

# Financial News For Students – August 2011

## **Back to School Issue**

This month's newsletter is dedicated to helping you stretch those educational dollars. Whether you are commuting, living in a dorm or off-campus apartment, this newsletter is for YOU.

## **Florida's Tax Free Weekend**

August 12–14 is the designated tax free weekend for Florida shoppers! Selected clothing and related items up to \$75 each as well as school supplies up to \$15 each will be exempt from sales tax. The Florida Department of Revenue offers more information at <http://dor.myflorida.com/dor/>.

## **Textbooks: New, Used, or Download?**

Your schedule is in place and now it's time to purchase textbooks. Sticker shock is about to come your way—have you priced textbooks lately? \$200 for one textbook is not unusual. So what's a student to do? Luckily there are choices available to help ease the financial burden of textbooks.

Amazon now offers new, used, and ***Kindle textbooks***. Digital textbooks can be downloaded onto your PC, Mac, Kindle or other mobile device. With a rental minimum of 30 days, you can select the exact time frame needed for the textbook rental and have the option of extending time by daily increments if needed.

This format saves up to 80% off the retail price and allows you to keep your notes and highlighted information beyond the rental date.

Please visit: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), select the "books" tab, then "textbooks" to find out more about Amazon's programs for students.

If you truly prefer the hardcopy version of a textbook, try [www.half.com](http://www.half.com) for a great selection of college textbooks.

# Commuters

Parking Passes are required at most institutions. Don't forget to purchase one before you start classes.

Parking can be a hot issue for commuters competing for a limited number of spaces. Look for ways to ease stress by seeking off-campus parking near your school. Many organizations or local churches will rent spaces to students. Of course, you can always leave earlier but *where's the fun in that?*

Fuel Economy: This site offers great advice for getting the most out of your vehicle: <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/>

Apps for your mobile phone can help you locate the best prices for gasoline in your area:

<http://gasprices.mapquest.com/>

<http://gasbuddy.com>

# Campus Living

Check out these FREE resources for surviving the college experience:

<http://www.collegetips.com>

<http://www.mappingyourfuture.org/undergraduates>

<http://www.survivingcollegelife.com/archives/>

# Feeding Frenzy?

Listed below are great sites and tips for locating FOOD without breaking your budget:

50 Ramen Noodle Recipes:

<http://www.rasmussen.edu/student-life/blogs/college-life/ramen-noodle-recipes/>

30 Great Food Finds:

<http://www.scholarships.com/resources/campus-life/college-cooking-101/30-great-food-finds/>

Look for free meals on campus sponsored by organizations such as church and civic groups.

## FINANCIAL NEWS FOR STUDENTS

### Navigating Your Financial Future

*your dream, your plan, your future*

Sponsored by:

Office of Student Financial Assistance / Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL

For more information about NyFF's products and services, please contact:

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