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Dear Parents,

Finals week is upon us and, before you know it, many of your students will be home for Winter Break! This newsletter contains timely information about break and important reminders for your student. Happy Holidays!

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**News and Deadlines**

**Important Winter Dates**

Please note the following dates regarding RIT closures and spring semester opening:

- December 13-19: Final exams
- December 20: Residence halls close for winter break
- December 22-January 1: RIT CLOSED for winter break
- January 8: Residence halls open for spring semester
- January 16: Spring semester classes begin

Also, please refer to [RIT’s Winter Break Guide](#) for information about openings and hours during break.

**End of Semester Housing Guides**

Housing Operations has provided [End of Semester Prep Guides](#) for students living in RIT housing. These guides include information for students not returning to RIT Housing for spring semester, what to do if students are expecting a new roommate, and how to prepare for winter break. Before leaving for winter break please remind your student to:

- Empty trash cans
- Close and lock windows
- Clean out refrigerator
Close shades (students living on the first floor only)
Lock apartment/suite/room door
Move all electronic equipment off the floor and unplug it
Set heater to automatic and set room temperature to at least 65 degrees

Winter Break Bus
Student Government is offering a free bus for students to the airport and bus and Amtrak stations on Tuesday, December 19 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and on Wednesday, December 20 from 6 a.m.-1 p.m. Your student can sign up and find details on the SG website.

DeStress Fest
DeStress Fest is currently underway at the RIT Libraries. These series of free activities are held in the library during finals week to help students manage stress and take study breaks. Activities include daily coffee breaks, therapy dogs, holiday card making, and more. Students can find DeStress Fest events by visiting the RIT Libraries Facebook page or by stopping in the Wallace Center.

Explore Croatia with Your Student
Go beyond a vacation! Learn about the impact RIT is having globally and be inspired by the international opportunities available for your student personally, academically, and professionally in a rapidly changing global society. We are excited to offer this same opportunity to RIT families with Explore Croatia! This program is your chance to have a learning abroad experience with your student in Dubrovnik, Croatia—home to one of RIT’s global campuses.

On this 10-day visit to Dubrovnik and the surrounding area, RIT families will explore culture, history, and ecology through guided tours, nature excursions, and sampling local cuisine. Excursions include a walking tour of Dubrovnik’s Old Town, visits to Lokrum Island, Elafiti Island, and Mljet National Park, and a day trip to neighboring country Montenegro. Participants will also visit Milos Winery, owned by an RIT-Croatia alum.

Educational excursions will be led by RIT’s Associate Provost for International Education and Global Programs (and former RIT parent), Dr. Jim Myers. Dr. Myers spent over two years in Dubrovnik as an Associate Dean and Professor at the RIT campus. His expertise, along with interactions with local entrepreneurs, social activists, and artists, will help your family learn how Croatians build upon their traditions and embrace technology, innovation, and sustainability as part of their cultural identity.

The program fee is $1,900/person and includes lodging, breakfast each day, some meals, and all excursions. Please visit the Explore Croatia website for more details and to apply. Applications are due on January 8, 2018. Contact Chelsea (chelsea.petree@rit.edu) with questions.
Information and Updates

Final Grades
Final grades are due on December 21. Shortly after they are submitted by professors, students can view grades by logging into SIS. If students have questions about grades, please remember that RIT will be closed between December 22 and January 1.

FAFSA Reminder
While assisting your student with the 2018-19 FAFSA application, remember that you can now begin this process earlier than before by importing 2016 federal tax return information. RIT’s priority filing deadline is April 1, 2018. For more information, visit the Federal Student Aid or RIT’s Financial Aid and Scholarships websites. RIT students will receive financial aid award notifications beginning in mid-April and continuing through August 2018.

Typography Research in Italy
Students will earn three credits while exploring typography’s rich history and the evolution of type in northern Italy. Students will spend two weeks in Venice (May 17-June 1, 2018) studying the history of typography and develop a cross-cultural outlook important to understanding the future of typography. The program includes visits to typography museums, lectures, guest speakers, hands-on experiences, and activities. Program is open to undergraduate and graduate students; no pre-requisites and open to all majors. Application deadline is January 15, 2018. Trip and contact information can be found on the Typography Research website.

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 November, we asked what you thought the most important task was that assists students in finding a co-op, internship, or full-time job. One-third of you said attending campus events, such as career fairs. Another 22% said building their professional network. Please take a moment to answer our December question.

Parent Tip
Winter Break
Here are a few tips as students return home for winter break:

- Remember that your student is not the same person they were in high school. Even if this was their first semester away, they have experienced a lot and are growing into the adult they will become.
- Negotiation is important during your student's time home. You can set house rules, but remember your student is used to more independence and a different schedule. Compromise as much as you can.
- The key to compromise is communication. Have a conversation early on with your student about your expectations, and listen to what they expect over break as well.
- Don't panic if your student didn't earn perfect grades. If they are concerned about academics, have a conversation about the many academic support resources at RIT.
- Finals are hard. Your student might just want to sleep for a couple days straight. Don't be concerned-this is normal.
- Enjoy your time together! Winter Break will go by quickly.

Featured Photo
In case you don't follow the Parent and Family Programs Facebook page, here's what you've missed: on Giving Tuesday, RIT volunteers packages over 20,000 meals for people in need in the RIT and Rochester communities.
Sincerely,

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