November, 2014

Dear Colleagues,

There’s a lot going on this month, including Veterans Day observances; the return of football to McGuirk Alumni Stadium on Nov. 12, as the Minutemen take on Ball State; and the Thanksgiving Day holiday, Nov. 27. Although it’s a busy month, take some time out of your schedule to get involved in some of in the many campus events and activities scheduled over the next few weeks.

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

Events

November: Trans Awareness Month
The Stonewall Center marks Trans Awareness Month with a month-long series of events, including a talk by leading trans lawyer and activist Kylar Broadus on Wednesday, Nov. 19 and the local commemoration of the International Transgender Day of Remembrance, Thursday, Nov. 20. Find the complete schedule on the Hampshire County Transgender Awareness Month Facebook page.

Veterans Day events
The campus is observing Veterans Day with events including a wreath-laying ceremony Monday, Nov. 10, 3 p.m. at Memorial Hall; the university’s two Reserve Officer Training Corps units will begin an 11-hour vigil following the ritual. A virtual career fair takes place Wednesday, Nov. 12 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; UMass veterans from all majors can chat online with employers from a variety of industries seeking to fill full-time positions, co-ops and internships. That evening, a student veteran panel will share their stories and answer audience questions, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Cape Cod lounge.

Now through November 14: Stand Against Racism exhibit: Representations of Oppression and Liberation
Monday - Thursday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Student Union Art Gallery
Books, music, books, quotes, pictures and more make up this exhibit of items which have inspired UMass community members to challenge oppressive behavior or recover from negative experiences.

The Minutemen return home to McGuirk Alumni Stadium for a nationally-televised game with Ball State. Game time is 8 p.m. Visit the football web page for game details; Parking Services has important information for permit holders in lots 11 and 22.

Mon., November 17: International Education Week presentation
4 – 5 p.m., Integrative Learning Center, room 240
The International Programs Office marks International Education Week with “Keep it Global: Diversity and Inclusion in Study Abroad,” a free presentation by Dr. Aaron Bruce, chief diversity officer at San Diego State University.

Mon., November 24: How to Get a Job Saving the Planet
4:30 – 6 p.m., Gordon Hall, room 302
Students interested in sustainability and the environment won’t want to miss this talk about sustainability careers with non-profits, business and government, featuring Dr. Eban Goodstein, Director of Bard College’s Center for Environmental Policy.
Announcements

Campus flu vaccinations
Flu season is right around the corner! If your primary care provider is at University Health Services (UHS), you can get vaccinated at one of many walk-in flu clinics taking place at UHS and sites across campus this month. Maxim Health Systems is also conducting a public flu clinic Nov. 13, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Campus Center. Visit the UHS website for schedules and important information.

Thanksgiving hosts needed
The International Programs Office is seeking families in the Amherst area to host our international students for a Thanksgiving dinner Thursday, Nov. 27. Far away from home, these students really appreciate a taste of American home life on the holiday. Interested hosts should email international student advisor Richard Yam; please note the maximum number of students you can accommodate.

Mullins Center discounts
The Mullins Center is offering a special faculty and staff discount to see the Broadway sensation “Cirque Dreams Holidaze,” Thursday, Dec. 11. Save $15 off each ticket when you come to the Mullins Center box office and show your UMass ID; there's s no limit to the number of tickets you can buy. For more information, email marketing director Rachel Meyrowitz.

Residence hall closings
All non-break housing residence halls close for Thanksgiving break at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26 and reopen at 10 a.m. Sunday, November 30.

Spring online room selection
Students interested in changing their housing assignment for spring semester can make an appointment request beginning Monday, Nov. 10. More information about the room selection process and other options is on the Living at UMass website.

Staff news
Stonewall Center Director Genny Beemyn’s article “Transforming the Curriculum: The Inclusion of the Experiences of Trans People” has been published in “Understanding and Teaching Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender History,” a University of Wisconsin Press book edited by Leila Rupp and Susan K. Freeman.

Rose Boulay has joined Parent Services and the New Students Orientation (NSO) program as assistant director. Boulay comes to campus from the University of Kentucky, where she was a lecturer and directed the Office of Engagement, Equity and Diversity. At UMass Amherst, she’ll focus on creating a range of new parent initiatives and ensuring the ongoing success of NSO programming.

Students Tom Mangano, Emily Devenney and Lindsay Feitler attended the Northeast Association of College and University Housing Officers’ RD2B conference, Oct. 4 at the University of Hartford. The one-day event offers presentations, mock interviews and mentorships for undergraduate students looking to pursue a graduate or professional position in the residential life field. Residence director Julie Chatzinoff participated as a conference mentor and panelist.
On-campus learning
Enhance your professional and personal knowledge with free workshops offered by Workplace Learning and Development. This month’s open sessions include relaxation and stress relief; a two-part series on conflict communication; a Microsoft Word 2013 certificate series; understanding copyrights; a three-part university budgeting certificate series; a brown-bag discussion about multiple generations in the workplace; and more.

The Labor/Management Workplace Education Program offers free training and education opportunities to foster employee growth and development. Offerings this month include an introduction to Excel; a series on university job opportunities and benefits; creating resumes and cover letters; a discussion on workplace bullying; sessions on solar hot water and solar electricity; strategies for paying down debt; and an introduction to InDesign for USA/MTA union members.

In memoriam
The UMass Amherst community mourns the recent loss of two students. Timothy Kong, 21, of Methuen, a senior majoring in management and business, died September 21. Chloe Malast, 21, of Needham, died October 19. She was a member of the Commonwealth Honors College class of 2017. We extend our heartfelt condolences to their families, friends and loved ones.