

April 26, 2016

R·I·T Parent & Family Programs

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Dear Parents,

We can't believe that May is quickly approaching and students will soon be leaving campus for the summer! With SpringFest, Imagine RIT, finals, and Commencement, your students will be busy from now until summer break.

News and Deadlines

Moving out of RIT Housing

Students in all RIT housing must be checked out by Saturday, May 21 at 10:00 a.m., except for graduating seniors and those working graduation. Graduating seniors and those working graduation have until Sunday, May 22 at noon to check out of RIT Housing. Please direct your student to the [End of the Year Closing guides](#) for detailed information for each housing type.

Tigers Care Emergency Fund

The Student Health, Counseling, and Wellness areas of Student Affairs have reinstated a fund that assists students in need of short-term and emergency financial assistance. This

assistance can include a cab ride from the hospital following a medical emergency (\$20), the cost of a prescription co-pay (\$10), or a ride to an off-campus medical appointment (\$40). Student Affairs has received an offer to match funds up to \$25,000, speeding up the campaign and allowing us to quickly support our students on an annual basis. If you would like to contribute to the Tigers Care Emergency Fund, please visit the [campaign website](#). More details will be available on this site soon. For questions, please contact Megan Jaros of the Senior Vice President's Office (megan.jaros@rit.edu).

SpringFest

[SpringFest 2016](#) is this weekend, April 28-May 1. Sponsored by the College Activities Board (CAB), SpringFest is RIT's annual student celebration of the end of the academic year. Favorite events include PuppyFest, the Tigers Care Carnival, Funky Food Trucks, the Color Run ([parents can run too!](#)) and the SpringFest concert-Walk the Moon. All events are free to students with the exception of the Color Run and the concert-students can purchase tickets for Walk the Moon on the [University Arenas Box Office website](#).

Event Reminders

[Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival](#) will be held on Saturday, May 7. At the festival, visitors can experience interactive presentations, hands-on demonstrations, exhibitions, and research projects from the RIT community, as well as live music and entertainment. Alumni Legacy Families are invited to drop by the [Legacy Lounge](#) in The Wallace Center to enjoy light refreshments and take in exhibits from the University Archives highlighting the history of RIT.

[RIT's 2016 Commencement Ceremonies](#) will take place on May 20-21. Academic Convocation, a celebration of graduates from all nine colleges, will take place on Friday, followed by individual commencement ceremonies for each college throughout Friday and Saturday. Please check the [commencement schedule](#) to see when your graduate's ceremony will be held. If you or your student participated in the [Buy a Brick](#) program before April 6, you will be able to find your student's brick during Commencement weekend. Please share you photos of your student and his/her brick on social media by using the hashtags #RITgrad, #RITfamily, and #RITforLife.

RIT Global Day of Service-Save the Date

RIT's Global Day of Service will be on September 17, 2016. Alumni Relations is looking for parents, alumni, and friends to join in one of the many service projects around the globe. You can register for a current project in your community or you can create a new project to help a local non-profit. To learn more or learn about projects in your area, please visit the [Global Day of Service 2016 website](#).

Program Profile: Good Samaritan Protocol

RIT encourages students to make healthy decisions regarding alcohol and drug use. As part of this effort, we promote the [Good Samaritan Protocol](#). Students are encouraged to contact Public Safety, RIT Ambulance, Residence Life staff, or other RIT staff if they notice an individual who has passed out or shows other signs of serious effects from alcohol or drug consumption. The Good Samaritan Protocol protects the caller, the person in need of assistance, and any witnesses involved from receiving disciplinary sanctions. Keeping RIT's value in student health and safety in mind and to ensure students seek help when needed, this protocol is designed to provide education rather than discipline when a student voluntarily contacts University personnel seeking medical assistance related to alcohol or other drugs.

While the University has programs to educate students about healthy decision making, we know that meaningful discussions with parents are valuable and important. At this stage, supportive messages about making safe and healthy decisions go further with students

than warnings about the dangers of alcohol and drugs. Especially as the weather gets warmer, please have these conversations with your student, particularly about the Good Samaritan Protocol. You can find tips for how to begin these conversations on the [Students and Alcohol page](#) of the Parent and Family Programs website.

Information and Updates

To Parents of Graduating Students

Graduation Day is an important moment for the entire family, and the Parent and Family Programs would like to send a huge CONGRATULATIONS not only to our graduating students, but also to the families that helped get them here. We'd also like to share a suggestion for ongoing support of your graduate. By now, every graduating student has been asked many times "What are you doing after you graduate?" This question can be very stressful to students who do not yet have firm plans. Having to respond makes them feel like failures, when we know there are legitimate reasons for not yet having a job lined up at the time of graduation—students have been very busy studying for finals and enjoying the last few months at RIT, and the right opportunity may not have yet presented itself. We suggest that you spread the word to family, friends, and neighbors to avoid that question, and instead ask, "Are you staying in Rochester this summer?" or "What is the job market like for graduates with your major?" Students who have something lined up will share, and this wording makes it easier for students who do not have anything lined up to respond.

Again—congratulations, families!

Parent and Family Programs on Facebook

One of the most popular posts recently on the [Parent and Family Programs Facebook page](#) is an article from the Huffington Post titled, "[16 Pieces of Advice for the Class of 2016](#)." Whether or not you are on Facebook or like our page, we wanted to make sure you see the article—the advice is great for graduating students, current students, and for parents! We do hope that, if you are on Facebook, you take a moment to follow our page. We are currently at 1,884 likes—how quickly can we get to 2,000?

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 March, we asked parents "How much influence do you think you, as a parent, should have on your student's career choice?" Responses were split fairly evenly between some, a little, and very little. Few parents thought they should have a lot of influence or no influence. Please take a moment to answer our [April question](#).

Parent Tip of the Week

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 his/her 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.

Remembering 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:

1. 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.
2. 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.

3. 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 have survived the year at RIT with more freedom, but you have house rules—negotiate to find a middle ground that works for everyone.
4. 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.
5. 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 what your student's life is like at RIT.

Listserv Preferences

If you would like to change your email preferences for this list or unsubscribe from the Parent and Family E-Newsletter, you can do so on the [Parent and Family Programs website](#). *Please note that updating or removing your email address from this list does not change or remove your information from the official RIT parent database.*

Sincerely,
Chelsea Petree

Chelsea A. Petree, Ph.D.

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