August, 2014

Dear Colleagues,

It hardly seems possible, but the start of another academic year is right around the corner! Help get it started on the right foot by attending the Student Affairs and Campus Life Kick-Off Breakfast on Friday, August 22. This year’s student move-in begins August 28 and features a new online reservation process; for details, visit the Residential Life website. UMass football returns Saturday, August 30, as the team meets Bay State rival Boston College at Gillette Stadium. The Alumni Association offers great packages including travel, tailgating and admission. Bring your enthusiasm and cheer on the Minutemen!

Best wishes,
The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Campus Life

Campus events

Gather your colleagues and sign up to be part of the fourth annual UMass Homecoming Parade, Saturday, September 27. The parade steps off from Haigis Mall, makes its way to the Amherst town center, then back to McGuirk Alumni Stadium, where the Minutemen take on Bowling Green. Register on Campus Pulse by September 6.

Mark your calendars for the third annual Mass Impact Day of Service, Saturday, September 13, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Volunteers work alongside town officials, nonprofit organizations and residents on an array of community service projects. Last year, more than 400 people shared their time and talents on projects for 39 organizations across the Pioneer Valley. Join us and help make this year even more successful! Email Jody Goodman to learn more and get involved.

Student Activities and Involvement hosts “Programming for Student Success,” Thursday, September 18, 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Campus Center. The event includes a keynote address, panels and workshops, with crowd-sourced topics and facilitated group discussions. Register online; attendance is free for UMass staff and faculty. The event precedes the fifth annual gathering of the New England Conference for Student Success, September 19; participants do not have to be registered for the conference to attend. Questions? Email Erin Donnally Drake.

The Stonewall Center, UMass Amherst’s LGBTQIA resource center, kicks off the school year with an open house Thursday, September 4, 5 – 7 p.m. Stop by Crampton Hall, 256 Sunset Ave., to meet, mingle and enjoy a vegetarian dinner!

The Center for Multicultural Advancement and Student Success (CMASS) hosts the annual “Cultural Connections” celebration Thursday, September 4, 6 – 9:30 p.m. in the Campus Center auditorium. The free event, open to the campus community and the public, showcases our diversity through music, song, dance, art, poetry and more.

CMASS announces open houses at the university’s four cultural centers; all take place between 6 – 7 p.m. The Josephine White Eagle Cultural Center open house is Monday, September 8; the Latin American Cultural Center is open Tuesday, September 9; the Malcolm X Cultural Center on Wednesday, September 10; and the Yuri Kochiyama Cultural Center on Thursday, September 11.

Spread the word about “I am CMASS,” a new peer referral campaign beginning this fall. CMASS-affiliated students who refer five new students receive a 2GB USB wristband bearing the campaign message; new referrals receive a welcome gift. The student with the most referrals toward the goal of 1,000 students will be honored with CMASS’ Spirit Award during end-of-year celebrations.

The 48th Annual Community Breakfast, August 27 at the Student Union Ballroom. Connect with colleagues, friends, business, community and governmental leaders while enjoying a delicious buffet!
Information & Updates for Colleagues

**Announcements**

This month, Career Services launches a new online system to help students achieve their career goals. CareerConnect will include internship and job listings, career education tools, on-campus interview opportunities, and a Career Mentor section.

The university’s Men and Masculinities Center officially opened August 1. The center is located in the Southwest residential area, 120 Thoreau Hall, and is directed by Tom Schiff, Ed.D.

**Staff news**

Shelly Perdomo, director of CMASS, attended the Higher Education Research Institute’s Diversity Research Institute July 15 – 16 at the University of California, Los Angeles. The intensive, hands-on program gave attendees tools to assess campus diversity and its impact on student outcomes. Participants learned about the latest diversity research, the importance of campus climate and evidence on the educational benefits of diversity.


Lydia Washington, Student Activities and Involvement assistant director, was selected as a member of American College Personnel Association’s Standing Committee for Women Directorate. The committee’s mission is to support, develop and empower those who identify as women and their allies through advocacy and activism, engaging community and scholarship.

Michael Wiseman, director of the Office of Fraternities and Sororities, presented “Just Where Do We Put the Fraternity and Sorority Program” as part of the New England Drive-In Conference for the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors.

Candace “Kinda” Huhtala has joined the division’s technology services department as an applications analyst. Her experience includes system implementation, database administration and support, and project leadership. Her office will be at 210 Berkshire House for the first few weeks, followed by a move to John Quincy Adams Hall.

Staff from Residential Life and CMASS attended the Institute on First-Generation College Students, hosted by the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition, July 25 – 27 in Asheville N.C. Topics included defining the first-generation college student; understanding these students, their needs and characteristics; factors contributing to success; building a comprehensive institutional approach; developing curricular and co-curricular strategies and initiatives; and defining the role of faculty and staff in student success.” Insights from the institute will assist staff in supporting UMass Amherst’s first-generation initiatives.

**Health Notice**

The recent Ebola outbreak is a worldwide concern, although the risk of contracting the virus in the United States is extremely low.

University Health Services at UMass Amherst has procedures in place for many different public health issues. Out of an abundance of caution, we have collaborated with the Five Colleges and area boards of health to develop specific plans in the unlikely event Ebola directly affects our community. This team will continue working with local officials, hospitals and emergency response agencies to monitor the outbreak and take all necessary precautions to ensure health and safety.

For a FAQ on Ebola, please visit the UHS website.