Dear Parents,

It’s hard to believe another year at RIT has passed! We are excited to honor our 2017 graduates at Commencement this weekend, and are looking forward to welcoming a new class of Tigers and parents this summer. This newsletter contains some last-minute reminders about this weekend and things to consider.
over the summer. For this issue, we are also excited to roll out our new Parent Newsletter design! We may have some tweaks over the upcoming months, so bear with us if you see minor changes.

News and Deadlines

Commencement Reminders
RIT’s 2017 Commencement Ceremonies are this weekend—May 19-20. Academic Convocation, the celebration of graduates from all nine colleges, is on Friday, May 19 at noon in the Gordon Field House. Seating is limited and is available on a first-come, first-served basis; overflow seating is available in the Polisseni Center where the ceremony will be streamed live. Individual commencement ceremonies for each college take place on Friday afternoon/evening and on Saturday—please check the commencement schedule to see when your graduate’s ceremony will be held. Congratulations!

Housing Reminders
Students in RIT housing must be checked out by Saturday, May 20 at 10 a.m. Graduating seniors and students working commencement have until Sunday, May 21 at noon to check out of RIT housing. Please refer your student to the End of the Year Closing Guides to help them prepare.

Parents of Incoming Students
Welcome to RIT! I see that many new parents have self-subscribed to this list. If this is you, please stay tuned this summer for information specific to incoming families. We will be sending you a postcard in June with information about how to get connected and how to register for Family Orientation. Until then, save the date!

- Pre-Orientation move-in and Orientation: Saturday, August 19
- Regular move-in and Family Orientation: Tuesday-Wednesday, August 22-23, 2017
Off-Campus and Commuter Services (OCCS) is a resource dedicated to helping off-campus and commuter students engage within their own communities and the campus community at RIT. Services and support for off-campus and commuter students include a newly updated commuter lounge located in the A-level of the Campus Center where students can relax, recharge, and get to know each other! The lounge provides free computer access and printing, free Keurig Coffee, a TV and Xbox, board games, and plenty of room to just relax and hang out. We also have a refrigerator and freezer where off-campus and commuter students can store food and drinks. Throughout the year, OCCS provides many programs and events that are educational, informational and fun to help off-campus and commuter students get connected on campus and build their network. Examples of these include a weekly “Wake-Up Wednesday” breakfast with a rotating menu, Commuter Spirit Week, a pre-orientation program specifically designed for incoming off-campus and commuter students, and partnerships with a variety of clubs and organizations who serve the off-campus and commuter population. Additionally, OCCS can serve as a support for students who aren’t sure how to find an off-campus apartment or navigate the public transit system, contact utilities, identify ways to serve as active members of local neighborhoods, or manage landlord/tenant relationships.
OCCS can be reached at commutersga@rit.edu or by phone at 585-475-4657. Watch for a new and improved website to be launched in the fall of 2017!

Information and Updates

Career Services for Graduates
The Office of Career Services and Cooperative Education is not just for current RIT students, but also extends its services to RIT alumni. Alumni have access to RIT Job Zone, Career Fairs, webinars, RIT Alumni Network, and more. Make sure your recent grad is taking advantage of the resources available!

Graduates Returning Home
It has become increasingly common for young adults to move home with parents following graduating from college (commonly called boomerang families). While going home may not be everyone’s first choice, there are also many benefits to students and families, including saving money, exploring career options, having help around the house, and getting in some family time. After four or more years away, adjustments will have to be made for all parties. Here are a few suggestions for parents and grads from others who have gone through it:

Suggestions for parents

- Set boundaries for both yourself and your adult child. Remember that it is important to balance boundaries with mutual respect and independence.
- Establish expectations about finances. If you’re going to charge rent or ask for contributions to household expenses, clarify the amount, the due date, and consequences if payment is not made.
- Discuss household responsibilities. Ensure that all family members are contributing to the upkeep of the home.
- As you interact with your graduate, remember that they have experienced a lot and changed while in college. Take advantage of the boomerang period to get to know your student as the adult he or she has become.

Suggestions for graduates

- Remember that your return home requires an adjustment for parents and siblings as well. Be understanding as the family navigates this transition.
• Living with others brings responsibilities—expect to contribute to your parents’ household as you would your own apartment.
• When young adults return home, there is always a tendency to revert to pre-college behaviors and patterns. Make a commitment to yourself to maintain your adult status, and when necessary, have calm conversations with your parents about your maturity.
• Establish a plan for next steps—finding a job; moving out—and work on these goals daily.

Exploring Majors
During the summer, you might hear that your student is considering a change of major. Many students do not end up graduating with the major they entered with, but this decision should be carefully considered. Here are RIT resources that can assist students considering a change of major:

• A student’s home college is a resource for students who are sure about the college, but unsure about what major within the college to choose. Many of the RIT colleges have an exploration option as part of their first-year curriculum.
• University Exploration (formally University Studies) is a resource for students exploring majors that span across multiple colleges and multiple areas. University Exploration is a one year, university-level exploration program where students can take time to explore their options. This academic program combines the elements of career and major exploration along with academic coursework and academic advising, which helps students make an informed decision when choosing a major.
• The Office of Career Services is a starting place for students who don’t know how to begin. Here, students can explore factors that contribute to career choice including interests, abilities, personality, and values. Online career assessment is available as part of this process.

Unsubscribing From this List
If you are the parent of a graduate and no longer wish to receive the Parent Newsletter, you can unsubscribe on the Parent website. You can also use this site if you would like to change the email address you have in our list.

Parent Poll
Each month, we ask parents to respond to our Parent Poll and provide feedback on a topic related to RIT, your student, and you. In April, we asked how important it is to you that your student gets volunteer or service experience while in college. 35% of you said very important; 47% said somewhat important, and 17% said not at all important. Please take a moment to answer our May question.
Parent Tip

*Living with your student over the summer*

If your student is returning home for the summer, you are likely experiencing mixed feelings. You are excited to spend time with your son or daughter, but you know your student has grown and changed in their time at RIT. But it’s not just your student who has changed—the family and the household will feel very different to your Tiger. Remember that you and your student will have different expectations for the summer; it is necessary to communicate and negotiate household rules and expectations. Here are a few things to remember as your student returns home:

- Discuss your plans for the first week prior to the return. After exams, packing up rooms/apartments, and saying goodbye to friends, students will be exhausted. They may prefer a couple quiet days to adjust before you invite grandparents, neighbors, and friends to welcome them home.
- Expect a lot of sleep. Don’t worry about the many hours of sleep and number of naps—students will need time to recover from the end of the semester and the adjustment of moving back home.
- They will want independence. You may want to enforce a curfew and know where your student is going at night, but he/she is used to not having limitations. They survive at RIT with more freedom, but you have house rules—negotiate to find a middle ground that works for everyone.
- They are on an entirely different schedule than the rest of the family. Between varying course schedules, late-night socializing, studying, and student group meetings, college students may be used to staying up until 3 a.m. and sleeping until noon. Don’t try to control your student’s schedule as they adjust to their summer schedule—you may find it works best to set house quiet hours and let your students work out their own schedules.
- They will miss their college friends and lifestyle. They may be able to pick up old high school friendships easily, but the experiences of living, learning, and growing into an independent adult alongside college friends creates a special bond that students will miss over the summer. Expect to hear a lot about your student’s life at RIT.

Featured Photo

In case you don’t follow the [Parent and Family Programs Facebook page](#), here’s what you missed this week: students shared Mother’s Day messages with their moms.
Sincerely,

Chelsea A. Petree, Ph.D.
Director | Parent and Family Programs
Student Affairs | Rochester Institute of Technology
585-475-4198 | parents@rit.edu

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