

SPP NEWS AND EVENTS



Student Parent Programs Study Lounge

Study Lounge has begun! Join us in Bartlett Hall for a meal and some study time while our student staff watch your kids. [Click here for more details](#). Register your household once, then you'll receive a weekly email from SPP with a sign-up link for the following week's Study Lounge sessions.

Parents must remain in Bartlett during Study Lounge.

Trunk or Treat at University Village

Join us on October 31st from 4-6pm for Trunk or Treat!

This event will be held at the University Village Community Center @ 990 N. Pleasant St, Amherst. [Click here for more details](#).

We can't wait to see you for fun, games, costumes, and candy!

Student Parent Programs Support Group

Join us on Zoom every other Wednesday at 7pm for a drop-in support group designed for UMass student parents. This support group is for all student parents! [Click here for more details](#).

Friendsgiving Brunch with SPP

You are invited to a family feast in celebration of you, your families, and all you're accomplishing here at UMass! [Click here for more details](#) - Date & Location details coming soon!

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

Town of Amherst Halloween Spooktacular

The Town of Amherst is hosting their annual Halloween celebration on **10/27/24** - [Click here for more information.](#)

Trick-or-Treating | Downtown - 12PM-1PM. Costume Parade | North Common - 1PM-1:30PM. Haunted House & Kid's Carnival | Bangs Center - 1:30 - 4PM

Free Winter Coats @ The Bridge Clothing Closet

[Coats have arrived at The Bridge!](#) Their Clothing Closet is open on **Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10am - 4pm, 101 University Drive Suite A3 in Amherst.** Coats are available on a first come, first serve basis - make sure to stop by soon if you need one!

HEAP Heating Assistance - Apply Now!

Heating assistance helps **income-eligible renters and homeowners** with their **fuel and utility costs** during the cold months. [Click here for a link to the Fuel Assistance application for Franklin and Hampshire counties](#) - for fuel assistance programs in other MA counties [click here](#) and for programs in other states, [click here](#)

Holiday Toy Fund

The Sidney F. Smith Toy Fund provides **certificates redeemable at participating local retailers** to **eligible Hampshire County families** with children ages 1-14 through **Dec. 31, 2024.** [Click here to apply!](#)

Academic Mamas Foundation Grants

The [Academic Mamas Foundation](#) provides **Emergency Assistance, Basic Needs,** and **Event Attendance** grants so you can be a great mom and a great scholar! Click on the link above to apply.

STUDENT PARENT SPOTLIGHT!



Chenghao Lyu is a graduate student in Computer Science who lives in University Village with his wife **Fei**, and 4-month-old baby **Louise**.

Chenghao and Fei moved to Amherst earlier this year after living in Paris together for almost three years.

In Paris, Fei was doing standup comedy (using Mandarin) and Chenghao was studying. No surprise then that Chenghao speaks Mandarin, English and French!

Chenghao chose to study Computer Science based on strong interest in the subject and he continues to be excited to work on challenging problems that will benefit society. He is particularly proud of being a part of open-sourcing some interesting ideas that industry people liked! If he could study something completely different? **Macroeconomics or Sports Management**.

When Chenghao has time, he likes to walk around with Louise, connect with old friends and play board games. A favorite meal? Homemade dumplings!

When asked to describe what parenting is like right now, Chenghao said, **“It is like research-based teamwork with my wife Fei. Parenting makes us more robust and resilient.”** Chenghao feels good looking at his baby and imagining what/who she will be.

The challenges of parenting include when the baby is sick or when they cannot figure out why she is crying and cannot calm her down. What Chenghao would like to tell other student-parents that helps during this time? - **“Get up early – live with baby’s schedule.”**

The three words Chenghao chose to describe being a student-parent:
Happy ~ Interesting ~ Responsibility

Chenghao encourages you to reach out to them – his wife Fei likes to meet new friends!

RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS



ON CAMPUS

Free Meals To-Go!

Free to-go meals every **Wednesday from 5pm - 6pm!**
Present your Campus ID or provide your name to claim your meal - **472 North Pleasant Street in Amherst.**

Free Walk-In Vaccine Clinics

Mobile Vaccine Clinics for students and family members age 12+ are available twice a week through November. Vaccination is quick, easy, and incredibly important - [Click here to sign up!](#)



IN THE COMMUNITY

[CES Amherst Playgroup for Parents & Children 0-6](#)

1200 N. Pleasant St. North Amherst
MONDAYS 10:00am-11:30am

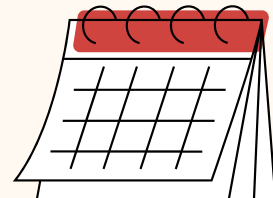
[CSO Family Crafting Day](#)

Join The Bridge for a Fall crafting day on **Saturday, 11/9 at 11:30am**
101 University Drive Suite A3, Amherst

[ARPS Family Center](#)

If your child is a student in the Amherst Regional Public Schools, you can sign up for help from the ARPS FRC - [Click here to submit your information!](#)

Click calendar for UMass Fall 2024 Academic Calendar



[Click for UMass EVENTS Calendar](#)

[Click for Family-Friendly Events](#)

Family Friendly Activities

Seasonal Family Fun

- [Magic Wings Butterfly Gardens](#) (South Deerfield, MA)
- [McCray's Farm](#) (South Hadley, MA)
- [Apex Orchards](#) (Shelburne Falls, MA)
- [Bashista Orchards](#) (Holyoke, MA)
- [Yankee Candle Village](#) (South Deerfield, MA)

Museums & Educational Activities

- [Eric Carle Museum](#) (Amherst, MA)
- [Emily Dickinson Museum](#) (Amherst, MA)
- [The Botanic Garden of Smith College](#) (Northampton, MA)
- [The New England Peace Pagoda](#) (Leverett, MA)
- [The Amazing World of Dr. Seuss](#) (Springfield, MA)
- [Springfield Science Museum](#) (Springfield, MA)
- [Energy Park](#) (Greenfield, MA)

For more information
about family
resources in your
area, please send us
an email!



Call or email any time
you need support or
have questions.

We're here for you!

studentparent@umass.edu

(413) 545-9319

UMass Amherst

103 Bartlett Hall