Hello! Welcome to our first Parent Chat of this year! Admin 1 is Meta Laabs, Director of Student Affairs Administration. I will let the others introduce themselves.

Hey there! I am Kate Howard, Assistant Director of Recruitment & Orientation. I'm Admin 3 today.

Hi! Welcome parents. Admin 4 is Jane Clement of the University Counseling Center.

Well, we are open for questions...anything you want to ask!

This is Bill Porter, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students. I work with Residence Life, Dining Services, the new University Center and with many of the student organizations and programs.

Hi! I have a question. What is involved in Parent Weekend?

Speaking of the new University Center, wow, it is really going up! You can look at its progress at http://saweb.memphis.edu/uc/newuc/ConstructionWebCam.htm. We can even see windows going in today, Dr. Porter!

How are things going for your students so far this fall?

Thanks for getting us going Mom 1! Parents Weekend last year included a myriad of events, Greek All Sing, President's Leadership Awards, The Blue/Gray football game and a reception and chat with President Shirley Raines.

The new University Center really is very exciting! We're seeing progress every day. We're scheduled to open late next fall. It is going to be a real center of student life and a great addition to the campus.

Mom 1, we have done traditional weekends in the fall in the past and have had limited success with them. We may try something again in the future but nothing is scheduled for this year. Mainly when you come to campus you want to see your child and they want to go out to eat and go to Target!

When do the fraternities rush?

That's exactly what I needed to know. I wasn't sure if dorms and/or sports teams did something with the parents. We can certainly do dinner and Target! :)

Memphis Mom: When do the fraternities rush?
Admin 3: Memphis Mom, the fraternities are doing their formal recruitment process this week.

Admin 1: Mom 1, Good point! Often fraternities and sororities do their own Parent functions which are great fun!

Mom 1: Thanks!

Admin 3: Mom 1, also you may want to schedule your visit around a game day as those are fun activities where you can see your student and attend an event.

Tiger-Fan 95: When you expect the new university center to open?

Shell: How many credit hours and what GPA are required to pledge these days?

Mom 1: Ok, another question. If a student needs to take final exams a week or so early, does he/she need special permission from anyone other than the teacher of those classes?

Admin 2: "Formal" recruitment for the Interfraternity Council fraternities is going on right now, but many fraternities are interested in looking at potential new members at other times.

Admin 1: Mom 1, No, just the professor - most everything is between the student and the professor.

Mom 1: Perfect ... thanks!

Admin 2: We expect the new University Center to open late next fall, Fall 2009.

Admin 3: Shell, Many Greek groups take students as freshman. However some do require that students are into their sophomore year. The GPA requirements vary, but they tend to be no lower than a 2.5.

Admin 4: Parents for your information the University Counseling Center is located in Wilder tower 214. We provide psychological and career counseling to students. Our services are free. We see students who are confused about majors and career choices. Also, we see students who have issues with anxiety, depression, relationship problems, shyness, and homesickness. Please encourage your son or daughter to come by and talk with one of our counselors about any of these issues.

Admin 1: You all haven't told us how your kids are doing almost a month into school?

Memphis Mom: My child keeps telling me they are "stressed out" over school. I have given suggestions, but he doesn't listen to mom, so what should I do?
Tiger-Fan 95: Thanks, Admin 2. We are all looking forward to it!

Mom 1: Our child LOVES college! Everything from classes to sports to social lives are, thankfully, going very well! (Is this the last year for students to live in South Hall?)

Shell: I have sophomore twins that seem to be better suited than last year; they moved out the dorm and are living in an apartment on campus.

Florence: Is it customary for the teacher in a Chemistry recitation to always cover the next chapter of material even if the students need help with the present material?

Admin 4: Memphis Mom, encourage him to come by the counseling center and talk with one of us. Students can come one time or many times. If he would just like information about coping with stress, we can work with him on this, as well.

Admin 1: Shell, that is interesting, do they live together?

Memphis Mom: Thanks!

Shell: Sort of, they have separate rooms but still share a bathroom.

Admin 2: Mom 1, West Hall actually closed last year. A great new residence complex is going up on that site. It will have 490 beds and is specifically designed for students in similar academic programs to live together.

Memphis Mom: Are any special events planned for parents during homecoming?

Admin 3: Florence, I would imagine that the instructor feels that they need to keep moving forward for the good of the class as everyone may not be having trouble. If your student is having problems, there is a tutoring room in the Chemistry Building, Smith Hall, where he/she can go in anytime during regular business hours and get help with a particular question. I will try to find the room number.

Shell: I have an architecture question? Does anyone know when the Masters Program might be accredited?

Shell: One of my sons go to the Chemistry tutoring.

EB: Will Mynders dorm ever be fully air conditioned?

Mom 1: So West Hall is where students will live instead of South Hall after this year? (I know sophomores and upper classmen sometimes do not live in dorms though after their freshman year.)
Admin 4: By the way, all of our counseling is strictly confidential. No one can find any information about whether an individual comes to counseling unless he or she signs a release of information.

Florence: Our student says that there are several in the class who are struggling, but feel the recitation isn't helping because it does not cover present material. Is it possible to go to the professor?

Cincin: Hi!

Postmaster Mom: Why doesn't the diner in Richardson Tower stay open later than 3:00 pm on Fridays?

Tom: My daughter seems to be making a good transition from home life to campus life at U of M. I attribute a good deal of that to the success of your orientation process and her experience at Frosh Camp over the summer.

Admin 4: Florence another place your student could do would be to go to ESP which is located in Mitchell Hall. Free tutoring is available for all students.

Admin 2: EB and Mom 1, Air conditioning Mynders Hall will be a huge task that will probably have to be done as part of a larger renovation. We still plan to operate South Hall even after the new residence complex opens. We actually have a good number of students who live with us after their freshman year.

Admin 3: Shell, it is my understanding that the MA in Architecture is well on its way if not already accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board. I know that they have already done the site visit for that accreditation.

Admin 1: Great feed, Memphis Mom, if you are a member of the Parents Club, we have a brunch that day with the President, other administrators and nominees for Parent of the Year. There is a parade the night before, race that morning, and just lots going on everywhere. Here is a link that will be updated frequently http://www.memphis.edu/alumni/homecoming.php.

Admin 3: Florence, definitely have your student talk to the professor one on one! That is the best way.

Admin 2: Postmaster Mom, It's really a question of demand. There just aren't many students who want to eat on campus on Friday evenings.

Shell: Last I checked, which was last night, it was not listed on the NAAB as accredited. I have a son in the undergraduate program that is why I’m concerned.

Admin 1: Tom thanks so much! Orientation and Frosh Camp are keys to retention which is what we are all about!!
Admin 3: Tom, I am so glad that your daughter is having a successful start!

Admin 2: Tom thanks for the comment on Frosh Camp. It sounds like your daughter had exactly the kind of experience Frosh Camp is designed for.

Postmaster Mom: Does our student have to move everything out during Christmas break? Freshman, can't you tell!

Florence: Thank you, I will pass on the information to the students.

Memphis Mom: Where does it list things to do on campus, like movies, on the web site?

JP: I agree, I had to drag my son to Frosh Camp but then he loved it!!

Mom 1: Do campus officers/security "patrol" campus 24/7 or are they "available" 24/7?

Admin 3: Shell, give Michael Haggee a call at 678-2677. I couldn't get him on the phone but he will have the update on that progress

Shell: Any leads on work-study jobs? We have work-study money and one of my sons has applied to all the posted jobs, over 12, and still no hire.

Shell: Thanks Admin 3!

Admin 1: Memphis Mom, the Helmsman, the daily newspaper, lists lots of activities. There are also lots of things posted at http://saweb.memphis.edu/Leadership/SAC_Guide.pdf.

Admin 3: Mom 1, Officers are patrolling 24/7 and the dispatch is 24/7/365. Your student should always take advantage of the services that are offered including Tiger Patrol. Are you familiar with that?

Admin 4: Mom 1 psychologists are also available 24/7 for emergencies.

Postmaster Mom: Does the campus have any type of "store" to get things that normally would be purchased from Wal-Mart or Target or does the bookstore have personal items?

Shell: My son just texted me and said he's doing ok in chemistry because he still goes to tutoring.

Memphis Mom: Is there an online version of the Daily Helmsman that parents can read?

Mom 1: I am not familiar with Tiger Patrol. Can you give details please?

Admin 3: The bookstore does have some personal items, and there is also a small "convenience" store located in the lobby of Richardson Towers
Admin 2: Postmaster Mom, Students do not have to move everything out of their rooms over the holiday break but we encourage them to take valuables with them. Also, only students in Carpenter Complex and Richardson Towers have access to their rooms during the break. Other halls are completely closed until a few days before spring semester starts.

Sunshine: My daughter had evening classes so I have encouraged her to call Tiger Patrol for a ride. She stated that it takes too long. Is there a response time or can they at least tell her how long it would take?

EB: The online version of the Daily Helmsman is located at www.dailyhelmsman.com/

Admin 3: Tiger Patrol is an escort service run by Police Services from dusk until 2:00 AM, and then the police take over

Mom1: Cool! I was unaware of that!

Admin3: Essentially if your student feels uncomfortable walking after dark they should call Tiger Patrol. Often there may be a wait time, but I would say that it is worth the roughly ten minutes it may take.

Admin1: Shell, that is too bad. He should keep looking. He could also walk into the Rec Center, they hire a lot of people. I'd be glad to talk to him in person in Administration 235, Meta Laabs. Also student employment jobs that don't say work-study can also hire him as work-study.

Regular student employment: http://www.enrollment.memphis.edu/FinancialAid/sestuemp2.html


Admin 3: If the wait time for Tiger Patrol exceeds a reasonable amount of time, just call police services and they will respond

Admin 1: EB, thanks!!

Admin 1: We love it when parents do the answering!!

Admin 1: Hello Daisy - I remember you from last year!!

Tiger-Fan 95: Mom 1: Here is the link to Tiger Patrol http://bf.memphis.edu/police/tigerpatrol.php
Mom 1: Thanks a bunch!

Daisy 88: 1st and foremost, thank you to the Administration for taking time out of their impossibly busy days to join in this chat. My junior still loves U of M, lives on campus, and enjoys being a student. New parents, this is the best forum for us since our children are not the best communicators. The website is also a fountain of information.

Memphis Mom: Thanks for the info!

Admin 3: Thanks tiger fan!

Admin 1: And we do NOT pay Daisy to say these things!

Daisy 88: Tiger Patrol is an excellent tool! Students can sign parents up and you are immediately notified of all events.

Admin 3: Daisy 88, thanks for encouraging others! We want to make sure all your questions are answered and that you are aware of our services.

Daisy 88: Daisy is an alum and proud of it!!

Mom 1: What do students sign parents up for at Tiger Patrol? Maybe I need to suggest that my student do this too. :)

Mom 1: Or maybe I just need to go to the website

Admin 1: Parents, we post the transcripts of these sessions, so you don't need to write things down. This chat will be online tomorrow at http://saweb.memphis.edu/studentaffairs/parent_chat.htm

Admin 3: Daisy 88, I think what you are referring to is actually TigerText not Tiger Patrol. Students have to voluntarily register but can register up to 2 cell phone numbers, yours and theirs. It is for emergency notifications.

TigerText Website: https://bf.memphis.edu/tigertext

Daisy 88: All the folks that patrol the campus (and there are many) are just wonderful, remember our students, especially the dorm residents.

Admin 1: We do have an excellent police staff!

Daisy 88: Thanks for the clarification. There are so many tools available, I get confused!

Mom 1: Ok, we are aware of TigerText. That is such a great tool!
Does tiger text roll over each year or do you have to sign up every year?

We have a sophomore this year at U of M and are very pleased and excited with everything that goes on at U of M. The Frosh Camp is a great experience for the kids! Hello to Admin 3 from Cincin Murph! Hope everyone has a good day. Look forward to future Parent Chat Sessions.

Ok, now I have a question for you, if we offered a trip, say in May, for parents and students to take together, abroad or in the United States, would you be interested? If we could include as part of the trip the option of the student getting a course credit, would you be more interested?

Daisy 88, We really do have a great staff who are concerned about the safety of our students. Of course, campus police but also our residence hall staff and many others.

My daughter is a freshman and has a 6:50 am English class. Are there many students walking about the campus that early in the morning? Her preferred parking is the Central lot as she says she does not have to be stressed out for parking.

Welcome, Ms. Murphy! Glad you could join us, and I saw your daughter just yesterday. She's doing great!

Back to the on-campus student store needs, there are local retailers on Walker that cater to student hours.

You all have raised an interesting question; does TigerText roll over each year? None of us are sure of that; we will post the answer in the transcript tomorrow.

Tiger Text

Students do not need to sign up for Tiger Text every year. When students initially sign up for Tiger Text they can indicate an expiration date. Students can check the status of their Tiger Text account by logging in at https://bf.memphis.edu/tigertext/index.php. Once in the account, the expiration date is listed under Account Information on the Dashboard Tab.

Mel’s Mom, you would be surprised just how many people are on campus that early, not me but lots!

Admin 1, I would be interested but I have a Senior in high school graduating in May so I hope it would not be a conflict.

Lighting and patrols have improved greatly on campus recently.

Early or late, students are well-protected.
Memphis Mom: I would be very interested in a trip abroad where my son could receive credit also.

Florence: I have had the opportunity to take an overseas trip with the U of M and my student and had a great time. I would be very interested in this again, especially if they were given a few credits for it.

Admin 3: Memphis Mom, send your student to the study abroad office, scholarships available for many students

Baye: I would be interested in a trip especially if given credit

Admin 3: Check out this web site on study abroad info! http://www.memphis.edu/abroad/

Memphis Mom: What are examples of past trips? How many days? Location?

Mel’s Mom: I would be interested as well

Cincin: Speaking of security: Our daughter lived in Richardson Tower last year and is renting a house near campus this year and we feel like security is great at U of M.

Admin 3: This is an amazing opportunity for students!

Mom 1: Great!

Admin 1: In regards to trips, we are just pondering a new thing. Encouraging parents and students to travel as a group and possibly add a credit course. This is separate from the array of things they can do via study abroad. The parent-student trip would be like a 7-14 day trip.

Admin 4: We are thinking about starting a study tour for students with parents. This would be about a two week trip to several countries in Europe. The study tour is in the formation stage, depending on how many parents and students want to travel.

Memphis Mom: So, we would travel as a group, correct?

Daisy 88: Now that is an awesome idea!

Admin 2: We appreciate the good comments about security on campus. But we also want everyone to be aware that we are all responsible for own security. We tell students all the time to watch their surroundings, secure their "stuff", use Tiger Patrol, watch out for each other, etc.

Admin 1: Yes, Memphis Mom, this would be like a trip the alumni association currently promotes but we would promote it as a parent/child trip
Admin 4: Yes, the group would travel together. We would have scheduled sites to visit and group transportation and lodging.

Daisy 88: True - can never be too aware these days....

Admin 1: Dr. Clement, Admin 4, has done trips like these for years - she is a total expert and she is interested in doing this with us - yea!!!

Daisy 88: Can get better deals as a group and increased access to local sites.

Admin 4: Of course, group travel offers better costs and often more opportunities to experience the sites. These tours tend to visit both the large cities and small cities abroad.

Admin 1: Future parent chats will usually have a topic and then other things can be discussed - what are some future topics you would suggest?

Memphis Mom: Thank you so much for the info! Ya'll do a great job at keeping the parents informed! I'm very pleased my son chose the University of Memphis!

Admin 1: We will pass that on to Dr. Raines, Memphis Mom!

Admin 4: Additionally, the meals or some of the meals are included. The travel usually by bus/coach or train between cities offers an excellent opportunity to share the experiences with fellow travelers/students.

Memphis Mom: Future topic ideas, Parent/Student trips, Parent Club, campus news and updates

Admin 1: Have we answered everyone's questions? Things got a bit busy for awhile!

Daisy 88: I am anxious to see how the new "Gateway to U of M" works out especially since the new University Center is going to be a great improvement.

Postmaster Mom: How should my son start seeking advisor help for next semester's courses?

Jazz Freak: Hello I just joined

Admin 1: Good idea, Daisy! We will ask our Campus Planning Director to join a future chat and send you links to our master plan.

Admin 2: As an "alum" of one of Admin 4's trips I can say they are a great balance between fun and education. It would be great if our students and parents could take advantage of one of her trips. But in general, the university is doing much more to encourage students to go abroad, including more financial assistance. Encourage your students to visit the Student Abroad office.
Admin 1: hi, Jazz Freak

Daisy 88: Thanks! The campus is already beautiful, and that "Gateway" is a really good idea, especially for visitors.

Admin 3: Postmaster Mom, your son needs to contact his academic advisor in the month of October, so that he can register at the earliest opportunity. He should know who is advisor is from orientation.

Daisy 88: Advisors available all year - right?

Memphis Mom: Got to go! Thanks and hope everyone has a great afternoon!

Admin 1: Group, by "Gateway to the U of M", I believe Daisy is referring to the hope that a spot on Highland Avenue may become the future main front door of the university. A lot of development is currently in process on Highland - exciting things!!

Admin 4: Advisors are available all year. Appointments need to be made.

Daisy 88: Advisors can be so very helpful in guiding a student who is unsure of what they want their future to hold.

Postmaster Mom: Thank you for all the information. Great help for a nervous freshman mom!

Mom 1: Do you know when the baseball schedule will be posted?

Shell: Thanks everyone! I am signing off. I’ll look for this transcript tomorrow.

Daisy 88: Postmaster Mom, you will grow to just love the U of M and the life experience it affords your student, and I am not saying that just because I am an Alumni!

Jazz Freak: Hi, who should my freshman son meet and talk with regarding scholarships?

Admin 3: Mom 1, the 2009 baseball schedule will be posted on the athletics web site, www.gotigersgo.com, but it is typically released in late fall.

Baye: Future Topic Idea: financial aid, scholarship opportunities for next year

Mom 1: Thanks!

Admin 1: Mom 1, the schedule may not be totally finalized yet. The basketball one was just released.

Mom 1: If classes are cancelled due to bad weather, ice or storm for example, are the dining locations still open for students who have meal plans?
Admin 3:  Jazz Freak, if your son is looking for new scholarships he will want to go by the departmental office for his major, but a great place for any student to start is 107 Wilder Tower in the scholarship office.

Admin 1:  We are close to ending our time. This has been a fantastic session! Thank you for your enthusiasm and questions and your support of your students. We are all here because we want to be and we are lucky to be able to work with our head and our hearts in our jobs.

Admin 2:  Mom 1, Yes, we certainly want students to eat, even on a snow day. There may have to be some modifications to locations and hours but they can eat.

Daisy 88:  Thanks yet again for an excellent forum, see you all at the next chat.

Mom 1:  Thanks so much for answering such random questions! It has been most helpful, especially for freshman parents. :)

Admin 1:  Have a good week and let's hope those Tigers get a W this weekend!!

Jazz Freak:  Thanks Admin 3, can one apply now for a new scholarship?

Admin 4:  Parents please feel free to contact any of us at the counseling center at (901) 678-2068 if you have questions about our counseling services. Encourage your sons and daughters to come by 214 Wilder Tower if they have any career or personal issues.

Sunshine:  Thank you administrators for taking the time to answer our questions.

Sunshine:  It has been a very informative session.

Admin 3:  They can apply for scholarships, but most of our scholarships (academic, merit ones) are awarded to first time freshman.

Baye:  Thanks for time today! It has been most helpful for a freshman Mom!

Admin 2:  These have been great questions. Believe me, we appreciate the opportunity to answer any and all that come our way.

Band Mom:  I enjoyed “listening”. Thanks

Jazz Freak:  My son has a scholarship; can he apply to get additional, Merit-based??

Tiger-Fan 95:  Yes, thank you administrators! You all are really great!

Admin 3:  Jazz Freak, he can apply for more through our general scholarship application. Tell him to pick one up in 107 Wilder.
Admin 1: The next parent chat date and topic will be announced in the parent e-news that will be sent out by the end of September. It will be sometime in October.

Jazz Freak: Thanks Admin 3! Is there any person in particular that he should ask for to discuss his situation in 107 Wilder? Is there someone within his major that he should discuss scholarships with?

Admin 3: April Tyson is our Associate Director of Financial Aid for Scholarship, but all the folks in there are most helpful.

Jazz Freak: Who makes the decision? How does the process work?

Admin 3: What is his department, and I will try to suggest someone?

Jazz Freak: Music

Admin 3: We have an extensive amount of private scholarships with varied requirements, and they are awarded competitively to those who meet the requirements.

Admin 3: Also, he should see Kay Yager in the music department!

Admin 3: Kay is a great contact on the front end and can also help current students

Jazz Freak: Is she the one who allocates the funds?

Jazz Freak: Thanks!

Tiger-Fan 95: Jazz Freak you might check their website also for more information.

http://www.memphis.edu/scholarships/

Admin 3: No, no one person actually has that decision-making power rather it is a collective group effort

Admin 3: Thanks for helping Tiger-Fan!

Admin 1: Goodbye until next time, back to the real world

Admin 3: Thanks to all of you!

Admin 3: Great chat!

Tiger-Fan 95: Thanks, again! Bye!

Jazz Freak: Great inputs, great positive feedback, my first chat with Memphians!

Jazz Freak: Thanks Admin 3 and all ... have a most swinging day ... keep the music alive