

August 2024 Newsletter

Student Parent Programs News and Events

- **Student Parents Programs Childcare Tuition Assistance** – Our childcare tuition assistance (CCTA) application is open! This program allows approved student parent applicants to receive reimbursement for part or all of their childcare costs - visit this webpage to fill out your application for the 2024-2025 Academic Year: [Assistance with Child Care Expenses | Student Parent Programs](#)
- **Student Parent Programs Welcome Brunch** - Welcome back to school! Student Parent Programs invites you and your family to join us for a meal (courtesy of UMass Dining) at Berkshire Dining Commons to celebrate the start of a new academic year together. We'll gather together on Saturday, September 14th from 11:30am to 1:30pm. Registration required – [Click here to sign up](#)
- **Student Parent Programs Open House** – Join us on **September 27th from 4:30pm to 6pm at the University Village Community Center** for an introduction to Student Parent Programs and the benefits that we offer to UMass families. We can't wait to see you there!
- **Reminder to fill out FAFSA** – With the start of a new Academic Year beginning soon, it's important to submit an updated Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). If you are a United States citizen, visit this webpage to fill out or update your FAFSA: [FAFSA® Application | Federal Student Aid](#)
- **UMass Amherst Financial Aid Services** – Need help estimating costs? Filing the FAFSA? Checking deadlines? Understanding your options? The financial aid counselors at FAS can help you get started and put together a package that fits your needs. Their contact information and hours of operation are available at this link: [Connect with Us: UMass Amherst FAS](#)

Other News

Key Academic Dates

- **UWW Fall 2024** – [Click here to access the UWW Academic Calendar](#)
 - Open Course Registration begins – **Tuesday, August 27**
 - First Day of Classes – **Tuesday, September 3**
 - Add/Drop Ends (Undergraduate & Non-Degree Students) – **Monday, September 9**
 - Last Day for 100% Class Fee Refund – **Monday, September 16**
- **University Fall 2024** – [Click here to access the UMass Academic Calendar](#)
 - Labor Day Holiday – **Monday, September 2**
 - First Day of Classes – **Tuesday, September 3**

- Last day of add/drop (Undergraduate Students) – **Monday, September 9**
- Last day of add/drop (Graduate Students) – **Monday, September 16**
- Homecoming – **Friday & Saturday, September 20 & 21**

Scholarship Opportunities

- **American Association of University Women – International Fellowships**
 - Award amount: \$30,000 - \$50,000
 - Awarded to international women who are graduate or postdoctoral students planning to return to their country of origin for professional work
 - Application deadline: November 15
 - [International Fellowships – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)
- **Soroptimist – Live Your Dream Award**
 - Award amount: \$1,000 - \$16,000
 - Awarded to women who have financial need and have not yet completed a graduate degree
 - Application deadline: November 15
 - [Live Your Dream Awards | Scholarships for Women | Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.](#)
- **American Association of University Women – American Fellowships**
 - Award amount: \$8,000 - \$50,000
 - Awarded to U.S. women who are working on their dissertation, postdoctoral research, or research publication
 - Application deadline: November 15
 - [American Fellowships – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)

Campus Resource Highlights

Student Parent Programs – Student Parent Programs is a Dean of Students Office program dedicated to supporting students who are caring for dependent children. Our office helps students who are pregnant and parenting to achieve their goals at UMass and beyond. SPP creates programming and provides support to help student parents navigate UMass, get connected to campus and community resources, access childcare and emergency funding, build community, find family-friendly activities, and more.

Student Parent Programs staff are available via email or during office hours (virtual or in person) to offer support and connect you with university and community resources. [Check out our website](#) for information about upcoming events, community resources and childcare subsidies available to support UMass student parents. If you need assistance or have questions, please reach out to us by email at studentparent@umass.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

- **Resource links:**
 - [Childcare | Student Parent Programs | UMass Amherst](#)
 - [Resources for Student Parent Families | Student Parent Programs | UMass Amherst](#)

Community Resource Highlights

Hilltown Community Health Center - [Hilltown Community Health Center](#) has a location in Amherst at the Bangs Community Center, Boltwood Walk. As a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), HCHC provides primary, preventive and dental care, as well as mental health, substance abuse, eye care and other community-based services to anyone in need regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay. Their [Health Access and Navigators](#) program offers health insurance assistance (help applying for insurance, renewing Mass Health, resources to afford, answering questions). [Community Health Workers](#) are available to help families connect to a variety of supports and resources that help them survive and thrive!

Hilltown Families Community-Based Education Network - This organization has been around for almost 20 years and is FULL of exciting family-friendly info. [Their webpage](#) is updated regularly with “Weekly Suggested Events” and “Self-Directed Learning Ideas.” Directories on the site include lists of Summer Camps, Preschool & Daycare programs, Birthday Party venues, and Classes. **Sign up for their weekly newsletter** and find fun and interesting things to do with your family, for all ages and all seasons!

Family Friendly Activities

- **Amherst Area Parks and Outdoor Swimming Pools**
 - [Norwottuck Rail Trail](#) (Northampton)
 - [Lake Wyola State Park](#) (Shutesbury)
 - [Mount Sugarloaf State Reservation](#) (South Deerfield)
 - [Amherst Public Outdoor Pools](#)
 - [Green River Swimming and Recreation Area](#) (Greenfield)
 - [Look Park](#) (Florence)
 - [All Trails](#) search trail guides & maps for hiking, camping, biking, fishing, and more!

- **Seasonal Family Fun**
 - [Franklin County Fair](#) (Greenfield) – September 5 - 8, 2024
 - [3 County Fair](#) (Northampton) – August 30 – September 2, 2024
 - [Rotary Club of Amherst Carnival](#) (Amherst) – August 23 – 25, 2024
 - [Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory & Gardens](#) (South Deerfield)
 - [McCray's Farm](#) (South Hadley)

- **Farmers Market and Farm Stands (usually open on Saturdays)**
 - [Amherst Farmers' Market](#) (Amherst, MA)
 - [Greenfield Farmers' Market](#) (Greenfield, MA)
 - [Grow Food Northampton Farmers Markets](#) (Downtown Northampton, MA)
 - *Tuesdays, 1:30 - 6:30 pm

- [Farmers Market at Forest Park](#) (Springfield, MA)
- [Great Barrington Farmers Market](#) (Great Barrington, MA)
- [Outlook Farm Barn & Eatery](#) (Westhampton, MA)
- [Farmer's Market of Keene](#) (Keene, NH)
- [Brattleboro Outdoor/Summer Farmer's Market](#) (Brattleboro, VT)



Student Spotlight

Student Parent Name: Md “Ashik” Ashikuzzaman

Family names: Rojoni Kanta (wife), Akitri Zaman Earth (daughter)

Academic Program: PhD, Civil Engineering

Languages spoken: English and Bengali

Favorite color to wear: Grey

Ashik is happily living with his family, including his 6-year-old daughter, Earth, in Amherst at Colonial Village. He loves playing with his daughter, often filming her and recording her stories.

Ashik ended up choosing to study Civil Engineering because, “I had wonderful teachers who actually motivated me first to do research and then I found it interesting.” His research outcome is what is most exciting to him right now and he feels particularly proud of the Fellowship he received. If Ashik could study something entirely different, it would be organic chemistry!

Ashik’s three words to describe being a UMass student-parent are Patient, Friendly, and Loveable.

If you do not live near the university and would like information about family resources in your area, please reach out and we will help connect you to resources in your community.

Don’t hesitate to reach out if you need support or have questions.

We’re here for you!

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