



Colorado's Public Liberal Arts College
Durango, Colorado

Family Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 1

August 2005

[www.fortlewis.edu/
visitors_parents/
family_newsletter](http://www.fortlewis.edu/visitors_parents/family_newsletter)

Don't Forget!

- ▶ In-state students must have completed the College Opportunity Fund Application. Go to <https://cof.college-access.net/cofapp>
- ▶ Aug. 24-26 Orientation Programs
- ▶ Sept. 30-Oct. 2 Family Weekend (see page 3)
- ▶ Encourage your student to use his/her campus email address. It is the official method for professors and staff to communicate with your student. Students who use only a personal email address will miss official college communications.
- ▶ The next issue of the Family Newsletter will be posted on the Fort Lewis College website in mid-November 2005 at www.fortlewis.edu/visitors_parents/family_newsletter

New students and family members, please see

<http://welcomecenter.fortlewis.edu>

Welcome Letter from the President

Welcome to the Fall 2005 edition of the Fort Lewis College *Family Newsletter*. This form of communication with parents of our students allows us one avenue to bring you into our family. At Fort Lewis College, we have always taken pride in being a liberal arts college that is small in size, but large in our capacity to care for the student as an individual. Parents are a very important part of the approach to successful learning. The *Family Newsletter* is intended to give the parent-reader a broad appreciation of the richness of modern college life, while at the same time present some topics in depth for your edification.

Many critical developments are in the works at Fort Lewis College. The General Assembly of Colorado and the Governor have approved legislation that will raise freshman admission standards at Fort Lewis College to the same

level as the University of Colorado and Colorado State, thus emphasizing our national reputation and the quality liberal arts experience we provide to students. We are developing a five-year strategic plan for improving all aspects of the learning environment, and are also working on a master plan for how our physical facilities will look for the next two decades. These two developments will place us in the forefront academically, and keep our campus as the most attractive in the nation.

(Continued on Page 2)



Brad Bartel
President

New Student Orientation

Orientation (Aug. 24-26) is required for all new students. We encourage family members to attend our Family Orientation.

Our Family Orientation is designed to provide family members with an understanding of our liberal arts philosophy, our academic curriculum, services that are provided for your student, and information about ways you can work with us to help your student to be successful. You should have received a brochure giving you an outline of the schedule and reservation information. That information is also available at

<http://welcomecenter.fortlewis.edu/parents/index.htm>

Check-in for the New Student Orientation program (for both freshmen and family members) is Tuesday, August 23, 2005 in the Ballroom of the College Union Building. Programs for family members occur from 9:00 am - 6:30 pm on Wednesday and from 8:30 am - 6:30 pm on Thursday. There are optional programs for family members on Friday morning from

8:30 am - 11:30 am. One of the highlights of both the student and family orientations is our Convocation which is a formal ceremony for new students to be recognized by our faculty and staff, and to be addressed by Fort Lewis College President, Dr. Brad Bartel.

The deadline for mailing Family Orientation Reservations and the fee of \$40 per person is August 10, 2005. We need the name of each family member attending, a contact email address or phone number, and a check or credit card number. That information should be mailed to New Student Orientation Family Program, 170 Berndt Hall, Fort Lewis College, 1000 Rim Drive, Durango, Co 81301.

After August 10, 2005, family members should reserve by email: familyreservations@fortlewis.edu, by phone: (970) 247-7072, or by fax: 247-7680; you will be charged \$50 per person upon your arrival.

Welcome Letter from the President (Cont'd. from Page 1)

For those of you with a son or daughter who is starting at Fort Lewis College as a freshman, this is a critical time. The next few months of adjustment to college life, whether academically or socially, represent for many students, a 'make it or break it' time period. National studies have indicated that if students make a positive transition to collegiate learning during the first three months of their first semester, then the probability is high that they will be successful in their college career long-term. We want that for all of our Fort Lewis College students. Our faculty and student life staff will be working diligently with your sons and daughters during the first months to acculturate them to Fort Lewis College.

I want to take this opportunity to invite you to the many Fort Lewis College social activities. During the fall, we have a full slate of athletic events and concerts. Please go to our college website (www.fortlewis.edu) to see what football, volleyball, soccer, or cross-country events are scheduled. In addition, we have a diverse set of concerts at our Community Concert Hall, with nationally prominent performers throughout the year. These athletic and social events, when added to our prestigious Center of Southwest Studies collection of museum exhibits, our outdoor sculptures, and the inherent beauty of our campus, make us an exceptional destination for learning, growth, and contemplation. Please visit

and enjoy our campus anytime you are in Durango.

Finally, I want you to know that you can contact me directly (bartel@fortlewis.edu) or my staff for assistance. Sometimes, due to federal restrictions, we cannot discuss with you your student's record. However, we will attempt to be helpful as much as law allows. We want you to know we have your family's interest central to us. I look forward to meeting each and every parent over the next years.

Brad Bartel
President, Fort Lewis College



Freshman Community Service Project

Please encourage your student to participate in one of our Freshman Community Service Projects on Saturday, August 27 from 12 - 5 pm (lunch included). In addition to becoming more a part of the Durango community and sharing time and interest in a community service project, it is a wonderful opportunity for your student to make friends in a healthy environment. Students will have several options from which to choose, including working in an organic garden, helping with trail maintenance, walking dogs at the Humane Society, or helping decorate the Child Development Center.

Your student may sign up for the Freshman Community Service Project now by emailing M. Cristina Grabiél at Grabiél_m@fortlewis.edu or by signing up during check-in for Freshman Orientation on Tuesday, August 23.

Students Who Decide Not to Attend College Must Withdraw to Avoid Financial Obligations

Students who are registered for classes and decide not to attend have the responsibility to cancel classes BEFORE the first day of the relevant term in order to avoid a financial obligation for tuition and fees. This can be done through the student's WebOPUS account or in writing to the Records Office. Students who withdraw AFTER the term begins are charged according to the institutional schedule, using the actual date the student withdraws. Nonattendance does not constitute cancellation or withdrawal. Please see www.fortlewis.edu/administrative_services/accounting_office or the Tuition and Fees brochure for details.

Grade Information

Student grades and schedules are posted on our college website which we refer to as "WebOPUS." The web address for "WebOPUS" is www.fortlewis.edu/web_opus. Each student has a student ID number (provided on ID card) and a secret pin number. Because privacy rules do not allow us to provide grade information, we recommend parents either obtain the student's ID number and the pin number from the student or communicate with the student about grades.

Vital Information Students Should Bring to Campus

By now your student should be advised and have a copy of his/her schedule. Your student should have been mailed a registration packet which contains a copy of the class schedule, instructions on how to modify the schedule, assessment reports, faculty advisor assignment, information about reserving textbooks, and the username, passwords, and pin numbers for three computer accounts. These accounts are: 1) System network account; 2) Email account; and 3) WebOPUS records and registration account. You will want to make your own copy of this information.

If your student has not been advised, has not received his registration packet, or has misplaced his registration information, please contact the New Student Advising and Registration office at (970) 382-6985.

Family Weekend September 30-October 2

Families are invited to visit their students and experience campus life in full swing when the golden aspen trees are at their best. We invite you to attend classes (with professor's approval), athletic events, go on hikes, and meet your student's friends. Most students really look forward to having families come for this weekend. For more information go to www.fortlewis.edu/visitors_parents/family_weekend/hold_the_date.asp



Family Weekend Hike 2004

Supporting the Great Unknown: Homesickness

Each student deals with missing home in their own unique way. Some students have sharp pangs of homesickness and need the reassurance of frequent telephone calls. Others call infrequently as they try to establish their own independence and go "cold turkey." There is no right or best way to express missing home.

The following are tips we recommend for assisting with student homesickness.

- Listen and support their feelings; remind them that fitting in is a process and that it takes time to trust and be comfortable with new friends.
- Encourage your student to talk with their RA, a professor, or professional counselor in the Counseling Center.
- Encourage your student to become involved in student activities.
- Family members should also be aware that this a transition for them as well. We encourage family members to plan positive ways to cope with this adjustment. Recommended reading about ways family's can adjust and be supportive can be found at

www.fortlewis.edu/student_life/counseling_center

End of Semester Plans

Fall classes end December 9. Final exams will take place December 12 - 16. The finals schedule is located at:

www.fortlewis.edu/academics/records_office/final_schedule.asp

Please have your student check on their finals schedule before making any transportation arrangements to come home for holidays. You will need to have a copy of your student's class schedule in order to determine his/her final exam schedule.

Health Center: Immunizations and Insurance Information

There is a new state law as of July 1, 2005 that requires incoming freshmen living in student housing to either receive a vaccination for meningococcal meningitis or sign an exception. One of these must be completed **before** they can move into their residence hall. The vaccine is available at the Health Center for \$84.00.

The other requirement is a record of **two** MMR's (measles, mumps, rubella). The vaccine records can be faxed, mailed, or hand delivered to the health center (fax 970-247-7621). The records can often be found at the high school or doctor's office.

Reports of pertussis (whooping cough), particularly among adolescents & adults, have been on the rise over the last two decades. There is a new vaccine for adolescents & adults, ages 11-64, which includes tetanus, diphtheria, & pertussis. We will soon replace the tetanus/diphtheria (Td) with this new vaccine.

The Health Center offers a student health insurance plan. We recommend that you call your insurance company to see what they will cover while your student is at Fort Lewis College and to consider our plan if yours is inadequate. The insurance brochure will be sent out with the tuition bill the end of July or first of August. The information will also be available on the college website at www.fortlewis.edu/student_life/health_center

Tuition Stipend for Colorado Residents

Please remind your Colorado resident students to apply for the College Opportunity Fund (COF). COF is a new way for Colorado to provide state financial support to eligible students from Colorado for higher education. If your student does not complete the form authorizing the college to receive the COF funding, then the student will have to pay the additional tuition. For additional information about completing this form, go to www.CollegeinColorado.org

Student Housing

Moving In

Students will check in at the residence hall/apartment to which he/she is currently assigned. Each residence hall/apartment complex will have signs posted to direct your student to the check-in location. Please make your travel plans to arrive on campus during your student's designated check-in times (see below). Unfortunately, the staff cannot accommodate exceptions. Check-in times are as follows:

Aug. 23: Check-in times for freshman orientation students only, 10 am -6 pm, 8 -10 pm.

Aug. 25: Check-in times for transfer orientation students only, 10 am -7 pm.

Aug 27-28: Check-in times for returning students, 10 am - 7 pm.

Late Arrivals

If your student cannot arrive on campus by the designated times, contact the Student Housing and Conference Services Office at (970) 247-7503 by Friday, Aug. 26 at 4 pm to let us know when he/she will be arriving. All residents with a contract are expected to be moved in by 7 pm on Sunday, Aug. 28. If your student has not moved in or notified the Housing Office that he will be arriving late, his assignment may be forfeited and used to house another student.

Required Immunizations

Make sure your student has completed the immunization requirements and has submitted these records to the Fort Lewis College Health Center before checking into his/her residence hall or apartment. See Page 3 of this newsletter for Immunization and Insurance information from the Health Center.

Substance Free Environments

To promote strong communities and academic settings, all residence halls are substance free environments. The use of illicit drugs, alcohol and tobacco is strictly prohibited. Smoking is only allowed outside - at least 50 feet away from the buildings. For students living in the apartments who are of legal drinking age, alcohol consumption is allowed only within the confines of their apartments.

Property Insurance

Personal property insurance (often referred to as renter's insurance) is highly encouraged. Some homeowner's policies will cover a student's belongings at school, but you will want to check with your insurance company to make sure. Many companies offer renter's insurance including National Student Services Inc., www.nssinc.com

Residence Hall Closures

All residence halls will be closed during Thanksgiving, Winter and Spring Breaks. Room and board charges do not apply. Exterior door locks to all residence halls are blocked during official vacation periods. Students need to find an alternate place to stay during the closure periods (no exceptions). During breaks, students are permitted to leave their belongings in their room; however, we suggest taking home items of extreme value. The apartment complexes will remain open.

Thanksgiving Break 2005

Close: Nov. 19, 9 am. Last meal served will be dinner on Nov. 18.

Re-open: Nov. 27, 1 pm. Meals begin with dinner on Nov. 27.

Winter Holiday Break 2005-06

Close: Dec. 16, 1 pm. Last meal served will be breakfast on Dec. 16.

Re-Open: Jan. 8, 1 pm. Meals begin with dinner on Jan. 8.

Spring Break 2006

Close: March 4, 9 am. Last meal served will be dinner on March 3.

Re-Open: March 12, 1 pm. Meals begin with dinner on March 12.

End of Spring Term 2006

Close: April 28, 1 pm. Last meal served will be breakfast on April 28.

Please note: your student must check out of his/her residence hall/apartment within 24 hours after your student's last final to preserve the quiet, academic environment for others. Final Examination schedules are available on WebOPUS, www.fortlewis.edu/web_opus

What Your Student Needs To Bring?

Recommended:

- Sheets, blankets, comforter, pillows and cases (mattress size = x-long twin, 36" X 80")
- Towels and washcloths
- Closet hangers
- Desk lamp and study materials (no halogen lamps)
- Storage containers for food and other items
- Throw rugs, posters, pictures and items to personalize your room
- Laundry bag or basket, laundry detergent (liquid is recommended for use in the machines)
- Television and co-ax cable (optional)
- Computer (optional) and other study aids
- Small appliances (apartment residents only, optional)
- Kitchen utensils, dishware, pots, pans (apartment residents only)

Do Not Bring:

- Fire hazards - candles, kerosene lamps, halogen lamps, hot plates, toasters or any appliance with open coils.
- Items of extraordinary value - if you do, we suggest you acquire personal property insurance.
- Pets - the only pets allowed on campus are fish in an aquarium (10 gallons or less).
- Weapons of any kind - firearms, bows, explosive devices, paint pellet guns, etc. are strictly prohibited. Weapons cannot be stored in vehicles on campus.
- Potential damage causes - waterbeds, dartboards.

Residence Hall Directors

Bader-Snyder:	Laura Hager (970) 247-7471
Camp Hall:	Heather Deck (970) 247-7594
Cooper Hall:	Patty Garcia (970) 247-7476
Crofton Hall:	Ben Austin (970) 247-7201
Escalante Hall:	Alissa Zak (970) 247-7601
West Hall:	Tymmy Flynn (970) 247-7477
Apartments:	RJ Martinez (970) 247-7610

Fort Lewis College

Fall Term 2005 Academic Calendar

Varsity Athletic Student Orientation (10 am-12 pm & 1 - 4 pm)	Wednesday, August 17
Students with Disabilities Orientation (1 - 3 pm)	Tuesday, August 23
New Student Orientation for Fall Term and Family Orientation	Wednesday-Friday, August 24-26
Transfer Student Orientation (8 am - 5 pm)	Friday, August 26
Native American Student Orientation (9 am - 12 pm)	Friday, August 26
El Centro Program Student Orientation (9 am - 12 pm)	Friday, August 26
International Program Student Orientation (9 am - 3 pm)	Friday, August 26
Classes begin	Monday, August 29
Census Date	Tuesday, September 13
<i>Deadline for payment of final bill Fall tuition and fees due)</i>	
<i>Deadline for adding and dropping classes and payment of student bill)</i>	
Family Weekend	Friday-Sunday, September 30-October 2
Etiquette Dinner (sponsored by Career Services)	Tuesday, October 4
Career Day (sponsored by Career Services)	Wednesday, October 5
Homecoming Weekend	Friday-Sunday, October 7-9
Mid-term grades available to students on WebOPUS	Thursday, October 20
Winter Term Registration:	
Advising	Monday-Friday, Oct. 24 - Nov. 4
Registration	Monday-Friday, November 7-18
Next Family Newsletter posted on the Fort Lewis College	Mid-November
Website at www.fortlewis.edu/visitors_parents/family_newsletter	
Thanksgiving Break	Monday-Friday, November 21-25
Last day of classes (<i>Deadline for withdrawing from term</i>)	Friday, December 9
Final exams	Monday-Friday, December 12-16
Commencement	Saturday, December 17
Final grades available to students on WebOPUS	Thursday, December 22

FERPA LAW - What You Want To Know

You should be aware of an important Federal law. This law is the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA for short); it is also called the Buckley Amendment.

The purpose of this law is to protect the privacy of educational records. Educational records include admission application, transcripts, test score reports, grades, permission to register codes, academic standing information, registration information, billing information, advisor assignments, and disciplinary records.

When a student reaches the age of 18 or begins attending college, privacy rights transfer from the parent to the student.

This means that the College cannot discuss any of these things UNLESS one of the following two conditions is met:

- 1) The student has filed a "FERPA" release with the Records Office authorizing release of information to specific individuals. This paperwork must be signed by the student and filed with the Records Office.
- 2) A parent or guardian establishes through filing a copy of the Federal Income Tax return with the Records Office that the student is a legal dependent and that the parent or guardian wishes to claim access to the student's educational records.

This law can put the College between students and parents only if you have not previously discussed whether and how you will gain access to your student's educational record. If you desire access to your student's educational record, please discuss how that access will be gained - either through your student filing a FERPA release or through your filing a copy of your Federal Income Tax return with the Records Office, or the sharing of your student's ID number and WebOPUS pin.

Detailed information on FERPA is available on the Records Office website, www.fortlewis.edu/academics/records_office/ferpa.asp

Why Should Your Student Get Involved?

Research shows that involved college students are more likely to graduate, and the students report greater satisfaction with their college experience.

Students have numerous opportunities for involvement in co-curricular activities while attending Fort Lewis College. There are more than 50 registered organizations and a myriad of other leadership opportunities such as Student Housing Resident Assistants, Student Orientation leaders and club organizers. These opportunities provide valuable experiences for students to recognize, develop and strengthen their leadership skills.

There is yet another good reason to get involved: **success!** Alexander Astin, an educator at UCLA, researched 200,000 students and determined that success in college is related to involvement (Achieving Academic Excellence). Astin defines involvement as including:

- Living on campus
- Working on campus
- Being involved in campus activities
- Having significant interactions with faculty, staff, administration or peers
- Being involved in research or other close relationships with professors

According to Astin, students involved in one or more of these areas tend to be more successful in college. Even if your student doesn't live or work on campus, there are many opportunities for them to explore to help enrich their college experience. For a complete listing, description and contact information for clubs and organizations, or to form a new organization, encourage your student to visit The Leadership Center.

The Leadership Center is located in room 112 of the College Union Phone: 247-7394



Skyhawk Athletics Varsity Sports

For information about varsity sports and schedules of Skyhawk Athletics varsity sports events, please go to

www.fortlewis.edu/flc_athletics/varsity_sports.asp

Student Life Center

The Student Life Center is a \$7.5 million student-funded facility at Fort Lewis College. The Student Life Center was a 2002 NIRSA Outstanding Sports Facility award winner and an Athletic Business Facility of Merit nominee and a 2003 Recreation Management Honor Award Winner. The space within the facility has been dedicated to meet the present and future needs of open recreation, outdoor pursuits, fitness programs and intramural programs for the students. For more information about the Student Life Center go to:

www.fortlewis.edu/current_students/recreational_orgs/student_life_center

Welcome Week

Fort Lewis College welcomes all previous and new students back the first week of school with exciting and fun activities designed to meet, greet, eat, and educate. These events are sponsored by many campus offices and organizations. Samplings of some events include:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Sun., August 28 | Campus Scavenger Hunt: 3-5 pm, beginning in the CUB Animas Lounge |
| Mon., August 29 | Games Night: 6:30 - 8:30 pm, West Residence Hall Quad |
| Weds. August 31 | Club Fair: 10 am - 2 pm on lawn in front of Reed Library |
| | Durango Welcomes FLC (food & music): 4 - 6 Main Ave., Downtown Durango |
| Thurs., Sept. 1 | Student Services Fair: 10 am - 2 pm on lawn in front of Reed Library |
| | Comedians Melanie Reno & Johnny Cardinals: 8-9 pm CUB Pub |
| Fri., Sept 2 | Desserts and More (greet faculty): 11am—1 pm on lawn by Clock Tower |

For additional information on these and other activities the first few weeks of school go to www.fortlewis.edu/current_students/student_clubs_orgs/leadership_center.asp

Fall Symposium for Freshmen

Each Fort Lewis College freshman is registered in a section of GS110 - Fall Symposium, which is a non-graded course that meets one hour per week for the first half of the term. This program compliments Orientation by providing "just-in-time" information for student success. Please encourage your student to attend this program. The topics are:

- Aug. 29 - Sept. 2 Campus Involvement
- Sept. 5 - 9 Increasing Motivation
- Sept. 12 - 16 Learning Support Services
- Sept. 19 - 23 Emotional Wellness
- Sept. 26 - 30 Student Services
- Oct. 3 - 7 College and Career Planning
- Oct. 10 - 14 Advising and Registration for Winter Term

Campus Dining

Campus Dining Services staff is committed to providing your student with both healthy and appetizing meal choices and a flexible time schedule to accommodate the hectic student schedule. For additional information about meal plan options and costs, please go to

[www.fortlewis.edu/student life/flc dining](http://www.fortlewis.edu/student_life/flc_dining)

Students living in the residence halls are automatically signed up for the Unlimited meal plan. Students wishing to change their meal plan should do so the first two weeks of school prior to census date. Students make meal plan changes by going into their WebOPUS account. For additional information about "flex dollars" which add additional variety in your student's meal plan and other frequently asked questions, go to the website listed above.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

From Campus Telephone: 9-911
 From Off-campus Telephone 911
 From Pay Telephone (no coins necessary) 911

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Campus Police Office: (970) 247-7491
 Health Center: (970) 247-7355
 Counseling Center: (970) 247-7212

Concert Hall Information

The Community Concert Hall at Fort Lewis College is a state-of-the-art performance facility that relies on the Community for funding assistance and support. With a seating capacity of 612, the Concert Hall is large enough to attract some of the finest performers touring today, as well as small enough to offer an intimacy enjoyed by artists and audiences alike. For a schedule of events go to www.fortlewis.edu/community_culture/concert_hall

To Find Learning Support and Success Programs

for your student go to www.fortlewis.edu/academics/learning_support_success

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• Look for the November issue of our Family Newsletter on the Fort Lewis College website at www.fortlewis.edu Click on Visitors/Parents, and then click on Family Newsletter. If you do not have access to our website you can request that we mail the newsletter to you. Please call (970) 247-7212, email familynewsletter@fortlewis.edu, or send us the following information.

• Family Name _____

• Family Address _____

• City _____

• State and ZIP _____

• Student Name _____

Please mail the above information to:
 Family Newsletter
 Fort Lewis College
 1000 Rim Drive
 Durango, Colorado 81301

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**COLORADO'S PUBLIC
LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE**

Postage

**Family Newsletter
260 Noble Hall
1000 Rim Drive
Durango, CO 81301**

**Phone: 970-247-7212
Fax: 970-247-7282
Email:
familynewsletter@fortlewis.edu**

Fort Lewis College Approved by Governor and State Legislature for “Selective” Admission Standards

A change in admission standards from “moderately selective” to “selective” has been approved by Governor Owens and both houses of the legislature. The higher standard is based on an index score which combines a student’s grade point average from high school with their SAT or ACT scores. This higher minimum standard is the same standard that is in place at CU, CSU and UNC. The higher admission standard is expected to significantly improve the College’s freshman retention and graduation rates.

The higher standards in admission will be phased in during the next four-year period. According to statistical data done on the socio-economic makeup of the school’s student body, there will not be a change in the overall minority or socio-economic access to the College.