



**Office of Parent Services**  
37 Mather Drive  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Amherst, Massachusetts 01003

**November 10, 2009**

### **Greetings from UMass Amherst**

Now that we have flipped the calendar to November and turned the clocks back, we are more than halfway through the semester. It is time to start thinking about traveling home for the holidays and plans for spring semester. This email contains information about course registration and housing for spring as well as other important details.

### **Thanksgiving Break**

Although most students will head home for the Thanksgiving break, some are not able to do so, due to distance. We encourage students who can't travel home to spend the holiday with a roommate or friend. All of the residence halls, except for nine-month halls (Cashin, Lewis, Brett, Prince, and North apartments), will close at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25. Please encourage your student to make their transportation arrangements accordingly. The halls will re-open at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 29.

### **Final Exams**

The last day of classes for the Fall 2009 semester is Friday, December 11. Final exams will begin on Monday, December 14 and end on Saturday, December 19. Students can view their final exam schedule through SPIRE. For more information about the final exam schedule and policy please visit: [http://www.umass.edu/registrar/gen\\_info/final\\_exams.htm](http://www.umass.edu/registrar/gen_info/final_exams.htm). If a student is scheduled for more than two finals in a day, or scheduled for two exams at the same time, he or she should go to the Registrar's office in 213 Whitmore for assistance. The Registrar will help the student reschedule the exam in question.

### **Advising & Spring Registration**

Course registration for the spring semester begins this month. Students can find their specific registration period, known as an Enrollment Appointment, on their SPIRE account. Students should make an appointment with an advisor to map out a plan for the spring semester before the Enrollment Appointment begins. More information about course registration is available on the Registrar's website at [http://www.umass.edu/registrar/registration/registration\\_information.htm](http://www.umass.edu/registrar/registration/registration_information.htm).

### **Spring Housing Information**

Now is the time for your student to start thinking about his or her housing plans for the spring semester. Please encourage your student to review information on changing assignments for the spring or canceling a spring assignment on the Housing and Residence Life website at [http://www.housing.umass.edu/hao/on\\_campus\\_current.html](http://www.housing.umass.edu/hao/on_campus_current.html).

## **Changing Rooms**

An on-campus student who is interested in changing his or her housing assignment may choose one of two processes to obtain a new assignment for Spring 2010. Current residents may take part in the Spring Online Room Selection on SPIRE by requesting an appointment between November 16 and December 7 and participating in the online selection process. Alternatively, students may participate in the Roommate/Apartment Mate Pull-In from December 7 to December 18.

## **Canceling a Housing Assignment**

Students who will not be returning in the spring must cancel their spring housing assignment by 5:00 p.m. on December 4 or incur a cancellation fee. Please be aware that even students who are going abroad, transferring, withdrawing for medical reasons, accepting an RA position, or moving off campus must cancel their housing assignments. Any student who plans to cancel an assignment or application is expected to do so directly with the Housing Assignment Office, either by calling 413-545-2100 or visiting the office at 235 Whitmore. Parents and guardians are not eligible to cancel a housing assignment for a student. Submitting withdrawal paperwork with another office on campus does NOT constitute a cancellation of an on-campus housing assignment, application, or contract. The free cancellation period is November 2 - December 4 at 5:00 p.m.

## **Moving Out**

Anyone applying to change spaces for the spring or canceling a spring assignment must move all of their belongings out of his or her room and complete a checkout with Housing prior to departing for the semester. All students leaving for winter break must turn in their room key to hall staff before departing. Please be advised that your students will not have to move all of their belongings out of their rooms if they are remaining in the same room for the spring 2010 semester. However, please encourage them to take all essential and valuable items, including medications, as students will not be allowed back into halls until the start of spring semester. UMass Amherst does not guarantee security, and provides NO insurance coverage for loss due to fire, water, theft, damages, etc. during the break.

## **New Recreation Center Open**

On Friday, October 30, the campus opened another new building, the Recreation Center. Overlooking the campus athletic fields and the hills of the Pioneer Valley, the Recreation Center features 24,000 square feet of fitness and weight equipment, a jogging/walking track, a three-court gymnasium, activity rooms for exercise classes, and a juice bar. There is no additional fee for undergraduates to use the facility. However, students must present a valid UCard to enter the Recreation Center. Visit the Recreation Center website for more details:  
<http://www.umass.edu/campusrec/facilities/indoorfacilities/recreationcenter>.

## **H1N1 Flu Update**

UMass Amherst is expecting a shipment of the H1N1 vaccine to arrive shortly. Once it is here, University Health Services will hold clinics on campus for students and the community. Details about the clinic will be broadcast to students via email, web, and through announcements and fliers in the residence halls. In the meantime, please encourage your students to take care of themselves. Remind them to get rest, eat a healthy diet, wash their hands with soap or hand sanitizer, and cough

or sneeze into their elbows. If your student does feel ill, please urge him or her to stay home and not attend classes. If your student is experiencing flu-like symptoms, he or she should call the UHS Triage Advice Nurse at (413) 577-5229. Students who are ill may have a friend or roommate deliver "Get Well" meals from the dining common. Go to the UMass Dining FAQ for more info:  
<http://www.umassdining.com/home/faq/#idGetWellMealProgram>.

### **Important Dates**

November 11 - Veteran's Day  
November 12 - Registration for Spring 2010 begins  
November 25 - Thanksgiving break begins after last class  
November 29 - Residence halls re-open at 10:00 a.m.  
November 30 - Classes resume

### **Links to Other UMass Amherst Websites**

UMass Amherst Events - <http://www.umass.edu/umhome/events>

Housing & Residence Life - <http://www.housing.umass.edu>

Directions to Campus - [http://www.umass.edu/visitorsctr/Directions\\_to\\_Campus](http://www.umass.edu/visitorsctr/Directions_to_Campus)

We wish you and your family a healthy and happy Thanksgiving holiday.

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,

Jeanne Horigan, Director  
Office of Parent Services

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*Treating Our Parents as Partners*