University of Memphis Parent Chat  
October 21, 2009  
Topic: General Discussion

Raymond: Hello Britt, Parent, and Student Mom! We be the parents so far, I suppose. :)

Raymond: My daughter is a Senior this year.

StudentMom: Hi, I'm obviously a parent and can only post info and then run because of company rules.

Admin1: Hello - welcome to our Chat today. We can talk about anything that you like. But we have experts with us today also. Our vice president for student affairs, Dr. Rosie Phillips Bingham - she knows everything!! Courtney Pierce from Career Services knows all about internships and job. Danny Armitage knows all about conferences which can be held on campus, as well as residence life and dining services. and Kate Howard who many of you know from Orientation, also knows about EVERYTHING!! I'll let them introduce themselves.

Admin1: Raymond, good for you - you got us going before WE were here!!

Raymond: I'm like that. :)

Admin1: Raymond, is your daughter on her job search yet?

Admin5: Welcome to our Chat! I am Courtney Pierce, Assistant Director in Career Services

StudentMom: My workplace doesn’t permit “chat” so I will have to read the chat transcript later. I will post my three questions/concerns separately. While home on Fall Break my student complained of lack of Friday evening meal options and limited weekend meal options. In last month’s chat Admin1 and Admin2 sounded like they would check into the lack of Friday evening dining options and the limited weekend dining options. What is the outcome and what will be changed for Spring semester to meet students’ needs?

Admin4: Hey, folks! I am excited to be with you today. I am Kate Howard from the Recruitment & Orientation Services office.

Raymond: She is looking into the Peace Corps, to my knowledge. Or grad school, perhaps.

StudentMom: My workplace doesn’t permit “chat” so I will have to read the chat transcript later. Here is my second question: Will the housing costs for the new dorms
on Patterson be equivalent to the Carpenter Complex rental, or will they be more? When will rates be announced? (I ask because hear that students have to sign up for housing pretty soon and our family will need to budget ahead for each semester and each academic year)

StudentMom: My workplace doesn’t permit “chat” so I will have to read the chat transcript later. Here is my last question: Why is the General Chem I Recitation class (Tuesday at 11:20 am) working on content that is two weeks ahead of where they are in their lecture class? The students say they asked the Recitation Instructor to sync up with the lecture class, but nothing changed. The students also say they aren’t comfortable talking with the Chemistry Professor, even though they are struggling with content. Would you pass this info to Gen Chem I professor for MWF 8AM lecture class so the concern stays anonymous?

StudentMom: Got to get offline now. Thanks and I look forward to reading answers at home where chat is allowed. : )

Britt: Congrat Raymond! Mine is a Junior. Have there been many more flu cases since last month and where can nursing students get free flu and H1N1 shots?

Admin4: Student Mom, Let's talk about chemistry...

Admin4: Your student needs to talk with the Chemistry professor - the lecture prof, that is-as he is the lead professor and will work with the Recitation folks to insure what is happening.

Admin 1: we will also alert the Chemistry department.

Admin1: Student Mom, do you mean you have to leave the chat early - ok, i see now - we'll answer them.

Admin4: Also, if your student feels less than confident in talking to the prof in lecture class have him/her reach out to the advisor in the College of Arts & Sciences.

Admin1: Britt, there have been more flu cases but not a significant amount. I believe our campus has run out of the regular flu shots and the H1N1 is not on campus yet. I believe there will be a charge for the H1N1 shots unless the nursing students have something special worked out. i'll chat on this and post on the transcript.

Admin 1: H1N1 is not on campus yet and all students will be charged. This has been a very “changing” scenario so you may know more than we do!

Admin4: StudentMom, The advisor's name is Patsy Krech, and she can be reached at pakrech@memphis.edu or 678-3374
From Ms. Krech: The Chemistry Department is aware of the difference in timing with some of the recitation classes. This is a difficulty caused when trying to coordinate the teaching schedules of the different faculty in the department, some of whom spend more time on a topic in class if students need more explanation, and then get behind the schedule of topics being taught in the recitation class. The best thing for students to do is to talk with their faculty member for suggestions, either during office hours or during one of the Chemistry Help sessions with the faculty member involved: http://www.chem.memphis.edu/undergrad/chc_F09.htm

Admin4: Thanks to all the folks who have joined us!

Admin5: Has any of your students participated in an internship or in the process?

Admin4: Do you all have any burning issues? Have you encouraged your students to see their academic advisor yet for the Spring semester?

Admin1: how did Fall Break go, parents? did you see your students?

Admin3: Student Mom, we have meal options available on Friday evening and weekends in Tiger Den. Sales during the week however are significantly higher than weekends. With the limited sales, we offer fewer options. However, we have at least 4 concept options open on weekends which include subway, grill, pizza, chick fil a and grab and go.

bandMom: My son is a sophomore in engineering and he is interested in an internship.

Admin2: hello i am here

Admin4: Great, band mom!

Admin4: I know that we have some wonderful co-ops in the Herff College of Engineering. Have your son connect with some of his profs

Admin4: What is he studying specifically?

bandMom: are internships available for sophomores?

Admin3: Student Mom, with the new UC we plan to offer a broader variety on weekends with a restaurant option and Dunkin Donuts for more grab and go breakfast concepts.

Admin5: Bandmom: Have your son visit our office, 400 Wilder Tower. I would be happy to discuss internship opportunities with him

Admin1: Admin2 is our vice president for student affairs, Dr. Rosie Phillips Bingham
Hockey Mama: My student has also complained about the limited meal options and times on the weekend. The meals on the weekends do not offer many healthy selections. My son says that he is sick of Subway. Instead of gaining the freshman 25, he's lost 20 lbs.

Admin4: Bandmom, there are some opportunities for sophomores, but he is more likely to have those as a junior and senior.

carmel: are there regular student employment positions available other than listed on My Memphis? my daughter is looking for a part time job where they can work around her school schedule

http://www.memphis.edu/financialaid/sestuemp2.php

bandMom: His major is electrical/computer engineering.

Hockey Mama: Dunkin' Donuts is also not a healthy option.

Admin5: Bandmom: usually students participate in internships during their Junior/Senior year at the UofM. I would encourage him to begin the process of searching for the internship now. He would need to begin getting his resume together

Admin3: StudentMom, the new housing complex will actually price out lower than Carpenter. It has a majority of double rooms and is geared more toward freshmen and sophomores. However, singles are available for upper-class students and should be in the same range or a little lower than Carpenter

Admin4: carmel, thanks for the question about student employment. In my experience, there are many jobs that are not advertised on the student employment site.

Admin4: Have your student visit some places that tend to hire in large quantities: IT department, bookstore, dining services, library, etc

Admin5: Bandmom: encourage your son to attend the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Career Fair on April 7, 2010 from 1:00-4:00 Rose Theatre

Britt: Since Fall break is only two days, my daughter said she had too much studying to do to travel home. She is in the nursing program which is a lot of work so I appreciated her desire to study. Some colleges get an entire week, so is there any chance UofM can consider giving students a week break?

Admin3: Hockey Mom, Dunkin Donuts is historically not considered a healthy option. However, they have entered into a range of breakfast options, bagels and other items
that are deemed healthy. I was surprised to see the new menu options that they will be offering outside of doughnuts.

Admin4: Those are always great options with flexible schedules as far as student employment

bandMom: Thanks! I will make sure he knows about the Career Fair.

carmel: are the jobs listed in Wilder Tower?

Tigress Mom: My daughter was home on Fall Break and told me about the armed robberies on campus as well as a man getting into the Rawls Dorms showers, can anyone here tell me what has been done to see that no more of these incidents take place?

Hockey Mama: I'm from Boston. There are 5 Dunkin's within a 2 mile radius of my house. I'm very familiar with their menu.

Raymond: You asked about burning issues. I have a smoldering issue. My daughter is a Senior. After going through Freshman orientation with her, I urged the University to join the Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. But it seemed to fall on deaf ears. Now that she's a Senior, I'll make this one more time. U of M should become an institutional member of the Coalition and set an example for other state schools. That's my issue today.

Admin5: Carmel: we do have jobs listed in a binder in our office, but I would encourage your student to visit our website, www.memphis.edu/careerservices and search for jobs on our online job posting database, eRecruiting.

Admin2: Britt, The number of days of student attendance is set by the Tennessee Board of Regents. We also use a Common calendar for TBR schools. In order to go to a weekend long break TBR would need to change the calendar and we would have to add some days somewhere. Think we ought to pursue that?

Admin4: I love Boston & Dunkin' Donuts! Believe it or not, there are many healthy options on campus. Your students do have to seek those out though.

Admin1: are your students excited about the new University Center opening?

Admin5: carmel: If your student has any questions about eRecruiting please refer him/her to our office, 400 Wilder Tower

Admin4: parent2011, we have not heard from you? What's going on in your student's life?
Admin3: Tigress Mom, there have been robberies in the University of Memphis area, but not on campus. Police have issued safety alerts and we have picked up patrolling in areas near campus as well as maintaining patrols on campus. In response to the Rawls incident, we have changed our lobby male visitor process. We are adding locks to the restroom shower facilities and have added a camera to an area that we think was a point of entry. We are working with the students and expanding security efforts in the lobbies.

Admin5: Has your student developed a resume?

Admin2: Raymond thanks for raising the issue again. As you know the University is a very large place and usually a department takes a lead on joining one thing or the other. I don't know if there is a department that is affiliated with this coalition. We could refer your request to the Center for Research on Women or the Social Work program to see if there is any involvement. We will follow up on that.

parent2011: Nothing to complain about, thanks for asking, Admin4!

Admin4: If not complaints, how about good news?

bandMom: My son enjoys eating at Richardson Towers. He has discovered that he likes sushi. He did notice that prices had gone up and he has already used his declining balance.

Admin1: then tell us something your student loves about UM!!

carmel: no, she is a freshman and just needs some spending money and gas money to give us a little break financially

Admin4: Uh-oh, bandmom! I have heard that several folks are out of money$…

Raymond: Admin2, I would even pay the membership fee, if the University would join the TCADSV. It's such a worthy cause, and so pertinent to girls away from home for the first time, too. Boys too.

Admin 1: Raymond, we have talked with several offices and will directly contact you back.

parent2011: We are really excited about the upcoming basketball season!! We are keeping our fingers crossed!
Hockey Mama: My son has found all of the healthy options and utilizes them every day. He's getting bored with that and he is only a Freshman. Are there plans to add other healthy alternatives? More whole grains, low fat options?

Tigress Mom: Thank you, her Dad and I feel better knowing that steps are being taken to prevent any further incidents.

Admin4: Parent2011, me too! Memphis Madness was amazing. Josh is going to serve us well as head coach

Admin1: parent 2011, did your student go to midnight madness last Friday?

Admin3: bandmom, He can use meal equivalency for sushi in many locations if he is on a meal plan. He can also add to DB dollars through Tiger Dining. You would be amazed at how much Sushi we sell.

Admin4: Hockey Mama, does your son have a car? He should try some off-campus options for variety or eating in his room

Admin2: Raymond, Thanks for the offer. Let me check it out with those 2 areas and see what they are doing.

bandMom: Will the new student center be open in January?

parent2011: He was planning on it, but was a bit under the weather and had to cancel. He is fine now!

Admin4: Inevitably, students will get tired of the same ol’ thing just like us. Let’s brainstorm some ways to change it up a little

Raymond: Regarding meals, my daughter dropped the meal plan and began shopping at local grocery stores, which she still does to this day.

Admin3: HockeyMom, there are plans to add several healthy concepts with the new UC. They will include vegetarian, vegan, and whole grain options. We also have several healthy options currently at Einstein Bros, and Tiger Den.

Admin1: parent 2011, glad he is feeling better now - be sure he knows he can go to Student Health Services for free if he ever feels bad

Raymond: For a while, she was vegetarian, but later simply became a "healthy" eater.

Admin5: Are any of your students undecided about their major/career area of interest?

carmel: my daughter eats some meals on campus, but also shops at Krogers
Hockey Mama: He does not have a car and there's only so much you can prepare in your room.

Admin4: Raymond's daughter seems to have had some experiences that can help your son, HockeyMamma

Hockey Mama: Admin3 - FANTASTIC!

Admin2: Bandmon, we will have the fire marshal inspection on November 23rd. At that point we will know how much more we must get done in order to open in January. If we don't hit the January date we have in mind it will be close. Stay tuned because we are so excited and we are planning a big grand opening!

Admin4: Meow, how are you? And what's new with your student?

Raymond: My daughter does not have a car... she catches rides with roommates and/or friends to the grocery store.

parent2011: Thanks, Admin1. I'll make sure he is aware of the Health Center and the free service there.

Admin3: we fully expect that students will eat some on campus and some off. That is why we offer 5-10 meal plan options and not 21 like many schools. We also provide a van to take to students to Kroger once a week in the afternoon.

Hockey Mama: Raymond: Does your daughter live in a dorm?

Admin1: are your students scheduling appointments with their advisors so they can register for the spring semester in November?

Admin5: What's new with your student, lj?

Raymond: Yes, she has lived in dorms all 4 years. She works the desk. That has been her college job.

Britt: Admin2 -my feelings are a week break would be great but I may be the only that feels that way since no one else commented on it. Traveling and workload in some program makes it difficult for some kids to come home for two days.

carmel: mine has not scheduled an appt., but I will be reminding her

Admin3: Raymond, we appreciate your daughter's work.

Tigress Mom: My daughter is LOVING Memphis and the upperclassmen have been great about "taking her under their wings". To her Dad and I it tells us that they are happy there and that it is a great place for our daughter.
Hockey Mama: How does my student find out more about the "van to Kroger?"

Raymond: She enjoys being able to work her own hours in the dorm.

Admin5: Carmel: thanks!

Britt: **Admin1**: my daughter has not said much about the new center but I am very excited about it and I’m sure she will be when it opens.

Admin4: Excellent, Tigress Mom! We are excited to have her here.

Admin3: Van to Kroger is posted in the lobby each week.

Admin1: thanks, Tigress Mom - are there certain groups she has bonded with?

Hockey Mama: Lobby of the dorms?

Admin4: Britt, the students are going to love it! The new UC is truly amazing and I am already excited for our students

lj: nothing new…are there any plans to try to have breaks for UOM to coincide with Shelby County Schools and MCS…it would be great if breaks could coincide for family vacations.

Admin3: Yes

Britt: If there any type of grievance procedure for students to file against a professor that feel is being unfair/too harsh.

Admin2: Britt, is your daughter involved on campus?

bandMom: Looking forward to seeing the new Student Center. Before the new dorm opens I hope that residence life will get their act together. My son moved into the dorm last Jan and again this fall and both times he had problems with room assignments.

Admin4: lj, good point. It is difficult to do the coinciding breaks because our academic calendars are so different. We start later, finish earlier, etc

Tigress Mom: She’s in theater and they already seem to be a “family”, they give her rides and have her over to their places for meals and have taken her out “clubbing”.

Admin4: Britt, thanks for the concern about the profs! Students have the opportunity to evaluate professors each semester anonymously at the end of the course. However, if your student has major issues they may not be the only one. Have them go to the chair of the academic department to voice their concerns.
Admin 1: or they are welcome to contact me at mlaabs@memphis.edu to discuss further

Admin1: Tigress Mom, well, the “over to their places for meals” is great - not sure re the clubbing!!

Admin3: bandmom, please send your student to Peter Groenendyk in the Residence Life office. We are interested in hearing what those problems are.

Admin4: I actually teach a class, and I take my evaluations quite seriously, Britt.

carmel: from what I hear, the Memphis police are way too lenient with underage drinking.

Admin 1: one bar on Highland was closed last weekend for serving to underage drinkers

Admin4: Carmel, on or off campus? Where?

Admin2: Carmel well we have zero tolerance on campus.

carmel: off, but close to the campus

Tigress Mom: My daughter is under age (and doesn’t drink) and has always had to show i.d., the “clubbing” is more for the music in her case

Admin4: Well, I know that some businesses close to campus serve alcohol, but unfortunately we cannot be responsible for them abiding by the laws. If you know where, then I say report them. MPD will follow-up

Admin2: Carmel I suspect that the police may appear lenient because they have so much to do and so many underage drinkers. Part of the reason I love being in touch with parents is to encourage them to keep on talking to their sons and daughters about drinking. Glad you are concerned.

meow: What's the free thinkers club, about?

Admin4: Thanks for clarification Tigress Mom!

bandMom: ok, I will tell him but he probably won’t. He is somewhat swamped with school, work and band activities.

Admin1: Meow, am not sure - what do YOU know about it?

Raymond: My daughter doesn’t drink either, so she's had no problems in that regard.
meow: nothing, except my son joined the club
carmel: neither does mine, but the stories

Admin4: Meow, I do not believe that the Free Thinker’s Club is an actual registered student organization, but I am sure that it exists!

Admin4: Just not sure what they do…

Admin1: hmm, well, we may have to report on that in the transcript also, meow - what did he say it was about?

Tigress Mom: Mine tends to like the “gay” nights so she can go hang out w/ friends and not have to worry about fending off the boys.

Admin2: Actually our survey results show that our students drink far less than average college students. The surveys are a part of a national study.

meow: getting information out of my son is impossible

Admin1: meow, i understand - i have 2 sons in their 20's

Admin2: Meow, I feel your pain.

Britt: Admin2: She is member of a couple organizations/honor societies and VP of one but studying takes a lot of her time. Nursing program is difficult, but he is very focused and works hard. Her grades are good.

Admin1: Tigress Mom, that is interesting - hadn’t heard of those - we are learning from YOU ALL today!

bandMom: He and his roommate are talking about finding housing off-campus. I can tell you that my son received a letter assigning him to a room in Rawls…of course that was quickly changed!

Admin4: Nursing is great, but hard! She will be well-prepared though and well-respected by her nursing colleagues when she graduates.

Admin4: bandMom, I bet your son was excited about being the only guy in the female dorm :)

Admin2: Britt she seems to have her priorities straight! I am proud of her. Do encourage her to come to the VP’s office for one of the student lunches that we have in the office about once a month. She can call the VP’s office for dates. Tell her it is not at all like going to the principal’s office.
Tigress Mom: Thanks for the info. esp. concerning the safety issues, it has put our minds a little more at ease. This is a GREAT forum and I appreciate being able to voice our concerns and have them replied to immediately.

Admin1: if your student would like to come to an informal pizza lunch in our office, have them email me at mlaabs@memphis.edu

Admin1: Tigress Mom, we really enjoy it also!

Admin4: Meta, I want to go. Do we get pizza?

Admin1: hmmmm, only if it is leftover from the students!!

Admin3: Bandmom: Often students load information into an application through the portal and we find a few errors or we make them in some capacity due to information that is provided. 70% of the students living on campus are freshmen and sophomores so there is a time when they think they need a lease and several bills like the rest of us.

Admin1: hi, Daisy, glad you got to join us!

Admin2: Have we answered every question?

Admin5: Encourage your student to attend our Lunch and Learn Series in our office. We invite employers to speak to the students about specific topics. This is a GREAT networking opportunity! The next one will be on Wednesday, October 28 from 12:30-1:30. We will have a representative from FedEx speak on "Planning for Success: Creating a Life Plan"

Hockey Mama: Meow - getting info out of my son is also impossible. I actually find that if I can "catch" him on facebook at the same time I'm on, he'll "chat" with far more information than he'll tell me on the phone.

Admin4: Great advice, Hockey Mama! I am impressed

Admin4: ...that you and he are "friends" on facebook

Admin2: My son is 25 and sometimes I can catch him via a text for short and sometimes sweet answers.

Admin1: Meow, do you send your son text messages?

Admin3: Now is a great time to talk with your students about grades and where they are with classes. We have less than 8 weeks left this semester.
Raymond: Admin2, regarding my offer to pay for the U of M to join the TCADSV,... how would y'all contact me for that?

meow: no

Admin2: Raymond, let me check out what we are doing first. If you want more direct contact email mlaabs@memphis.edu.

Admin1: meow, may be worth a try - they'll respond when they will not answer their cell phone

Admin7: Here is a link to what Admin5 was referring to:  
http://saweb.memphis.edu/ces/new/new_landl.htm

Hockey Mama: Meow - I agree. Texting works as well as facebook - it's just more cumbersome for me. (I text like a dinosaur!)

Admin1: what other questions or thoughts are out there?

meow: no, I don't have a cell phone

Admin1: is there a specific topic you would like on a future parent chat?

Admin1: meow, that answers that!

Hockey Mama: Overall my son LOVES UOM. The only complaint I hear repeatedly is about the food. I'll let him know/remind him about the van to Kroger.

Admin2: Thanksgiving is coming up. Freshmen may be changing a bit. And please don't under estimate the about of stress students feel.

parent2011: Is the university planning on offering H1N1 vaccines at anytime to their students?

Britt: I'm confused. What office has lunches for the student one of month and who can attend?

Admin3: Hockey Mom, we do understand. It is hard to keep students engaged in what they perceive as the same food at the same locations. But we keep working it.

Admin1: parent2011, we are waiting for the vaccine to arrive on campus - when it does, and we hope it will be any day now, a mass email will be sent to all students about how to sign up to receive the H1N1 vaccine

Daisy: I am late getting in the chat & getting caught up – my daughter is a senior & works as a desk assistant in the dorms.
Admin4: Great, daisy! Any questions/concerns?

Admin1: well, she probably knows Raymond’s daughter because she is a desk worker also

Admin5: daisy: welcome!

Daisy: To alleviate some of the concerns regarding dorm safety, she has said they have had several meetings and new rules/sanctions put in place to safeguard the residents.

Admin3: Daisy, you are the second parent of a desk worker today. We appreciate her work.

Britt: Will the health center get more regular flu vaccine?

Daisy: My other concerns have been addressed & I do love these forums!

parent2011: Good to know, Admin1. Thanks!

Raymond: Yes, I just had my daughter on the phone… she’s never heard of the "free thinkers club" for what that’s worth.

Daisy: I will convey that to her - this is her 2nd year of doing desk work. And in the dorm she works in, the security is very tight.

Admin1: Britt, we have not heard that we will - with this also, we would send out a mass email if we receive more

Raymond: And it was her roommate who was in the shower when the fellow almost snatched her stuff in Rawls.

Admin2: Britt, I do, Vice President for Student Affairs. I have small groups of 6 -12 students who come in to let us know how things are going for them. We invite students but anyone who wants to can come. We summarize what they talk about and share with the President’s Council and any other offices that they mention. Just have your daughter email mlaabs@memphis.edu if she wants to come to one. We’d love to have her.

Daisy: A comment on the “free-thinkers” - my daughter belonged to one in high school - just a forum for the kids to get together and talk about the issues of the day (of which there are many) and how to resolve them.
Admin 1: we do have a free thinkers club on campus with officers, etc. - their purpose is to advance reason and science, including the critical analysis of superstitions and ideologies.

Admin1: Daisy, thanks - we didn't know!!

Admin1: ok, our time is about up - thank you for being so “talkative” today - and a big THANK YOU to our administrators who joined us!!

meow: thanks, Daisy

carmel: thank you

Daisy: It helps them to share their thoughts/feelings with peers - not parents. As for the Rawls event, my daughter said the powers that be in Residence Life are NOT taking this lightly and have implemented many safeguards to avoid a future occurrence.

Admin1: we will post the transcript in about a week

Raymond: Thanks to the Admins for listening! I appreciate it.

Admin1: Daisy, you are so right about that

Daisy: You are welcome meow - scary letting them go to college, I know!

Daisy: Greatly appreciate all admins for being here today:)

Raymond: Yes, Daisy, my daughter was just telling me about the new security things for Rawls, as she's one of the enforcers at the desk.

Admin4: Thanks, guys for joining us! Hope to see you all on here again soon.

Admin2: Bye everyone. It was a delight to be here.

Admin5: Thank you for participating today! See you all next time!

Britt: Admin2: Can you have a forum of students from the nursing program to discuss problems in the program? My daughter may be very interested in that.

Daisy: Raymond - my daughter said they are so very, very serious about protecting everyone

Admin3: Thank you all for the information. I will speak with people today about possible new “healthy options” we can offer before the end of the semester. This was my first chat. It is great feedback.
Admin1: remember you can always email parents@memphis.edu if you have a question - hope the rest of your day is good. Bye!

Daisy: Campus police are very involved as well.

Admin1: Britt, we will pursue this idea with the Nursing School.

    Admin 1: Britt, I suggest your daughter meet with the Nursing School Dean Luttrell and see if a forum is warranted.

Hockey Mama: Thanks all!

Admin7: Daisy, we hope you could join us earlier next time! :-) 

Daisy: Me, too - crazy day at the office!

Admin7: I understand, Daisy. Hope everyone has a great day!! Bye!

Britt: Thank you! It was great!

Admin7: Keep a lookout for the date/time about the next chat via the parent enews. For more info please email parents@memphis.edu. Bye!