Spring Break is right around the corner (April 17-21). And, if your student is traveling to mark the occasion, whether it is to another country or to a nearby state, you can offer your son or daughter the following reminders to make sure he/she stays safe:

- Don’t accept any drinks from unknown origins - No one ever knows if a colorless, odorless liquid “date rape drug” like GHB or Ketamine has been slipped into the drink with ill intent. If you choose to drink, know where your drink is coming from and don’t trust strangers. Better safe than sorry!
- Use the buddy system - In a new place, you’ll stay safest if you stick together.
- Don’t do anything illegal - The consequences are dire if you get arrested, especially in a foreign country.
- Wear sunscreen - If you’re doing an outdoor service project or lounging on the beach, sunscreen will prevent the burn that could ruin your skin for the long run. Plus, it’ll save your skin for the long run.
- Protect your eyes - Wear sunglasses with proper UV protection and also have a hat. Too much sun can damage your eyes.
- Keep your wits about you - Be smart with your personal safety and property. Carry your wallet close to your body so it’s difficult to pickpocket you. Don’t get so intoxicated that you make a bad decision and put yourself in a dangerous situation. Keep a clear head in order to keep yourself- and your friends- safe.
- Don’t go off with people you don’t know - Stick with your friends. Create a buddy system so some of you are never alone. There are times when trusting people you don’t know can end in a tragedy.

A safe Spring Break is very possible, as long as the students stay smart.

New! Open Access Scheduling

The Student Health Center is pleased to introduce a new “open access” scheduling method that focuses on getting students the care they need when they need it. Students can simply call or stop by, and set up an appointment within 24 hours.
Academic Probation

For many students, the first semester at the University did not end as they had hoped. Any student whose GPA falls below a 2.0 is placed on Academic Probation. It is very important that these students raise their GPA immediately. Students that continue on Academic Probation for over one semester are at risk of being disqualified from the University or of temporarily losing financial aid awards. Here are some tips to share with your student on how to have a successful semester:

• Go to class every day.
• Visit your professor’s office hours if you need extra help or clarification on course material.
• Utilize the Tutoring Center (in the library), it is free!
• Form a study group with your peers to study for exams.
• Review your schedule before the Census Date (March 13). Is it correct, do you need to drop any classes? Are you working too much?
• Ask your advisor if the Credit/No Credit grading option is a good choice for a class you are having trouble with.
• Stay focused, even if you failed one quiz or test. There is plenty of time to raise your grade.

Remedial Courses

Many freshman students were placed in Remedial English or Math courses. Remedial courses are pre-college level classes that a student must complete within one year of admission. Students admitted in Fall 2005 have until the end of Summer 2006 to complete all of the remedial coursework.

Before your student starts to plan his or her summer vacation, have a discussion about their remedial courses.

• Which Math and English class are you enrolled in?
• What classes do you still need to take to complete your remediation coursework?
• Have you gotten a tutor (in the library) for these classes?
• Do you know what your current grade(s) is in your remedial classes?

Students in remedial courses typically get a hold placed on their registration that requires them to see the Remediation Coordinator in First Year Programs and Advising. However, it is always the student’s responsibility to make sure that they are fulfilling all University requirements.

Get Involved with Family Weekend 2006

Family Weekend 2006 will be held in October. This month we will begin planning for this event. Family Weekend will be a large event that will require the collaboration of many staff, faculty, students, community and family members. Some components of Family Weekend include entertainment, theatre, sporting events, food gatherings, department open houses and workshops, and an optional local area tour. To get involved with Family Weekend please do one of the following:

• Attend our first planning meeting, Wed. March 15 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in MSR 130C (please RSVP).
• Give us your suggestions for the event by email or phone.
• Volunteer to help out at the event by calling the Parents Program office.