



University of Massachusetts Amherst
Office of Parent Services

September 29, 2009

Greetings from UMass Amherst

Mother Nature is reminding us of the recent change in season and a gorgeous fall palette of colors now adorns our local landscape. We hope you will be able to visit campus and enjoy this spectacular foliage!

This email contains information about a variety of campus matters including the Majors Fair, UCard, Homecoming, flu shots, and more.

Majors Fair 2009

Has your student not declared a major yet? Is he or she curious about the variety of academic options available? The Majors Fair, sponsored by Undergraduate Advising, will take place on **Wednesday, October 28** from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Campus Center Auditorium and first floor area. All academic departments on campus will participate in the fair, and it is a great way for students to learn about the nearly 90 programs offered at UMass Amherst.

More information can be found on the Undergraduate Advising website:
www.ualc.umass.edu/advising/majorsexploration/majorsfair.

If your student has any questions, feel free to direct him or her to Undergraduate Advising: 615 Goodell Building, 413-545-2191.

Fall into Success

Your student's career path starts today—not when they pick up your cap and gown! During the month of October career success centers across the campus will showcase some of the programs and services available to all students. The **Fall Into Success** kick-off event is **Tuesday, October 6**, from 10 a.m.– 2 p.m. on the Library Lawn. Students can take part in the “Why Hire U?” video competition to win an I-Touch sponsored by Hanover Insurance, play live interactive career trivia for prizes, sign up for a mock interview, stop by resume express for some tips, learn about internships and much more! The full schedule of activities is available at www.umassalumni.com/students/careersuccess.

Learning Commons

The Learning Commons is located in the lower level of the W.E.B. Du Bois library. The Commons has 150 computers and offers writing assistance from the Writing Center Staff, learning support from the Learning Resource Center, technology support, advising and career information. This resource provides students with an attractive, centrally located place to tackle their work, study, and

meet with other students. Please encourage your student to stop by. For more information on the Learning Commons, go to www.umass.edu/learningcommons.

Health Insurance Verification

If you need verification that your son or daughter is a full-time student at UMass Amherst, please contact the Office of the Registrar at 413-545-0555, or mail your form to their office (213 Whitmore Administration Building, University of Massachusetts Amherst, 181 Presidents Drive, Amherst, MA 01003-9313).

Money Management and the UCard

Managing money is a concept many students are still getting used to. Funds they saved all summer may be depleted after purchasing books, supplies, and socializing with their new friends. As your student heads into the second month of the semester, you may start to hear requests for more money. One strategy to help your student budget for the semester is to use the debit account feature of the UCard.

The UCard Debit Account is a declining balance debit account. It's different from an ATM card, because it can only be used for purchases on-campus and students can't withdraw cash from it. Students spend the funds in the account and must replenish it to spend more. They can manage their UCard Debit Accounts online and allow up to four designees to view their account information. This will allow you and your student to see how money on the account is being spent each month. To learn more about making a deposit to a UCard Debit Account, visit - <https://services.jsatech.com/textpage.php?pageid=353&cid=119&>.

Flu Update

Has your student received a seasonal flu vaccination yet?

University Health Services (UHS) is hosting clinics every Thursday from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. through December 17. FluMist, the inhaled form of the vaccine, is available and appropriate for healthy people ages 2 to 49 who are not pregnant. Those who already have an appointment scheduled with a UHS healthcare provider can receive seasonal flu vaccination at that time. Also, Maxim Health Systems is conducting two public, walk-in flu shot clinics: Thursday, October 1, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., and Tuesday, October 27, 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., in the Campus Center auditorium. For more information on these clinics, visit www.umass.edu/uhs.

When the H1N1 vaccine becomes available, UHS will conduct clinics; watch the UHS website for updates.

Homecoming

Homecoming weekend is October 16-18, and there are many activities planned. The highlight, as always, will be the Homecoming football game against the University of New Hampshire (3:30 p.m., on Saturday, October 17, at McGuirk Stadium). For tickets, call the Athletic Ticket Office directly at 866-UMassTix (866-862-7784).

For more information about Homecoming, visit www.umassalumni.com.

Campus to Career Programs

The UMass Amherst Alumni Association and the Student Alumni Association invite all students to attend an upcoming Campus to Career program. Students can hear about life after UMass Amherst from young alumni, learn about the ins and outs of networking, or learn dining etiquette skills at one of our programs. For more information and to register, visit www.umassalumni.com/students.

Important Dates

October 12 - Columbus Day Holiday – No Classes

October 13 - Monday class schedule will be followed

October 16 - Multi Bands Pops concert at the Fine Arts Center

October 17 - Fall Open House for prospective students and Homecoming

October 22 - Last day to drop with "W" - Undergraduate, Stockbridge, Continuing & Professional Education

October 28 - Majors Fair

Links to Other UMass Amherst Websites

Alumni Association & Homecoming Information – www.umassalumni.com

Fine Arts Center – www.umass.edu/fac

Undergraduate Advising Information for Declared and Undeclared Students – www.ualc.umass.edu/undergraduatestudents

Visiting Campus – www.umass.edu/umhome/visit_campus.html

University Health Service – www.umass.edu/uhs

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the Office of Parent Services. Our office is open Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. We are more than happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

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Treating Our Parents as Partners