

R·I·T Parent & Family Programs

March 21, 2017

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Dear Parents,

With windstorms and snowstorms, it has certainly been an active month in Rochester! We are all looking forward to spring on campus. This newsletter contains two specific opportunities for parents: please take a moment to respond to our [RIT Parent Survey](#) and consider [adopting a \(stuffed\) tiger](#) to help us celebrate the 20th anniversary of Margaret's House.

News and Deadlines

Seeking Parent Feedback!

The Parent and Family Programs office needs your input as we assess our services and plan for future communications and programs for families of RIT parents. Please take a moment to respond to our [RIT Parent Survey](#). Your responses will help us better understand how you use family resources to support your student. As a thank you for completing the survey, you can enter a drawing to win one of four \$25 gift cards to Barnes & Noble. Thank you for your feedback!

2017 Commencement Ceremonies

RIT's 2017 Commencement Ceremonies will take place on May 19-20. [Academic Convocation](#) is a celebration of graduates from all nine colleges, and will take place on Friday, May 19 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 on Saturday, so please check the [commencement schedule](#) to see when your graduate's ceremony will be held. All of the ceremonies will be live streamed over the internet. A link will be available from the [Commencement homepage](#).

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. Later this month, your student will receive a Commencement Newsletter via email with specific information for graduates in their college. Ask them to share it with you

Adopt-a-(stuffed) Tiger

Margaret's House-the child care center at RIT-is celebrating their 20th anniversary! We are helping them celebrate with Adopt-a-(stuffed)Tiger. For \$15, you can send a stuffed tiger home with our youngest RIT Tigers. Margaret's House students will be able to stuff these tigers at the 20th anniversary celebration during Imagine RIT. Please visit [our website](#) for more information and to adopt a tiger for Margaret's House.

Student Profiles: Parent & Family Programs Student Employees

In case you missed it on the [Parent and Family Programs Facebook page](#), we are excited to welcome two new student employees to the team!



Andrew Athias is a Management Information Systems major from Philadelphia, PA. He misses being in a big city, but loves that RIT is such a large school with a small school feel. He's excited to make the lives of RIT parents and families as easy and stress free as possible. When asked what he wishes every parent knew, he said, "How truly different it is being a college student today vs. how different it was when my parents went to college. Especially, how different RIT is today compared to when my dad, aunts, and uncles were students here in the late 80's." Andrew will be helping to build and develop the Online Orientation program for parents.

Camille Howard is a Film and Animation major from Princeton, ME. She misses Maine sunsets, but loves RIT's nerdy and welcoming community and how many things there are to do both on and off campus. She's excited to help expand the RIT community beyond the bricks of campus to incorporate parents and siblings. When asked what she wants parents to know about RIT, she responded, "I want parents to know that their students have the resources that they need. Counseling, academic advice, community service, physical activity and health-your student can find their place on campus to get what they need." Camille will be running the RIT Parents and Family Facebook page and helping with the organization of Family Orientation and Brick City Homecoming and Family Weekend.

Information and Updates

Financial Aid Information

It's not too late to reapply for financial aid for the 2017-2018 year, beginning with the summer 2017 term. Be sure to complete the 2017-2018 Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)) using 2015 tax information. If you already completed the 2017-2018 FAFSA, check [eServices](#) for additional requirements. Students can login to eServices using their RIT Computer Account username and password. Students can provide parents with access by clicking on "Third Party Access" and following the directions.

Returning FAFSA filers will be notified to their RIT email addresses when their financial aid award is viewable on eServices. Award notifications will start going out in April and will continue on a rolling basis.

Students are assigned to individuals within our office based upon their program or college. Our phone number is 585-475-2186 and our email is ritaid@rit.edu and for NTID students, ntidaid@rit.edu. Visit the [Financial Aid website](#) to find your specific staff contact.

Bikes at RIT

The [RIT Bikeshare program](#) opens for the campus community on March 27. 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 SG 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 on 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 their website.

Summer Storage

It's only March, but we know you may already be planning for the end of the semester. Two local storage companies offer services for students needing to store belongings over the summer. [Campus Carriers](#) and [Rochester College Storage](#) (the UPS Store) offer free pick-up and delivery and storage in local facilities.

Developing Public Speaking and Presentation Skills

The [Expressive Communication Center](#) offers students one-on-one help with all phases of presentation preparation and delivery, including organization, delivery techniques, design of accompanying visuals, and anxiety management strategies. Consultants can help students from any degree program prepare for individual or group presentations for class, conference or work presentations, thesis defenses, and more. The Expressive Communication Center is located on the second floor of The Wallace Center.

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 to your knowledge, how much money does your student spend each month on non-academic expenses. Nearly half of you reported that your students spend \$100 or less and one-quarter responded \$101-200. Please take a moment to answer our [March question](#).

Parent Tip***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.

Sincerely,

Chelsea A. Petree, Ph.D.

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