

R·I·T Parent & Family Programs

July 22, 2016

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Dear Parents,

In just one month from today, fall semester classes begin and campus will be lively again! This is about the time of the summer that campus seems a little too quiet, and we look forward to welcoming your students “home.”

News and Deadlines

Student Health Accreditation

The [Student Health Center](#) (SHC) has recently been re-accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care. The SHC has been accredited for 18 straight years, and this new accreditation will last through 2019. This is a prestigious designation, with only 178 college health centers in the U.S. receiving it, out of more than 2,000. The SHC provides healthcare to all students including general medical care, selected on-

site labs, and referrals to health care professionals in the community.

Notes for Parents of Incoming Students

- [Register for Family Orientation](#) online now! Family Orientation is on August 16-17 and is intended to introduce families to their student's academic program, the resources and services at RIT, and life on campus. We are looking forward to greeting you and your student next month!
- The [2016 New Student Welcome Guide](#) is a valuable resource in preparing your student for the RIT New Student Orientation program as well as introducing students to other campus resources. It contains information on getting started and New Student Orientation. This Guide is your student's "orientation packet" and contains all of the information you will need regarding your student's orientation program.
- If your student has questions about RIT, please refer him/her to the [Student Survival Guide](#) on the Orientation and Transition website.
- Incoming freshmen and transfer students and their families are invited to a special Summer Send-Off reception before heading to Rochester later this summer. The newest Tigers will meet fellow incoming RIT families and students while hearing from RIT leaders, seasoned Tiger Parents, current students, and alumni about the RIT experience. These Summer Send-Offs are generously hosted by current parents, dedicated trustees, and loyal alumni in several cities across the country. Visit the [2016 Summer Send-Off website](#) to find an event in your area.
- Your student recently received an email about completing an online course called "**Think About It.**" RIT is committed to providing information about what it means to give consent, how our students can stay safe, and the importance of being active bystanders. Please encourage your sons or daughters to complete this course before they come to campus. It's important to allow them to complete it on their own so they provide honest information—this will allow them to take the most away from the experience. If they didn't receive the email they should contact orientation@rit.edu.

Brick City Homecoming and Family Weekend

Brick City Homecoming and Family Weekend is on October 14-16, 2016. The Parent and Family Programs office is excited to introduce new family events in 2016, including:

- **Taste of Rochester**—Enjoy a sample of the wonderful things Rochester has to offer. Taste samples of local wine, craft beer, and favorite Rochester foods. Learn about the museums, festivals, and activities that can turn your next visit with your student into a vacation!
- **Global Showcase**—Experience the global culture at RIT by learning how your students (and you) can become global citizens through international experiences or opportunities right on campus.
- **Women's Hockey Cheering Section**—Grab a warm beverage on the Alumni Deck in the Polisseni Center and cheer on the team with other RIT families and RIT's mascot, Ritchie.
- **Family Fun Zone**—Find fun for the whole family! Play arcade games old and new, check out the Tiger bounce house, or make a stuffed tiger of your own at the Build-A-Tiger station.

Along with these and other new events, families can participate in old favorites such as Pumpkin Chunkin, SG Horton Distinguished Speaker (featuring Brandon Stanton, creator of *Humans of New York*), the Men's Hockey game downtown at Blue Cross Arena, and the campus 5k run. Event descriptions and weekend information is available on the [Brick City Homecoming and Family Weekend website](#). Watch for registration in late July.

RIT Global Day of Service

Parents are invited to join alumni and friends of RIT on Saturday, September 17, 2016 for

the RIT Global Day of Service. The goal of this event is to rally thousands of RIT Tigers—parents, alumni, and friends—to infuse pride and power in their local communities around the world. If you are interested in joining an existing project, please register by August 22. You can also create a new project to help a non-profit in your area (deadline for new projects is August 5). Visit the [Global Day of Service website](#) for details and registration information.

NTID International Studies Seminar

This six-credit RIT faculty-led study abroad program explores Italian Deaf culture and Italian sign language through a combination of in-class coursework and a two-week study tour to Italy during the summer. Students will explore topics in geography, gastronomy, art history and research and will visit cities in Italy with large Deaf populations with an RIT faculty leader, deaf guide and other RIT students. Students enroll in a Spring 2017 course with travel to Italy taking place May 21-June 2, 2017. Application deadline is November 1, 2016. For more information contact the faculty-director, Pam Conley at prcnge@ntid.rit.edu.

Program Profile: Resident Advisors (RAs)

Resident Advisors (RAs) are student staff in the [Center for Residence Life](#) who play a critical role in students' daily lives, as well as new students' transitions to RIT. RAs assist students in navigating the college experience in a variety of ways, including understanding RIT processes, getting involved in campus life, and managing any issues in their residence halls and apartments. Each residence hall floor and apartment complex is supported by RAs who have been hired through a rigorous selection process. RAs complete exhaustive training which includes a variety of topics such as community development, conflict management, inclusion, emergency response and more. Following training, RAs receive continued development, support and supervision throughout the academic year from our live-in professional staff members who all have masters degrees.

RAs utilize their training to build community in on-campus residences through some of the following:

- Planned social and developmental events (with a focus on Student Success, Well-Being, Inclusion, and Community Engagement)
- Attending campus events together in groups
- Structured one-on-one discussions

Our RAs are valuable student leaders that offer significant support to your students when they are not in the classroom. Your student should feel encouraged to first go to his/her RA with any questions about residential life or RIT in general. If you ever have a question or concern about your student's residential experience, you can contact one of our [professional staff members](#), who will be able to support you and your students.

Information and Updates

Housing Operations Fall Arrival Guides

The [2016 Fall Arrival Guides](#) are now available and contain the information your student needs about arriving on campus in August. The Arrival Guide includes: important dates, what to bring checklists, and specific information for new and returning students. Parents of new students—this is where you will find your student's designated move-in time and instructions for move-in day.

ROAR the Vote

ROAR the Vote is a campus-wide campaign to engage students in the democratic process by getting them registered to vote and to the polls on Election Day. In the 2012 election, youth (18-29) turnout nationwide was around 50%. Our goal is to turn out 60% of eligible RIT student voters for the 2016 Presidential election. It's an ambitious goal but we believe that it's achievable with your help!

Over the next several weeks and into fall semester, we will launch a new [website](#) with important information about voting. Please encourage your students to visit this site and get involved with ROAR the Vote activities. We will also launch [TurboVote](#), an online platform that makes it easier for students to register and to request absentee ballots if they want to vote back home. Talk to your students about where they plan to register and vote and encourage them to visit TurboVote to prepare for the election. For students who choose to register to vote in Rochester, RIT will be providing transportation from campus to local polling stations on Election Day.

Tuition Insurance

With the current level of education costs, parents may have a concern for a student who suffers an illness or accident and has to withdraw from classes before the semester is completed. In some instances, it may mean not only the loss of time invested in studies, but also the loss of the semester's costs. An insurance plan—[the Tuition Refund Plan](#)—is available and could minimize financial loss in the event your student needs to withdraw. This elective insurance plan provides coverage for tuition, room and board charges, and extends and enhances the University's published refund policy. Under this plan, you may receive a 70% refund of your semester payment even after RIT's own refund policy has expired.

The Tuition Refund Plan is provided by A.W.G. Dewar, Inc., a commercial insurance vendor, and is independent of the University. We are merely informing students and parents of this plan as an available option. The coverage section describes the plan in detail. It is important that those who wish to participate submit the application and premium by the first day of fall semester classes (August 22, 2016). Online applications will not be accepted after this date. Questions can be directed at A.W.G. Dewar, Inc. at 617-774-1555.

Career Services for Students and Graduates

The [Office of Career Services and Cooperative Education](#) wants to offer their congratulations to our recent graduates of the Class of 2016 (and their parents!), and remind current students of the services they provide. If your student has recently graduated (or will be soon), please remind him/her to let the Career Services office [know of plans after graduation](#). For current students and recent graduates—the office is available to assist with resume reviews, resources, and job search strategies. All career services and programs are free to RIT graduates for life!

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 June, we asked parents on which topic they had contacted RIT about during spring semester. Half did not contact RIT. Those who did primarily responded asking about admissions or a roommate/housing concern. Please take a moment to answer our [July question](#).

Parent Tip

Begin preparing for your student's arrival/return to campus now

The rest of the summer will go quickly and your student will be headed to campus before you know it! Whether your student is coming to RIT for the first time or is returning for their final year, don't wait until the last minute to prepare. New students have many things

to buy for their new space; returning students may have to rethink belongings to fit into a new space. In order to lessen stress in August, encourage your student to think about this now and do a little at a time to prepare. Now is a great time for your student to connect with his/her roommate to determine who will bring what to campus—avoid duplicate items to maximize the space.

Listserv Preferences

If you would like to change your email preferences for this list or unsubscribe from the Parent and Family Newsletter, please 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

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