

R·I·T Parent & Family Programs

January 18, 2017

In this message:

- **News and Deadlines**
 - Meal Plan Changes
 - Graduation Fair
 - Resident Advisor (RA) Positions
 - 2017 Major, Minor, and Immersion Fair
 - Parent and Family Programs Student Positions
- **Program Profile**
 - Fraternity and Sorority Life
- **Information and Updates**
 - 1098-T Tax Information
 - RIT Calendar Changes
 - Writing Support Resources
 - RIT Education Abroad Travel Grants
 - Parent Poll
 - Parent Tip

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe that break and intersession are almost over and students will be returning to campus next week. We at RIT are very excited for the return of a lively campus! While the beginning of a new semester is a fresh start for many students, the cold and dark days can be draining. Encourage your student to take care of themselves and start the semester strong. Be sure to read the Parent Tip for upcoming student events on campus.

News and Deadlines

Meal Plan Changes

Any changes to spring semester meal plans must be made by Friday, January 27 at 4:30 p.m. Remind your student to review their new course schedule and think about how

dining fits. For example, if your student has a block of classes and will not be able to make it to Gracie's for lunch most days, a plan with higher dining dollars will allow your student to grab lunch near their classrooms. Students can change their meal plan through myDining Portal on the [my dining website](#). Please note that all dining funds must be used during spring semester or they will be forfeited at the end of the term. For more information about general dining services information please visit [Dining Services Website](#).

Graduation Fair

The RIT Graduation Fair will be held on Wednesday, February 8 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Campus Center Bamboo & Reading Rooms. It marks 100 days until [Commencement](#) and offers graduating students the opportunity to "one stop shop" and get answers to their many commencement questions (caps and gowns, class rings, ceremony info, applying for graduation and more) and to discover post-graduation opportunities (Graduate Assistantships, Career Services and Graduate Enrollment, etc.). [GradImages](#) will be on location photographing RIT graduates. Students should come prepared to have their Senior Portrait taken. Cap and gown will be provided.

Resident Advisor (RA) Positions

The Center for Residence Life is seeking student leaders for the position of Resident Advisor (RA). RAs live in RIT's Residence Halls to help support and mentor students. An information session will be held for those wanting more information on February 2 from 5-6 p.m. in Nathaniel Rochester Hall 1250. Applications are due February 10. For more information and to apply, student should visit the [Center for Residence Life website](#).

2017 Major, Minor, and Immersion Fair

On February 23, the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Science are hosting the 2017 Major, Minor, & Immersion Fair. This event gives students the opportunity to learn first-hand from faculty about all of the options available to complete their required immersion and check out all the great minors and double majors available in COLA and COS. The Fair is from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge. There will be free pizza and door prizes for the first 50 attendees.

Parent and Family Programs Student Positions

The Parent and Family Programs office is seeking two student employees. The Undergraduate Assistant will lead our social media communications as well as assist in the planning of Family Orientation and Family Weekend. The Online Family Orientation Assistant will help develop an interactive online orientation for parents of incoming students. If your student is looking for on-campus employment and is interested in joining our team, please refer them to the [job descriptions](#) and have them contact me at chelsea.petree@rit.edu.

Program Profile: Fraternity and Sorority Life

RIT is home to 31 diverse inter/national social fraternities and sororities. These organizations offer students an opportunity to enhance college life in a unique environment. Commitment to personal and organizational excellence is the cornerstone of the RIT fraternity and sorority experience. Fraternity & sorority membership is a valuable opportunity for personal, intellectual and social development.



Each fraternity and sorority shares a deep commitment toward development of the individual members as well as the entire chapter. Throughout the years, RIT fraternities and sororities have promoted scholarship, actively participated in a variety of community service projects, raised money for their national philanthropies, competed in athletic and intramural sports and socialized with other organizations.

RIT's fraternity and sorority community is home to outstanding and award winning chapters in the areas of overall operations, academic success, service, and philanthropy. The community has been recognized as having the highest community grade point average in the Northeast region for five of the past six semesters. RIT's fraternity and sorority community is committed to dispelling stereotypes by living their values on a daily basis.

RIT students have this to say about their experiences in the Greek community:

"When I arrived at RIT as a freshman, I quickly became friends with the men who would become my support network, my social outlet, my mentors, and, most importantly, my family. When I left RIT, I carried values that help me guide my decisions and actions, a set of friends that include people who graduated 15 years ago and continues to grow to include those who started college after I left, and the knowledge that, wherever my life takes me, if I don't already know someone to connect with, I can find a brother."

Daniel Greenebaum, Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity-RIT Class of 2015

"Brothers and sisters in fraternities & sororities are there to encourage you to be the best version of yourself, celebrate your victories, and pick you up when you fall. And it makes all the difference when you're in a turning point in life, such as college, where that self-discovery will ultimately guide the person you will become for the rest of your life."

Saige Simon, Delta Phi Epsilon Sorority-RIT Class of 2016

"When arriving at RIT there are two things that every student must find, a professional network and a social outlet; I found both in Fraternity & Sorority Life at RIT, moreover, I found a home. Nowhere else have I met a group of such motivated people; driven to not only succeed as individuals, but also to ensure that their fellow man, woman, brother, and sister does the same."

Grant Pearce, Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity-RIT Class of 2018

For more information on the RIT fraternity and sorority community, please visit the [Greek Life website](#) or contact Eric M. Pope, Associate Director for Fraternity & Sorority Life (empccl@rit.edu).

Information and Updates

1098-T Tax Information

1098-T tax statements will be sent to eligible students' permanent addresses by the end of January. The 1098-T statement reports the amount of qualified tuition and related expenses that were billed during the 2016 calendar year. If you have questions about the 1098-T and educational tax benefits, contact information can be found on the [Student Financial Services page](#).

RIT Calendar Changes

As you begin to plan for next year, please take a moment to review the [2017-2018 University calendar](#). RIT's academic calendar will be changing next year to include two 15-week semesters and a 12-week summer term. While the changes are subtle, families may want to review when planning to visit campus and/or when booking travel for students.

Writing Support Resources

The [Writing Commons](#) offers one-on-one and group writing consultations with students in all disciplines. Consultants provide support for all stages of the writing process, from drafting to revising and finalizing written work. The Writing Commons is conveniently located on the first floor of The Wallace Center near the [Reference Desk](#), where librarians can assist students with researching, identifying credible sources, and appropriately citing sources.

RIT Education Abroad Travel Grants

All RIT students can be considered for financial support when applying for a study abroad program. Preference is given to students with demonstrated financial need. This year alone, the RIT Education Abroad office has committed \$40,000 in scholarship funding for RIT students to study abroad with 30 RIT students being awarded \$500-\$750 towards their participation in RIT study abroad programs for intersession 2016-17 and spring 2017. Students interested in learning abroad can search for programs on the [Education Abroad website](#) or can make an appointment with a study abroad advisor by contacting the office.

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 December, we asked who typically initiates contact between you and your student. Half of you responded that you are pretty equal, and another 42% responded it is mostly you. Please take a moment to answer our [January question](#).

Parent Tip

Things to do on campus in February

While it's true that Rochester winters can be harsh and students may not want to venture too far from the warmth of their dorms/apartments and classrooms, there is no reason for you to hear your students tell you they are bored while at RIT! Even during the coldest months, campus is busy with student activities. Here are some upcoming events and other things to do that you can recommend to your student when they are getting the winter blues:

Freeze Fest: [Freeze Fest 2017](#) is on February 16-19. Among the many events that will take place this weekend, students can purchase tickets for comedian T.J. Miller.

Grocery Bingo: On Friday, February 17, student can go to the Davis Room from 10 p.m.-12 a.m. to play Grocery Bingo for a chance to win baskets of groceries. Grocery Bingo is sponsored by the Center for Residence Life.

Chocolate on Ice: Chocolate on Ice features skating, chocolate treats, music, and more. This event is on Friday, February 3 from 9 p.m.-12 a.m. in the Polisseni Center.

Tiger Hockey: There are many upcoming Men's and Women's [Hockey games](#) at the Polisseni Center. Encourage your student to cheer on our Tigers!

Red Barn: [The Red Barn](#) is an indoor rock climbing facility on campus available to students at a discounted rate.

Student Life Center: Students can warm up by working out in the [Student Life Center](#). Student Wellness even offers Free Fitness classes every Wednesday at noon-12:50 p.m.

Sincerely,

Chelsea A. Petree, Ph.D.

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