first-

year experience student coordinator intern.

"When faculty feel a student in a course is struggling or seems to show unhealthy habits, they can refer a student. Then, the TigerIQ team looks over the referral and decides what the appropriate course of action would be and prepares an action plan."

Response has been tremendous, she said, with more than 200 referrals and more than 100 action plans since the launch in January.

Missed classes, bad grades, expressions of concern from parents, friends and faculty, all will show up in TigerIQ, which, said Klaus, is very easy to use. Parents or peers can click on the link to report a concern about their students or friends.

The AT&T contribution will defray costs of the software on which the system is built.

For more information on Thriving Tigers, contact the Office of Student Affairs at 785-628-4277 or go to the Web page at www.fhsu.edu/studentaffairs/.

■ CAMPUS CALENDAR

■ May

- 5 Final exams begin
- 11 Graduate School Commencement, 7 p.m., Gross Memorial Coliseum
- 12 Undergraduate Commencement, 10 a.m., Gross Memorial Coliseum
- 28 Memorial Day, university closed

■ June

- 4 Classes begin

■ July

- 2 Second session (4-week) courses begin
- 4 Independence Day, university closed
- 5 Classes resume
- 27 Summer term ends

■ August

- 20 Classes begin

■ September

- 3 Labor Day, university closed

■ October

- 5-7 Oktoberfest, Homecoming

■ November

- 19-23 Fall Break
- 22-23 Thanksgiving, university closed

■ December

- 8-14 Final examinations

For more specific information on individual events, go to the FHSU Master Calendar at www.fhsu.edu/calendar/

■ President's View

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them an advantage in the job market. More and more employers are looking for international experience when they hire college graduates.

We are also working to increase the number of students from other countries who study in Hays. Everyone benefits. Even FHSU students who do not study abroad gain by sharing classes and activities with study-abroad students and with international students.

I hope you will encourage your student to explore the opportunities to study abroad.

Information is available on the FHSU website at <http://www.fhsu.edu/exchange/study-abroad/> or you can contact Carol Solko-Olliff, director of International Student Services, at csolko@fhsu.edu or by calling 785-628-4276.

As always, I invite you to our campus to see firsthand where your student is living and studying. You are welcome to stop by my office in Sheridan Hall, room 312, call me at 785-628-4231 or e-mail me at ehammond@fhsu.edu.

Sincerely yours,



Edward H. Hammond, Ph.D.
President

■ From Student Affairs

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management skills; meet new people; develop references for future employment; and establish relationships with faculty and staff.

- Students and families tend to be conservative regarding student loans, but if a student fails a course due to working too many hours and not focusing on class, the class will have to be re-taken. The cost of working, in that case, may be greater than taking a loan and succeeding the first time. The Financial Assistance Office awards and delivers more than \$59 million worth of loans, grants, scholarships and employment funding from university, federal, state and private sources. Applying for and accepting aid can be confusing – the Financial Assistance Office is here to help! <http://www.fhsu.edu/finaid/>

Parents can educate themselves about the university from the website and from the many opportunities FHSU has created specifically for parents. The Parent Mailbox (<http://www.fhsu.edu/parents/current/Parent-Mailbox/>) features announcements and reminders about upcoming deadlines. The vice president for student affairs maintains an email listserv for parents who sign up. You may do so at <http://www.fhsu.edu/saform.aspx?ekfrm=12884909819> ParentConnect is the online resource designed to allow you to network with other parents and ask questions. Find out more at <http://www.fhsu.edu/parents/current/>

Sbana L. Warkentine Meyer is the assistant vice president for student affairs at Fort Hays State University.