Congratulations! You’ve made it through the academic year!

That’s something for you and your student to celebrate!

This issue focuses on things to consider during that first summer home after your students has some college experience under her or his belt. As welcome as the season is, summer brings its own challenges — and opportunities — for college students and their families! Enjoy the kick-back time that summer offers, but take a little time to check the ideas and suggestions Family Connections shares in “Helping Your Student Use Summer Wisely.”

Special message: UT has a new president!

On March 12, history was made at The University of Toledo Thursday as its Board of Trustees voted to name Dr. Sharon Gaber UT’s 17th president — the first woman to serve in that position.

Dr. Gaber was provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Arkansas, a public flagship, land grant institution with a student enrollment of more than 26,000 students. As a parent or family member, you’ll be especially interested in some of the impressive accomplishments she brings to UT:

• A nearly 40 percent increase in enrollment at Arkansas, while simultaneously increasing incoming student preparedness and diversity;

• An increase in Arkansas’ six-year student graduation rate; and

• A reclassification by the Carnegie Foundation of the University of Arkansas to a Very High Research institution, a reflection of more than $120 million in external research expenditures in 2014.

Gaber, who will assume the presidency on July 1, is already engaged with the UT culture and very excited over what she hopes to accomplish. As she said, “I see so much great work already happening at The University of Toledo and so much potential that we can achieve working together. I can’t wait to begin.”
Helping Your Student Use Summer Wisely

As a college parent, you may be looking forward to the summer months, and your student’s return home from college, with mixed emotions. You’ve missed your student while she was away, and you are anxious to spend time with her again. However, you recognize that she’s been on her own for months now, and you’re not sure what to expect. Parents and students who worked hard to make the off-to-college transition must now work at a new transition to living together once again. There will be adjustments for everyone.

In addition to the adjustments that everyone will need to make regarding living together once again, college students may be faced with the question of what to do during these summer months. Some students may have a job lined up; others may still be unsure of what the next few months will bring. Certainly, most students are looking forward to a well-deserved break from schoolwork and routine. However, this doesn’t mean that the summer months are not important, and hopefully productive, months for your college student. After your student has had an opportunity to catch up on some sleep, eat a few home-cooked meals and do some laundry, it may be time to have a conversation about a plan for the summer.

You’ll need to let your student take the lead in planning, but you may give some encouragement and guidance to help him think creatively. Remind your student that the summer months can be an important time for advancing his college career — both directly and indirectly. Here are a few suggestions of things your student might consider for the summer months.

Many students choose to use the summer months to work at a job to earn money. For many students, this summer income is not optional. If extra income during the summer months means that your student will need to work fewer hours during the school year, or possibly not need to work at all during the school year, that is important. Students who try to work too many hours while attending classes may have difficulty balancing their study time and priorities. Summer job experience is also important on your student’s resume.

Although your student may need a summer job primarily for income, encourage her to consider a summer job that relates to her chosen career or field. This will give her an added benefit for her resume, and also give her the opportunity to test out the field.

Another option for summer work is an internship. Some internships may pay, but most do not. However, the experience gained by most students through an internship makes it well worth the unpaid time. Students can “audition” a career, gain experience for their resume and make important networking contacts.

If your student has difficulty finding a job, but needs income, he might consider working for a Temp agency. He will be placed in short-term positions that might last from a day to several weeks. This will give him the opportunity to see many different work environments and industries — an advantage when later looking for a permanent job.
Your student might decide to **take a summer class**. This may mean that your student will get ahead and accelerate his **timeline to graduation**, take something not available at his college, make up for a course in which he had difficulty, or simply take something for fun.

Your student might spend some time during the summer doing some **job shadowing or informational interviewing**. This is an excellent time to gain more information about her chosen field — as well as to make some important contacts.

Your student might spend some time this summer **purchasing textbooks for his fall courses**. Many professors post syllabi on line, and college bookstores usually have textbook information. If your student plans ahead, he can find many books **on-line at used book prices**. Also, if your student buys her books this summer, she might spend some time **getting a head start on some of her reading**. This may make the fall semester feel less overwhelming at the beginning.

Your student might spend the summer **traveling or studying abroad**. Travel is always an experience that broadens horizons. Some students will be unable to study abroad during the regular school year – perhaps due to requirements in their major or some other reason. Many programs offer summer study abroad experiences.

Your student might spend some time during the summer working on **networking with people in the industry** in which he is interested. He might create a LinkedIn account, attend local seminars or workshops, or find local events related to the field. He may make some important contacts that will be helpful later.

Your student might spend time during the summer working on **acquiring or polishing important skills**. Working on anything from learning Excel, publishing software, Photoshop, improving writing or public speaking skills, will give her an advantage.

Your student might begin to work on some **job-related preparation**. He can review his Facebook page from an employer’s perspective, work on his resume and/or cover letter, practice interviewing, shop for interview-appropriate clothing.

Finally, and not least, your student should use the summer months for **some relaxation, something fun, and something personally rewarding**. Being a college student can be hard work, and can be stressful. The summer months can be productive, but should also be a break for your student.

*Special thanks to College Parent Central*
Important dates if your student is taking summer courses

REGISTRATION DATES
May 8  Summer 2015 Semester due date & 1st IPP* due
May 18 Summer Term I begins
May 21 2nd IPP payment due
May 28 Late fees assessed for past due balances
June 15 Summer Term III begins
June 26 Summer Term I ends
June 21 3rd IPP payment due
June 26 Late fees assessed for past due balances
June 29 Summer Term II begins
July 7 Drop for Non-payment - Fall 2015 registration; balances > $500
July 9 Fall 2015 e-statement available
July 31 Late Fees Assessed for past due balances (excludes Fall ’15)
August 7 Summer Terms II and III end
August 14 Fall 2015 due date & 1st IPP due
August 24 First day of Fall 2015 classes

* Installment Payment Plan

SOME ON-CAMPUS EVENTS DATES
May 25 Memorial day – no classes
July 3 Independence Day celebrated – no classes