

Towson Family Ties

November 2011

The winds of Change...

After spending almost three months in college, this may be the first time your child is returning home for an extended stay. And although they are sure to have missed being home, they are probably anxious about how this first visit back is going to go. Well, if you're feeling the same way, this article is just for you. Knowing what to expect can help you ensure that you and child are able to make the most out of this time you'll spend together!

1. Treat them like they're an adult.

College is a time for learning new things about the world around you and about yourself. And whether it is in their appearance, their personal habits, or even their career plans, you will see a certain growth in your child that you may not have expected. On campus there are less restrictions, no curfews, and no parents, so coming home may be a difficult adjustment, and they will try to assert their newfound independence. As a parent, this may be hard for you too, so be prepared to reestablish guidelines and house rules, while also giving them their space. This will be the time where they learn that college is not the same as home, and vice versa, but be sure to be mindful that distinguishing between the two will take some time.

2. Make them remember that they're still your child.

Thanksgiving break can be a great time to catch up on home time, but it can also leave them (and you) wishing life wouldn't resume after. Stay strong parents — help your child see that although they may live somewhere else now, it doesn't mean they have to change or abandon this aspect of their life.

On the other hand, although they love you, some students will suffer more from "home-friend-sickness" and you will see them wanting to spend all of their free time with the friends from high school they had to leave behind earlier this year. This can be especially hard if you have been waiting for your child to spend all their time at home! Encourage them to spend some family time with you but also let them know you understand where they are coming from.

3. Help them reboot for the end.

Homecoming means being able to sleep away the stress (they will sleep a lot), and getting away from the academic mindset. Midterms are over, but finals are coming, and this stage in the middle is where you come in. Talk to them about their grades, finances, and even their social life to help them leave home feeling well rested and prepared to take on the rest of the semester with ease. Your encouragement goes a long way.

4. Don't stress! It's all about enjoying yourself after all.

You're family, and in the end, they are sure to be thankful to have your support. Have fun, follow the suggestions above, and everything will fall into place.

Important Dates:

- ☞ **Wed, November 9th**
Last day to withdraw from full term courses with a grade of W
Last day to change to pass/fail or audit option
- ☞ **Wed, November 23rd**
Residence Halls close at 9am Millennium Hall and Towson Run will remain open through Sunday
- ☞ **November 23rd - 27th**
Thanksgiving Break
NO CLASSES
- ☞ **Mon, November 28th**
Classes resume
- ☞ **Tues, November 29th**
Last day to withdraw from second 7 week session with a grade of W
- ☞ **Registration for Spring 2012, Nov 2nd–Dec 4th. Bills are due January 4th, 2012**
Visit <http://www.towson.edu/bursar> for more info.

Experience speaks...

Advice from students who know what its like to go home for Thanksgiving Break

"When I was a freshman, I was glad my parents gave a day or two to get re-acclimated."

- **Chris**, Junior

"Don't expect us to do chores ...willingly."

- **Marksiha**, Sophomore

"Don't be offended if we lay down and try to sleep forever. Home is so comfortable it makes you sleepy!"

- **Lisé**, Senior

"Make your child feel excited to come home. The week before call frequently, talking about how excited the family is to see them!"

- **Jon**, Junior

"Expect a lot of laundry!"

- **Kingsley**, Junior

"Expect us to have a new independence, and give us room to explore it."

- **Kayla**, Junior

"Going home for break made me more appreciative and loving of home."

-**Brian**, Junior

"Home cooked meals! I really cherish them."

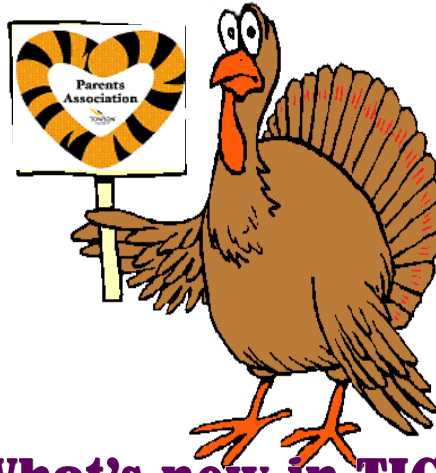
-**Alexandra**, Sophomore

"Sometimes my parents really miss me (which is great) but they don't realize I'm not only looking forward to spending the couple days with them, but my friends as well!"

- **Nick**, Senior

"We won't want to leave at the end of break, but don't be afraid to push your child out the door. Trust me, they'll thank you in the long run."

- **Kristen**, Junior



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What's new in TIGERTOWN

- ◆ Towson was visited by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Dr. Rigoberta Menchu Tum during the Center for Student Diversity's Diversity Speaker Series. View the Towerlight's special coverage at <http://www.thetowerlight.com/2011/10/a-bringer-of-peace-in-a-time-of-war/>
- ◆ *The Ellen Show* visited Towson last month and filmed a segment based on a twitter challenge by Ellen! (aired Oct. 12th) See the segment on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9T7JByVyVeE>
- ◆ The Towson Tigers Football team is currently 8-2, making this the best season our team has ever seen. Coach Rob Ambrose is nominated for Liberty Mutual Coach of the Year! Show your support by voting at <http://www.coachoftheyear.com/Vote.aspx?cid=144#fbid=TniBP0nysXa>
- ◆ Upcoming events this month:
 - ☞ Nov 14th - Nov 18th
Love is Louder Anti-Bullying Week
 - ☞ Nov 20th - 8:00am
5K Turkey Run
@ Uinitas Stadium