

R·I·T Parent & Family Programs

November 8, 2016

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Dear Parents,

Welcome, fall! The semester has flown by, and finals will be here before we know it. Right now, however, many of you are likely looking forward to your student returning home for Thanksgiving. Please be sure to read this month's parent tip, which will help you prepare for this (and other) visits from your student. While you don't want to overwhelm your student with questions, this is a good time to look for warning signs that your student is struggling academically. If you think your student could use some support, be sure to direct them to campus resources, including the [Academic Support Center](#) and their advisor.

News and Deadlines

2017-18 Housing Selection

Housing selection for next year has already begun at RIT. Students currently living in RIT apartments, UC suites, and the RIT Inn have already had the opportunity to renew their contracts and add roommates.

All other students who wish to live in RIT housing should participate in room selection and follow these steps:

- Step 1 (November 16-27): Complete 2017-2018 contract and request roommate(s)
- Step 2 (November 29): Students' appointment times will be sent to RIT email accounts
- Step 3 (Early December): Appointment times for students to select housing

If your student has questions about housing selection, please direct him/her to the [housing selection workbooks](#) or have him/her contact [Housing Operations](#).

Spring Billing

Spring semester billing notices will be sent on December 6, 2016 and due by January 15, 2017. The option to sign up for the spring [monthly payment plan](#) will be available through eServices beginning December 7, 2016. More information about payment options can be found on the [Student Financial Services](#) website.

Break Bus

Student Government (SG) sponsors a Break Bus for students who need a ride to the Amtrak and bus stations or the airport for Winter and Spring Break. Dates for the Winter Break Bus will be announced in November. Information about the Break Bus and how students can reserve a spot is available on the [SG website](#). Rides on the Break Bus are free for students. SG does not currently offer this service for the Thanksgiving Break.

Thanksgiving with the Senior Vice President

If your student will be on campus over Thanksgiving, they have the opportunity to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal with Dr. Sandy Johnson, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs, and her family. An invitation will be sent to students from Message Center-let your interested student know to watch for the message and RSVP! Students will also receive an email about Thanksgiving Weekend resources, including what is open around campus.

International Education Week

International Education Week-November 14-18-is a joint initiative of the Departments of State and Education to celebrate the benefits of international education worldwide. This week features events that prepare U.S. students for a global environment and builds future global leaders, including:

- International Education Week Kick-Off Party-Light refreshments, giveaways, raffles, an international photo booth, a visit from RITchie and a performance by the popular RIT Bhangra group.
- Study Abroad in Ireland-Hear from past study abroad student, Kim Eklund, who spent a semester living and traveling in Ireland.
- Study Abroad for Athletes-RIT athletes can study abroad! Past study abroad student

and RIT Cross Country team member, Julia Provenzano, will share how a study abroad experience fit into her athletic schedule.

- Fullbright Panel-Hear from current RIT Fulbright scholars-learn about their international projects and ways you could receive funding to do an independent research project, teach English or go to graduate school abroad.

A complete list of RIT International Education Week events, including dates and locations, can be found on the [International Education Week website](#).

Commencement Save-the-Date

Commencement Weekend is May 19-20, 2017. RIT looks forward to celebrating your student's success with you. Here are some things to think about if your student will be graduating this spring:

- Make your hotel reservations today. Another area college is holding graduation ceremonies this weekend and hotels will book quickly.
- Remind your student to apply for graduation when they receive their invitation from the Student Information System (SIS). To have their name appear in the Commencement Book and on the Commencement website, they must apply for graduation by **April 15, 2017** in [SIS](#). At this time, they can also indicate how their name should appear on their diploma.
- Encourage your student to meet with their academic advisor to confirm they have met all requirements for graduation.
- Ceremony schedules are available now on the [Commencement website](#). Individual colleges and many academic departments host receptions before or after their ceremonies. Check the website in February-March for details. Also, watch for the Commencement Brochure which will be mailed to your student's permanent address in late March.
- Follow RIT commencement on [Facebook](#) and on Twitter ([#RITgrad](#)) for updates.

RIT Wrestling Welcomes New Head Coach

RIT Athletics is excited to start the wrestling season with a new head coach-Jason Bovenzi. Wrestling has a long history at RIT-started by former RIT President Dr. Mark Ellingson in the 1920s and continued on by Earl Fuller, who coached at the university from 1948-94. RIT boasted an undefeated team in 1953-54, and 16 different All-Americans. Bovenzi looks to continue the rich tradition of RIT wrestling. He has brought in a dozen highly talented newcomers along with 18 returners in what could prove to be a highly successful 2016-17 season. Learn more about the Wrestling team and RIT Athletics on the [Athletics website](#).

Program Profile: RIT FoodShare

Food insecurity, or the lack of access to nutritious food, is an increasing issue on college campuses, and one that can be a barrier to student success. Last year, a group of concerned students and staff recognized this issue, along with concerns about food waste at campus events, and created the [RIT FoodShare program](#).

RIT FoodShare is an umbrella term for the program which consists of two entities: 1) a Facebook group that promotes the sharing of food left over at RIT events; and 2) a food pantry located in the Riverknoll apartments. Similar to a real umbrella, FoodShare provides shelter from food insecurity to anyone in the RIT community-students, faculty and staff.

The Facebook group-[RIT FoodShare](#)-has over 2,480 members and averages 3-5 posts per day. Community members are encouraged to post pictures, descriptions, and location of any food which will be left over from campus events. Real-time notifications are sent to members of the group in the hopes that they will take advantage of the free food so it doesn't end up in the landfill.

The FoodShare Center, located at 113 Riverknoll, is a predominately non-perishable campus food pantry that any member of the RIT community, including RIT alumni with a RIT ID, can take advantage of. Visitors can select up to 5 items per day-no questions asked. The Center is staffed by Resident Advisors (RAs) and administratively overseen by professional staff within the Center for Residence Life. A FoodShare Garden was planted this year with a soil-less mixture of coconut husks, vermiculite and compost. It has produced zucchini, peppers, tomatoes, herbs and cucumbers, which allows us to offer fresh produce in the FoodShare Center.

Since opening its doors in April 2015, there have been over 4,000 visits to the FoodShare Center by the RIT community. The FoodShare Center operates solely on donations, and currently its inventory is extremely low. How can you help? There is great need for the following items:

- Protein items- canned meat/chicken, tuna, nuts, nut butters, chili, lentils, beans
- Cereal, cereal bars, oatmeal, pasta and grains
- Canned fruit
- Baking staples-flour, sugar, salt, baking soda, etc.
- Shelf-stable milk

Donations can be dropped off to the FoodShare Center Monday- Friday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. You can also donate directly to RIT FoodShare at [Make a Gift](#). Your monetary donation allows the FoodShare Center to purchase needed food/supplies when inventory is low, and sustain this important initiative on the RIT campus for Tigers in need.

Information and Updates

Flu Shots

Flu shots are still available in the Student Health Center. Walk-in appointments are available on Mondays-Thursdays from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. or on Fridays from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost is \$20, but is reimbursable by most health insurances.

Enrollment Guide

Spring semester enrollment appointments begin on November 14. Students with questions should meet with their advisors; you can also direct your student to the [2016-17 Enrollment Guide](#) for general information and important dates.

RIT Telefund

If you haven't already, you may soon receive a call from the RIT Telefund. Student employees make these calls to speak with you about campus news and philanthropic support for the programs that mean the most to your student. Each year, gifts totaling more than \$250,000 are raised through calls to some 40,000 alumni and parents. You can opt out of receiving these calls simply by letting the Telefund student know. For a peek at the Telefund experience, check out the [short interview with Katie Spaude](#), a third-year student and a supervisor in the Telefund office.

Special Delivery November Feature

This month's feature special deliver is the Attackin' Snacktin. This package comes complete with a wide variety of snack and goodies, including fruit snacks, Powerade, granola bars, candy, popcorn, mac & cheese, and more. Check out Attackin' Snacktin and all of the baskets on the [Special Delivery 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 October, we asked if your student's budget is still on track. Nearly half of you have talked to your student and they are on track. Another 20% feel that managing a budget is your student's responsibility. Please take a moment to answer our [November question](#).

Parent Tip

Preparing for Thanksgiving

We know you look forward to having your student home for Thanksgiving vacation, but the reality of holiday reunions frequently fails to match expectations. It is not easy to slip back into traditional family patterns when students have been gone for a few months. Here are some tips for the upcoming long weekend:

- Talk with your student prior to break about family obligations and their plans with friends
- Discuss use of the family car, curfews, meal time, and other household expectations
- Let your student know of any big changes around the house, and ask of any big changes in their life (you don't want to be surprised by a new tattoo or diet change!)
- Don't be alarmed if the first thing your student wants to do is nap
- Expect a pile of laundry
- This is a busy time of the semester for many students-some may have to carve some time out of the vacation to study
- Remember that-even if this is your student's first semester in college-they have already experienced a lot and is growing into the adult they will become
- Enjoy your time together!

Sincerely,

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