

March 29, 2016

R·I·T Parent & Family Programs

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Dear Parents,
Spring Break has passed, and before we know it, students will be studying for final exams. There is a lot to look forward to at RIT this spring, including Spring Fest, Imagine RIT, and warmer weather!

News and Deadlines

Spring Safety

Even though the temperatures are still changing weekly in Rochester, spring weather is just around the corner. With warmer temperatures and sunshine comes a lively campus—biking, running, frisbees, studying outside, and relief over not being stuck indoors. This sense of freedom may cause students to forget basic campus safety tips. Please remind your student to continue to be cautious to avoid the risk of theft and assault—lock residence hall

and apartment doors, keep an eye on belongings, avoid walking alone at night, and be aware of surroundings.

Financial Tips for Students

On Wednesday, April 13, RIT will host Pete the Planner, a personal finance expert, to present “Tip\$ for getting your finances together in 140 characters or less.” Pete will share tips and tricks that help college students get on track financially by establishing a smart foundation. This event, sponsored by the Financial Wellness committee, the Office of Financial Aid, Student Financial Services, and several other campus offices, is at 7:00 p.m. in Ingle Auditorium.

Summer Financial Aid Policy

If your student is enrolling in summer courses and would like to apply for financial aid, they can do so on the [2016-2017 FAFSA](#). Students must be enrolled for a minimum of six credit hours (half time) to qualify for federal student loan funding. Additional considerations for summer financial aid can be found on the [Financial Aid and Scholarships website](#). Students with questions as to how aid will be impacted by attending summer term should contact their [financial aid counselor](#) to discuss enrollment plans.

Summer Storage

In conjunction with RIT’s Center for Residence Life, two storage companies offer services for students needing to store belonging over the summer. [Campus Carriers](#) and [Rochester College Storage](#) (the UPS Store) offer free pick up and delivery and storage in local facilities.

2016 Commencement Ceremonies

RIT's 2016 Commencement Ceremonies will take place on May 20-21. [Academic Convocation](#) is a celebration of graduates from all nine colleges, and will take place on Friday, May 20 at noon in the Gordon Field House. Following this kick-off celebration are individual commencement ceremonies for each college. These ceremonies take place on Friday afternoon as well as Saturday morning, so please check the [commencement schedule](#) to see when your graduate's ceremony will be held.

Tickets are not required for any of the commencement ceremonies; however, seating is limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Overflow seating for Academic Convocation will be available in the Gene Polisseni Center, where the ceremony will be streamed live. For more information about Commencement, please visit the [RIT Commencement website](#).

Program Profile: RIT Athletics

[RIT Athletics](#), part of the Division of Student Affairs, provides students the opportunity to pursue academic and athletic excellence. Athletics staff strive to create an experience that fosters the intellectual, physical, social, and emotional growth of student-athletes in order to prepare them for success beyond RIT and to be leaders in the global community. RIT Athletics supports 24 men’s and women’s teams, including our Division I men’s and women’s hockey teams.

Our RIT athletes have had a successful year! Here are some team highlights from our fall and winter teams:

- RIT had 47 athletes from men’s and women’s cross country, men’s and women’s soccer, and volleyball earn Liberty League All-Academic honors last fall. Student-

athletes must be a sophomore or higher in class standing and have a cumulative GPA of at least a 3.20 to achieve this honor

- Men's Hockey won the Atlantic Hockey Championship and advanced to the 2016 NCAA Division I Tournament for the second straight season
- Men's Crew won the Head of Genesee Regatta
- Women's Cross Country earned a NCAA Championship berth for first time in program history, and ranked as high as No. 16 nationally—best in school history
- Women's Basketball set a program record with 20 wins and was nationally-ranked for first time in 29 seasons
- Men's Indoor Track and Field won the 2016 Liberty League Indoor Championship
- Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving teams broke 8 RIT school records; Natalie Snyder became the first RIT diver to earn NCAA All-American honors
- Men's Lacrosse head coach Jake Coon set a program record by winning his 113th game at the University on March 12

Athletics bring a sense of spirit and pride to the RIT community. It's easy to be an RIT fan and support our teams; all games, with the exception of hockey, are free to fans. The Tigers Calendar for all teams can be found on the [Athletics website](#). RIT Athletics hopes to see your student—and you—at an upcoming athletic event!

Information and Updates

Bikes at RIT

The **RIT Bikeshare program** opened for the campus community on March 28. RIT Bikeshare maintains 20 orange bikes that students may use around campus free of charge. Students wishing to use this program need to register on the [Bikeshare website](#).

The **RIT Bike Shop**, in the lower level of Monroe Hall, provides services and retail sales of basic parts and equipment and opens for services today (March 29). Services offered include safety inspection and standard or deluxe tune-ups; available equipment includes helmets, locks, and lights. Costs and hours can be found on the [Bike Shop website](#).

Financial Aid Notification

Please note that returning students receive financial aid information at a later date than incoming students. While award letters for incoming students are mailed out beginning in mid-March, award letters for returning students are not mailed until spring semester grades are posted. Current students will receive award letters on a rolling basis beginning in mid-June.

Imagine RIT

Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival is a campus-wide event that showcases the innovative and creative spirit of RIT students, faculty and staff. 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. Imagine RIT 2016 will be held on Saturday, May 7, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, visit the [Imagine RIT 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 February, we asked parents “For what life skill does your student currently need most guidance?” Nearly one-third of you responded that your students need career guidance. Other popular responses (receiving 12-14% of the responses) were relationships/social skills, time management, and financial

management. You still have a couple more days to answer our [March question](#).

Parent Tip of the Week

Talk to your student about data privacy

Your students may be used to having you manage their accounts, and college is the perfect time to support them with reminders and tips, not with you having direct access. During college, students need to learn valuable lessons around time management, responsibility, and data privacy, and you can help by encouraging them to manage their accounts alone and keep passwords private, even from you.

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.

Not only does this story send a message about time and account management, but also about data privacy. Parents should encourage students to keep their information private from everyone, including you. Telling your student “you should not trust anyone with your password, not even ME” sends a powerful message to students, helping them understand that it is not safe to share this information with anyone—not even with people they trust—including significant others, roommates, and parents.

The best way to navigate the need to access to some of your student's information while asking them to keep passwords private is to have your student grant you [third-party access on eServices](#). After you and your student complete the [six-step process](#), you will be able to log in to [eServices](#) using your own RIT username and password to view the information that your student granted you access to, which can include: class schedules; final grades; dining/Tiger Buck balances and transactions; and financial aid and scholarship information.

Encouraging your student to keep information private means more than just not sharing passwords. Having grown up as a “digital native,” your student is likely comfortable with technology in ways that you are not. They have always seen their thoughts, names, and pictures online. This level of comfort, however, can cause students (and sometimes parents) to forget that there are things that should not be posted, such as phone numbers and email addresses. Even a “closed group” is not as private as it may feel, because there is no control over what members of that group share with others. RIT students often use social media to connect with other students, including finding rides home or seeking a student to sublease an apartment. Remind your student that it is best to begin these conversations with private messaging on the site, rather than publicly posting contact information, including phone numbers and email addresses.

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.

Director | Parent and Family Programs
Student Affairs | Rochester Institute of Technology

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To unsubscribe or change your email preferences, please do so on the [Parent and Family Programs website](#), and not the link below.

Thank you.