Dear Parents,

We know parents love to hear about the weather on campus. If you follow the RIT Parent Facebook page, you know that in the past month we’ve had 50 degree days, but also a LOT of snow! Mother Nature is keeping us on our toes as spring semester hurries by.
News and Deadlines

Buy a Brick
With the Buy a Brick program, you can commemorate your student’s time at RIT with a custom-engraved brick on Philanthropy Way while also supporting the Fund for RIT. Dedicating a brick to your graduating Tiger is a great way to celebrate their RIT accomplishments. The deadline to order bricks for installation by Commencement 2018 is March 12. Visit the Buy a Brick website for more information and to place an order.

Orientation Leaders Positions
New Student Orientation is recruiting student leaders to serve as an Orientation Leader for next year’s incoming class. Orientation Leaders (OLs) provide leadership and are a positive role model for new students and aid in their transition to RIT. Interested students can attend the following information sessions:

- Wednesday, February 28; 5-6 p.m. NRH 1250
- Friday, March 2; noon-1 p.m. Campus Center Reading Room
- Sunday, March 4*; 6-7 p.m. NRH 1250
- Monday, March 5; 11 a.m.-noon SAU 1829
- Tuesday, March 6*; 2-3 p.m. Campus Center 1010/1015

*Interpreted sessions

More information is available on the OL information website. Applications are due March 19.

Alumni Legacy Endowed Scholarship
Established by Alumni Association leadership in 2002, the RIT Alumni Legacy Endowed Scholarship provides academic scholarships annually to alumni as well as the children and grandchildren of alumni who are enrolled at RIT (incoming and returning). Recipients must demonstrate academic accomplishment, financial need, and leadership ability. More information about criteria, award amounts, and the application process can be found on the Alumni Association website. The deadline for completed applications is March 19.

Imagine RIT Save-the-Date
Imagine RIT 2018 is on Saturday, April 28 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit the Imagine RIT website to learn more about this RIT tradition and make your plans.
The growth and development that individuals experience during the college years often come hand in hand with new pressures and challenges unfamiliar to many RIT students. While it is normal to feel some level of stress at times, ignoring feelings of anxiety and depression can lead to greater problems. As a parent, you may recognize signs that your student is struggling and needs additional support. RIT has many health and wellness services, designed to fit a variety of needs and student personalities. We hope that you will refer your student to these resources when you recognize a problem.

RIT’s Counseling and Psychological Services (CaPS) provides free, confidential,
and personalized services to meet the mental health needs of our students. CaPS programs include individual and group counseling, crisis/emergency services, workshops, and referrals to community partners. To make an appointment, students can call or walk in to CaPS, located on the 2nd floor of the August Center.

In additional to the services above, CaPS has developed new services for students in a program called Why Wait? New services include:

- **Drop-In Stress Management**: No appointment is needed to drop in and develop strategies to manage life stresses with a professional counselor. Drop-In Stress Management is available every Monday from 4-5 p.m. and Tuesday from 2-3 p.m. in the CaPS office.
- **Drop-In Mindfulness Meditation**: Students learn stress-reducing skills through meditation that can improve mood and help participants feel less overwhelmed. Drop-In Mindfulness Meditation is available every Thursday from noon-12:50 p.m. in the CaPS office.
- **Walk-In Appointments**: Walk-in appointments assist students with urgent concerns that require immediate attention. These appointments provide the opportunity to visit with a CaPS clinician to assess concerns who will offer assistance and provide direction for future help. Students can walk in during CaPS hours—M-F 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- **After Hours Counseling**: Students who require help after hours (M-F 4:30 p.m.-8:30 a.m., weekends, and holidays) can call 855-436-1245 to speak with a mental health counselor.

If your student doesn’t know where to begin, Health and Wellness Case Managers are available to direct them to appropriate services. They can be reached at 585-475-3963.

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**Information and Updates**

**Spring Break**
Spring Break is on March 11-16. If your student is traveling, please have a discussion within the next month about Spring Break safety and health. Housing Operations requests that students who are leaving their RIT housing for the week prepare by emptying trash cans and cleaning our fridges, locking windows and doors, and unplugging electronic equipment (fridges can remain plugged in). Dining hours and locations during the week can be found on the Dining Services website.

**My Bus Home**
My Bus Home arranges one-way and round-trip transportation for all academic breaks in private, fully-insured motor coach buses with restrooms, Wi-Fi, and a DVD player. The buses pick up on campus and go to/from central locations in:

- Plymouth Meeting & Allentown, PA; Bridgewater, NJ,  
- NYC (Penn Station); Jericho & Islandia, Long Island  
- White Plains & Albany, NY  
- Mechanicsburg, PA; Baltimore, MD; Arlington, VA  
- Ludlow & Newton, MA; Londonderry, NH

The estimated round-trip fares are between $149.00 and $189.00. Sign up at My Bus Home for more information. The reservation deadline for the Spring Break buses is February 16 and the end of the year buses is April 19.

**Summer Abroad Opportunities**

**Fashion Photography in Toronto**
In this five-week, three-credit course, students will be exposed to the international fashion market in Toronto, Canada and will meet and network with fashion design studios, advertising agencies, fashion publishing, modeling agents, styling professionals, and fashion photographers. Students from all majors are encouraged to participate in the program to learn about the hands-on business side of the fashion industry and fashion advertising. Application deadline is March 1.

**RIT Kosovo Peace & Conflict**
Students have the opportunity to study abroad in Pristina, Kosovo for five weeks this summer. Students will earn six credits and learn about peace building and conflict resolution from renowned experts in the field. The program includes a one-week study trip to Albania, Montenegro, Croatia, Bosnia, and Serbia, giving context to the cultural and political issues of the region. Application deadline is April 1.

**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 January, we asked on what topics regarding your student you personally contacted RIT. Most of you did not contact RIT; the top reasons for parent contact were finances, housing or dining, and academics. Please take a moment to answer our February question.

**Parent Tip**

*Talk with your student about data privacy*
A recent survey of RIT students found that 33% have shared their personal log-in information and password with parents. With the harsh reality of data privacy concerns, this statistic is alarming. While new students may be used to parents managing their accounts, college is the time for students to take control of account management and for parents to support with reminders and tips. Hearing from a parent, “don’t share your information with anyone, including ME” can be a meaningful way to inform students about the importance of data privacy.
Even though you mean well, things can go wrong when students do not manage accounts themselves. Take this example: A student needs to drop a class but it’s the last day of the add/drop period and she has class and work all day. She asks her dad for help. Her dad, wanting to support his daughter and help her out as much as possible, logs in and drops the class. Unfortunately, he is confused by the course codes and numbers, and withdraws his daughter from the wrong class—a class she needed to graduate. (Details were changed, but this is based on a real-life story!)

Please continue to have discussions with your student about data management. Here are some tips:

- Encourage your student to keep all account information private—including from parents. This sends a powerful message that it is not safe to share, even with the people they trust.
- Parents do not need log-in information; your student can grant you access to important pieces of their account through third-party access on e-Services.
- A lot of important information is shared through students’ RIT accounts and they should be regularly checking their email. They might be overwhelmed, however, by the amount of email they get from our campus communication system, RIT Message Center. Students can opt out of all or some emails—instructions can be found on the Message Center Resources website.
- When communicating with peers online, never publicly share personal information. Even “closed” groups are not as private as they seem.
- Companies use social media more than ever to check on a potential hire—be thoughtful of what you post!

**Featured Photo**
In case you don’t follow the Parent and Family Programs Facebook page, here’s what you’ve missed: A new installation in the Campus Center shows the current time at all RIT Global Campus—Rochester; Dubrovnik & Zagreb, Croatia and Pristina, Kosovo; Dubai, UAE; and Weihai, China.
Sincerely,

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