

Update July 2007

Dear Parents and Families,

With summer in full swing and family activities abound, it's hard to believe that fall semester is just around the corner. For many of you, your son or daughter will be leaving home for the first time. Others will become empty nesters, or perhaps are proudly looking forward to your student's senior year and graduation. Whatever your family dynamic, there is a good possibility that questions will come up as you embark upon this journey. The Parent/Family Association is a terrific resource and we hope you will use our services to help you navigate the waters of Montana State University.

One of the biggest activities of the PFA is the Parent/Family Weekend which will take place from October 19-21st. Originally our plan was to open online registration on August 1st. However, because of construction on campus, we need to adjust the schedule slightly so registration will now be available beginning August 15th. Because we know travel arrangements can take some time, please feel free to review last year's schedule <http://www2.montana.edu/pfa/brochure.asp> (the general time frame will be the same) and to make hotel and airline reservations accordingly. A list of hotels offering special discounts for the weekend is located at <http://www.montana.edu/pfa/weekend.html>.

The PFA also raises money to support student scholarships and activities. This year during the weekend, we will host the 4th annual silent auction. Items are donated by board members from across the country. We would love your help with this project. If you have an item or service that you would like to donate, please contact us so that we can make arrangements. If you have a few hours you could donate, give me a call and I'll put you in touch with the family that is coordinating this event. Anything you can do is appreciated.

Montana State University truly is a student-centered campus. Many offices have programs and information designed specifically for parents. Please don't hesitate to ask questions. If you come across someone, or maybe even an office or department, that is particularly friendly and helpful, please let us know. We'd like to honor the people who help you feel especially comfortable with your student's experience, and most importantly, who help your student be successful in his/her journey.

Finally, this year MSU will have freshman convocation <http://www.montana.edu/convocation/> for the first time. In preparation, students have been asked to read the book, Three Cups of Tea, by Greg Mortenson, and we humbly suggest that you do so as well. Mortenson is a world-renowned humanitarian, from this area, and his story is inspiring and thought provoking.

Enjoy the dog days of summer, and remember, we are your organization. Don't hesitate to call if there is anything we can do for you!

Sincerely,

Jodie DeLay
Campus Coordinator