NEW HAWKS, WELCOME TO RU!

Rockhurst University offers students a small, close-knit community in an urban setting in Kansas City. We understand that learning everything there is to know about Rockhurst and college life might appear overwhelming, but we hope this newsletter will help answer questions you may have about your first year at RU.

The purpose of orientation is to help you become acclimated to Rockhurst by meeting fellow classmates, upperclassmen, faculty and staff, and getting to know Kansas City. We seek to provide new students with a balanced view of what Rockhurst has to offer, and guide you, through new resources and relationships, as you find your “home” within the Rockhurst community.

We hope you will make the most of your time at Rockhurst University.

RU BEGINNINGS:
Pursuing Something New

The spirit behind Rockhurst University was born in 1521, when a Spanish soldier took a cannonball in the leg at Pamplona. That soldier, later to be known as St. Ignatius of Loyola, used his recovery period to develop his spirituality and approach to life. That new spirituality led to the formation of the Society of Jesus. The subsequent Jesuit tradition of service to others through a liberal education has been renowned worldwide for more than 450 years.

The Ignatian spirit was expressed in Kansas City in 1910 with the founding of Rockhurst University and High School. A charter from the state of Missouri empowered the University to offer degrees. The construction of Sedgwick Hall in 1914 allowed the opening of high school classes; college classes began in 1917. Small in numbers but infused with the Jesuit spirit, the first Rockhurst University students were all taught by the Rev. Alphonse Schwitalla, S.J. Just as the Jesuit order grew from the calling of one man into a worldwide force, so Rockhurst has grown from the dream of a small, hardy crew of priests into an institution with national reach.

A commitment to academic excellence and community service has marked Rockhurst’s path. Today, the University serves approximately 3,000 students. Both undergraduate and graduate degree programs feature the lifelong liberal arts learning approach that is a hallmark of Jesuit education.
NEW Student Orientation 2015 –
Saturday, Aug. 15 – Tuesday, Aug. 18

The orientation leadership team is extremely excited about your arrival in August. We have been planning long and hard to make your first experience at Rockhurst as enjoyable, memorable and smooth as possible. We know you will take advantage of all the opportunities that are presented to you. Orientation will provide you with unique experiences you will carry beyond your years at Rockhurst.

By the time you attend orientation, your academic adviser already knows your name and you may have met him or her through email or in person. You also have enrolled in your first semester’s courses. Throughout the rest of your college career, your academic adviser will help you learn to navigate the channels of higher education and map out your degree path.

Your orientation leaders are here to open Rockhurst doors for you and show you how you can take advantage of the University’s extraordinary opportunities. This week will help acquaint you with RU and the surrounding community. We have planned events and activities to give you the tools for your first steps on your academic and personal journey.

Take advantage of all the events during orientation, including Welcome Mass, Olympics, Rock-o-Mania, the Finucane Service Project and Where to Go in KCMO, just to name a few. During these four days you will also want to discover the many helpful resources on campus—tutoring, career planning, health and wellness, student organizations, programs and study abroad options—so you’ll be ready to take command of these opportunities when your school year begins. To preview a full, detailed orientation schedule, visit rockhurst.edu/orientation.

The Rockhurst traditions continue after orientation, including the Activities Fair and the Frosh Getaway retreat. You’ll explore the myriad of programs designed to help you discover all that Rockhurst has to offer. Take this opportunity to use orientation for all it’s worth—this time is especially for you. Welcome to the Hawk family!

CHECKLIST to Complete Before ORIENTATION:

- Pay your non-refundable tuition deposit.
- Apply for student housing and pay housing deposit at rockhurst.edu/new-resident/.
- Contact your roommate (roommate assignment emailed no later than July 1).
- Complete health insurance waiver process if needed: rockhurst.edu/healthinsurance. *Complete between June 22 and Aug. 28.
- Update your vaccination records at rockhurst.edu/healthinsurance.
- Check out tuition and fees, and get any questions answered by financial aid: rockhurst.edu/tuition.
- Review your schedule of fall classes and order books online: rockhurst.bncollege.com.
- Complete online parking permit form: rockhurst.edu/parking. Pick up your pass during orientation.
- Set up RU email account. Contact Computer Services: helpdesk@rockhurst.edu or 816-501-4064.
- Complete Think About It program by August 29 (below).
- Check Rockhurst email account weekly for updates over the summer.
- Reach out to your orientation leader with any questions (postcards and team number will be mailed in July).

THINK About It is an online course that will prepare you for the unique challenges and responsibilities of college life. It focuses on minimizing risks associated with alcohol, drugs and sexual violence. The approach it takes is a harm-reduction, non-judgmental one. The goal is to create a healthy campus culture where you will feel comfortable, thrive, grow and learn. Each new student is required to complete this course to help Rockhurst meet federal requirements. Current students have rated the course highly, commenting: “The program was very interactive and kept me engaged,” “I appreciate how modern and up-to-date it is,” and “It opened my eyes to things I didn’t even know.”

Students who complete the course by Aug. 1 will be entered into a drawing for one of three $100 gift certificates to the bookstore. This course must be completed by Aug. 29. Students who do not complete the course by Aug. 30 will have a $50 fine placed on their Rockhurst account and will have until Sept. 14 to complete the course. Those who have not taken the course by Sept. 15 will have a hold on their account in addition to the $50 fine and will not be able to register for spring 2015 semester classes until the course has been completed.

Instructions and login information will be emailed to your Rockhurst email account in mid-June. Questions? Email Angie Carr Robinett, director of student life, at angie.carr@rockhurst.edu.
MEET the PRESIDENT

The Rev. Thomas B. Curran, S.J., began his tenure as the 14th president of Rockhurst University on June 1, 2006. Fr. Curran was ordained a Roman Catholic priest and a member of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales in 1984. In 2015, he became a member of the Society of Jesus – the Jesuits. He was born June 29, 1955, in Philadelphia. His office is located on the second floor of Massman Hall, and he welcomes all students to stop by and say hello. You will also see him around campus at planned student events or having lunch in the Thomas More Dining Room.

Q. Where did you receive your degree? What was your undergraduate major?
A. I attended LaSalle University in Philadelphia where I studied political science. I transferred to and graduated from De Sales University (PA) where I received a Bachelor of Arts in politics and minors in philosophy and education. I earned a Master of Arts from Georgetown, a Master of Arts from De Sales School of Theology, a Master of Business Administration from St. Joseph’s University and a Juris Doctorate from the Catholic University of America.

Q. What were you involved in during college?
A. I worked on- and off-campus to pay for tuition. I attended games and social events and participated in intramurals as much as I could.

Q. What advice do you have for new students?
A. Embrace the present moment and pursue the *magis* (Latin for “more”) by doing all the ordinary things extraordinarily well.

Q. What RU events are you most excited about attending in the fall?
A. Soccer and volleyball games, Family and Alumni Weekend, SAB events, Mass of the Holy Spirit, retreat opportunities and intramurals, especially slow-pitch softball.

Q. What tips do you have for parents sending their students to college?
A. Encourage your son/daughter to talk directly to their professors and the support staff with their questions and concerns.

A Little ADVICE
from Sandy Waddell, Associate Dean of Students

Congratulations on beginning your freshman year of college. It’s an exciting time filled with many new people, activities and responsibilities. My advice for freshmen is short and sweet.

1. **Go to class.** Just being there is half the battle and sends a message to your professors that you understand they have something important to say.

2. **Create some structure in your life.** Eating, going to class, studying, exercising and sleeping are a few of the essentials for you to be successful.

3. **Don’t be afraid to ask questions** or ask for help or advice. You will find many people on campus who want you to be successful. If you have a problem, question or concern, just ask.

4. **Make friends and have fun!**

5. If you forget these things or stumble along the way, email Director of New Students Sandy Waddell at sandy.waddell@rockhurst.edu.

WELCOME from Director of Student Life, Angie Carr Robinett

Welcome to Rockhurst! As director of student life and the staff member who helps coordinate the orientation program with fantastic students, I can honestly say we are counting the days until orientation begins. This is the MOST exciting time for all of campus and a time that is centered around YOU, our newest Hawks. Please be sure to complete your checklist on page two of this newsletter so that you are set up for success. See you in August!
Orientation does not stop after August. The year continues with traditional events while adding new ones. Be sure to attend as many as possible, as these are sure to be some of your favorite memories from your first year. Here are just a few events to look forward to:

**WORLD CULTURES DAY**

Thursday, Oct. 15, 2015

Please join us for World Culture Day as students, faculty and staff explore the food, language and culture of various nations. The event includes a multicultural prayer service, exhibits and food from more than 50 countries, and international live music and entertainment.

**MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2015

All 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States begin the academic year with a Mass of the Holy Spirit, a time to ask God's blessings on the year ahead. Rockhurst University's Mass of the Holy Spirit will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 15, at 10:45 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Church, followed by a picnic lunch on RU's Kinerk Commons. This is the only time of the year the president suspends classes so the entire University community may come together to celebrate. We look forward to having you join in the celebration!

**FAMILY AND ALUMNI WEEKEND**

Sept. 25-27, 2015

Plan to join us for Rockhurst's Family and Alumni Weekend – a celebration of learning, leadership and service along with unforgettable food, fun and festivities. Friday brings athletic events, receptions and a fireworks display on Lower Bourke. Saturday features Hawk Fest, the Hopkins Skip and Run 5K benefit, a Mass and late-night entertainment. For more information visit rockhurst.edu/weekend.

**ACTIVITIES FAIR**

Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2015

RU is home to more than 70 student organizations that were formed by students to meet a variety of personal, social, political, recreational and religious interests. Come join us to hear about all of the involvement opportunities available to you and receive free giveaways, prizes, food, music and much more! Meet us on the Kinerk Commons from 4 to 5 p.m.

**SOCIAL MENTOR EVENTS**

Do you like going to haunted houses, baseball games or ice skating? Join the Social Mentors for FREE trips throughout the semester. These events provide a great opportunity to meet other students and enjoy fun nights out with your social mentor exploring Kansas City. You'll first meet your social mentor at dinner on Tuesday, Aug. 18, during orientation.

**FROSH GETAWAY**

September 11-13, 2015

Join us for this overnight retreat – a chance to meet other first-year students, build friendships, discuss college life and, of course, have fun! Sign up at rockhurst.edu/campusministry. Questions? Contact Cindy Schmersal at cindy.schmersal@rockhurst.edu or 816-501-4303.

**CENTER FOR ARTS AND LETTERS**

Rockhurst’s Center for Arts and Letters hosts a broad range of outstanding cultural offerings, from talks and readings by renowned scholars and poets to award-winning films and cutting-edge art exhibits. For more information on the University's cultural programming, visit rockhurst.edu/artsandletters.

**HOMECOMING WEEK**

Oct. 11-17, 2015

The Student Activities Board is planning an exciting week of events for the campus. The week begins with Sunday's student Mass and includes a magician, T-shirts, barbecues, movie night, court elections, and much more. The week's culminating event is the campus-wide homecoming dance on Saturday, Oct. 17.
Academic Advising

Academic advising is available to help students explore and learn about career options and university policies and procedures. At Rockhurst, each student is assigned an academic adviser. Most often, the adviser will be a faculty member from the student’s area of interest. In addition, each college within the University has a director of academic advising who supports faculty advisers and may also be considered a resource for students. Look forward to meeting your academic adviser on the last day of orientation.

Students should see their assigned advisers to discuss selecting appropriate programs of study and courses that will complete degree requirements. Understanding student and adviser responsibilities will help you maximize the benefit of having your own personal adviser.

Students are responsible for:
- Checking the academic calendar
- Meeting with their assigned academic adviser
- Preparing for meetings with their adviser
- Regularly checking Rockhurst email
- Submitting paperwork to appropriate offices (transcripts of all college coursework, add/drop forms, declaration of major, degree application, etc.)
- Maintaining and regularly checking Rockhurst email
- Making decisions about their academic career
- Using Rockweb to monitor their academic progress.

Advisers are responsible for:
- Helping advisees understand student responsibilities
- Understanding and explaining core requirements
- Understanding and explaining general graduation requirements
- Being reasonably available to advisees
- Preparing for meetings with advisees
- Assisting advisees to define and develop realistic goals
- Using degree audit (compliance report) for monitoring the progress of advisees
- Reviewing their advisees’ mid-term grades
- Being familiar with campus resources
- Making referrals when appropriate

Please visit rockhurst.edu/advising for frequently asked questions, information about the core curriculum, frequently used advising forms and more.

Parent Welcome

Parent Welcome is an opportunity to hear from some of the key administrators at the University. Presenters will touch upon what the Rockhurst education is and how our mission informs all of the work we do with our students. This special presentation will be held Sunday, Aug. 16, at 10:15 a.m. in the Convocation Center. Presentations from the president, the academic vice president and several student development professionals will focus on what to expect and how to handle those first few months of transition and separation from your student.

After this orientation, you will join your student on Kinerk Commons and walk to the Welcome Mass together. The Mass will be celebrated by our president, the Rev. Thomas B. Curran, S.J. As Mass ends, parents are asked to depart so that the freshman class can participate in the traditional Finucane Service Project.
My.rockhurst.edu

My.rockhurst.edu is a self-service site that consolidates many of the resources available to students, faculty and staff. The site features single sign on, so you can use your Rockhurst username and password to sign-in once and access all of these services.

From this portal, you’ll be able to:
• Check your grades, class schedule and finances.
• Check your email.
• Participate in Blackboard classes.
• View the campus calendar.
• Check the cafeteria menu.
• Order textbooks and other bookstore items.
• Get the latest news from around campus.
• Find out about athletics news and events.

If you have any questions or problems with my.rockhurst.edu, contact our Help Desk at helpdesk@rockhurst.edu, 816-501-4357 or Conway Hall, 4th Floor.

TEXTBOOKS

We urge you to purchase your textbooks before orientation. The RU bookstore staff will be pleased to assist you in how to select your textbooks. The greatest selection of discounted used books is available. The RU bookstore is located in Massman Hall’s lower level. Textbook purchases for a full course load can range from $500-$700, depending on your courses. You can cut that cost in half if you decide to use the RU bookstore’s textbook rental program.

The bookstore is open during the school year from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday–Thursday, and 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday. Summer hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday. The bookstore is closed Saturdays and Sundays.

You can take advantage of the bookstore textbook rental program at rockhurst.bncollege.com.

The RU bookstore will begin processing fall orders during summer break. If you have any questions, please use the following contact information:

Email: bookstore@rockhurst.edu
Phone: 816-444-0669
Alt. Phone: 816-501-4801

SECURITY and Parking Permit

To apply for a parking pass, visit rockhurst.edu/parking. The student fee for a parking hang tag is $125 per semester, or $250 per year. If a student wishes to purchase an additional hang tag, another $125 for each tag will be required per semester.

A student parking fee will be automatically included on a student’s bill, along with other tuition and fee charges. Should a student decide not to purchase a permit, there will be a box on the student bill that must be checked to have the parking fee taken off during mail-in registration. After mail-in registration, a student can either email the student accounts office at studentaccounts@rockhurst.edu, call student accounts at 816-501-4175, or visit Rockstop in Massman Hall, Room 109, to request that the parking fee be removed from their account. There will be no refunds on permits after the first Friday of the first full week of classes for the semester. If a student withdraws before the end of the first full week of class, then the student should bring their drop slip and parking permit to Rockstop in Massman 109 to have the parking fee removed from their account. Pick up parking passes at the Rockhurst University Community Center at the entrance of campus. Your Rockhurst student ID will be required.

How to Reach Campus Security: Dial 816-501-4010 on campus or use a red campus phone 24 hours a day.
Wisdom ESSAY CONTEST

First-year students are invited to enter a reflection essay and/or video contest. Each winner will receive a $350 cash prize. Visit the First Year Experience site for more details at libguides.rockhurst.edu/RUFYETtheme.

Choose from the following books:
- Tattoos on the Heart, by Gregory Boyle
- Becoming Human, by Jean Vanier
- Man’s Search for Meaning, by Viktor Frankl

All books are available for one week checkout at the Greenlease Library. The contest is open to all first-year students beginning in August 2015. Essays and videos are due Dec. 4, 2015.

The Story of the HAWKS

In 1927, Rockhurst organized the R Club, a letterman’s club designed to advance Rockhurst athletics. The University also launched a campaign in the campus newspaper, The Sentinel, to select a new name for its college teams, which sports writers long had referred to as the “Blue and White,” the “Southsiders,” the “Irish” or, in the school’s earliest days, the “Catholics.” During the paper’s five-week campaign, 300 suggestions were submitted. The winning bird, selected by a committee comprising Jesuits and athletics staff, was submitted by John Cauley, a college freshman, and Donald Rossner, a high school student. “The new name, Hawks, is distinctive and indicative of dash and courage,” The Sentinel wrote. In 2011, the Homecoming Committee, with the help of a student survey, named the Hawk ”Rock E. Hawk.”

RU EMAIL Account

All official University communication is directed through your RU email account. It is very important that you check this account regularly for information regarding registration, University events and emergency notifications.

You can access your account through the my.rockhurst.edu portal. However, before you can access your account for the first time, you will need to change your password from a Rockhurst computer or through our password reset web page. If you have not set up your email account, please contact the Help Desk to begin this process. You will need your student ID number. For assistance, please contact the Help Desk at helpdesk@rockhurst.edu or by phone at 816-501-4357.
We’re so excited to have you here! As the voice of the student body at Rockhurst, Senate cannot wait to see all you accomplish. Please join us for our Welcome Back Barbecue on Aug. 26.

Interested in applying? Freshman elections are in early September. See a senator for details.

“The best things in life are free and brought to you by SAB”

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