Greetings from UMass Amherst Office of Parent Services (OPS)!

The 2018-19 academic year is finally here. As we welcome new and returning students and families to campus, we want to share some detailed information on Move-In, Fall Orientation, Welcome Week and 40 Days of UMass, Family Weekend, and more to facilitate a smooth transition and fresh start into fall. We look forward to working with you this academic year.

On Campus Move-In Information

Directions and Parking Information
Be sure that the driver of your student’s vehicle also downloads the My UMass app and thoroughly reviews Move-In routes, from the check-in location through parking. Once the vehicle has been unloaded, the driver will be directed away from the building to park. In most cases, your student will remain with their belongings. The My UMass app has the route the driver will need to take to find parking near your student’s residence hall.

Boarding Pass and UCard
Your student will need their boarding pass and UCard to check in to their room. Remind them to print their boarding pass and pack both items in a location that is easily accessible when they arrive on campus for Move-In. For questions, contact Residential Life Student Services, 413-545-2100.

New2U Annual Tag Sale
Did your student forget to pick up the one item that will really bring their room together? Remind them to visit the Annual New2U tag sale located in the Student Union Ballroom, September 2, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. for heavily discounted room décor and school supplies.

Reusable Water Bottles
Encourage your student to leave disposable plastic bottled water at home and bring a reusable water bottle to school instead. There are hydration stations, where students can easily fill up their reusable bottles, in every residence hall and most academic building on campus.

Off Campus Living

The Off Campus Student Center (OCSC) is a home for off-campus and commuter students in the Student Union. The Center has a relaxed space for studying, taking a break, or having a snack. Inexpensive rental lockers ($35/year), free coffee and tea daily, quick access to computers and printers, and social events make this space a hidden gem for all students, even those who live on campus. Staff can assist with off-campus housing searches, finding roommates, understanding leases and budgeting, safety, landlord issues, Party Smart Registration, and getting to know the local area. Make sure to mark your calendars for Family Weekend, and the popular Renting Your First Place session for families and students. OCSC is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., in 314 Student Union. For a list of fall semester opening events, your student can visit the OCSC Facebook page or Campus Pulse, or drop by the Center to learn more.

Fall Welcome for First-Year Families and Community Service for All

Move-in Welcome
We can’t wait to greet new families during Move-In on Friday, August 31. OPS staff and family volunteers will be available to answer questions from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Once your student is settled into their room, stop by the Campus Center Concourse for a warm welcome. While there, you’ll be invited to write your student some words of good wishes and encouragement to kick off the new
academic year. Our office will deliver the note to your student via campus mail the following week. All new first-year families are welcome and no RSVP is required.

**Student Care Supply Closets**

Don’t forget to drop off your supply closet donation at the Campus Center Concourse. Similar to last year, OPS will collect toiletries during Move-In (August 31) to help replenish the five Student Care Supply Closets throughout campus. Supply closets offer free toiletries and other household items to low-income students and/or students facing an unexpected financial emergency. Items in dire need include: shampoo and conditioner (general and for natural hair), hand sanitizer, deodorant (men and women), toothpaste, and toothbrushes (all normal size).

For current families who want to donate items, the Dean of Students Office located in Whitmore Administration, Room 227 will be open Sunday, September 2, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. for drop offs.

**Fall Welcome Activities for New and Current Students**

**Fall New Students Orientation (NSO)**

Fall NSO occurs Friday, August 31 through Monday, September 3. This is your student’s time to get acquainted with university staff, meet other incoming students with similar background and interests, reconnect with their Summer NSO friends and orientation leaders, explore academic and co-curricular opportunities, navigate campus and their residential communities, and learn UMass Amherst community values and traditions. Encourage your new student (first-year and transfer students) to attend as many activities as possible to get connected to the bigger campus. For a list of scheduled activities, visit our website.

**40 Days of UMass**

Making the transition to college is an exciting time for all new students, and events and activities for new and returning students last well beyond Fall NSO! Throughout the first six weeks of the semester, offices across campus kick off the new academic year with scheduled events and programs to help students engage with each other, the campus, and our community. In addition, university resources will be highlighted during 40 Days of UMass. Encourage your student to get involved and discover ways to make the most of their college experience. They should check out the 40DaysOfUMass website for more information.

**Stay Connected to other UMass Amherst Families**

The UMAPA Advisory Council looks forward to working with new and current UMass Amherst families to improve the college experience for undergraduate students and families. As you begin the new academic year, we encourage you to take advantage of the many opportunities sponsored by the Council to become engaged, connected, and involved.

- Connect to other UMass Amherst families by joining the Family to Family Facebook group. Note: Once you click on the link and request to join, you will automatically receive a note from the group admin asking you to confirm your status as a UMass Amherst family member. Respond to the screening question and add your student’s name and class year as confirmation (e.g. “Yes [Jane Doe, Class of 2021]”). For security reasons, you will not be given access to the group if you do not complete this screening process.

- Visit the UMass Amherst Family to Family blog to find insights, advice, and resources, all provided by experienced UMass Amherst families.

- Last but not least, donate to the Foster Student Success Fund designed to support UMass Amherst students who are currently in foster care, have experienced foster care, or are aging out of the foster care system. Money raised will be used to supplement resources already available through the Dean of Students Office and FAFSA. For more information and to donate visit the Foster Student Success Fund.

**New Scholarship System Makes Application Process Faster and Easier**

UMass Amherst has launched a new online scholarship system, AcademicWorks, which will allow students to search and apply for campus scholarships in one location. There are currently 800 scholarships in the system, but new funds are continually being created, mostly through the generosity of alumni, parents, and friends. We hope that students will take full advantage of this new resource. Students can visit AcademicWorks and log in with their campus credentials to begin.

**Music Ensembles & Performance Opportunities**

Does your student play an instrument or love to sing? Encourage them to make these activities part of
their UMass experience! Auditions for the Music & Dance Department’s many ensembles, from choral and instrumental to jazz and classical, start September 4. Visit the Music & Dance Department website for more information.

**Student Employment on Campus**
If your student plans to work on campus, there are forms they must complete before they can be hired and paid. To make sure their HR paperwork is filled out properly, please be aware of the following:

- All new employees must bring original documents as valid forms of identification. Photocopies and faxed documents are not acceptable. Refer to the I-9 form for more information.

- As direct deposit is mandatory, they will need their bank name, routing number, and account number. (The account number is NOT the number on their debit/credit card.

- They will need to have the necessary information to complete their federal and state tax forms (e.g. knowing the number of allowances they would like to claim or whether they will claim as exempt from taxes). UMass cannot provide assistance in filling out tax forms.

**Make Plans to Attend Family Weekend**
Family Weekend is October 19-21. You, your family, and extended family members are invited to join us for a weekend full of fun and happy memories. For first-year families, this is a great opportunity to check in on how your student is adjusting to campus and learn about their new life. For returning families, it’s a way to keep the tradition going and spend as much time with your student as possible before they graduate. We offer a variety of events from which to choose and this year Family Weekend coincides with a football game, adding even more festivities to the weekend. For a list of planned activities, hotel room blocks, and other places to stay, visit our website. Online registration is now open. Register now to take advantage of our early registration discount. We’re constantly adding events to our schedule, so check it between now and your arrival for the latest updates.

**September Poll Question**
Which from the list below are you excited to do at Family Weekend 2018? Participate in the poll and view the previous month’s results on the Office of Parent Services website.

**Important Dates**
- August 31: First-Year Move-In, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- September 1: Transfer Move-In, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. (North, top 5 floors of SW towers, and Patterson/MacKimmie ground floor)
- September 1-3: Fall NSO for first-year and transfer students
- September 2: Multi-Year Move-In, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- September 4: First day of classes
- September 7: Activities Expo
- September 17: Last day to add/drop classes, waive the Student Health Benefit Plan, and submit immunization records

**Website Links**
- Fall NSO
- Family Weekend
- Office of the Bursar
- Residential Life

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the Office of Parent Services, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. We’re more than happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

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In case of a campus emergency, always follow the university’s main web page at www.umass.edu. The website will display a distinctly colored stripe at the top containing pertinent status updates and information related to ongoing emergencies.