Dear Parents,

We had a great weekend on campus at Brick City Homecoming and Family Weekend—thank you to all who joined us! With the change of the seasons comes some important dates for students, including housing selection and spring enrollment. This newsletter contains tips on how to support your student through this fall, as well as information about a new family study abroad program—Explore Croatia.
News and Deadlines

SMILEmobile
The SMILEmobile, a mobile dental office from University of Rochester’s Eastman School of Dentistry, will be coming to campus Monday, October 23. The mobile will be parked behind the Gordon Field House. Appointments are available from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. To schedule an appointment, students can call Eastman Dental at 585-397-0445. All appointments require active dental insurance. If your student is in need of assistance with obtaining dental insurance, they should contact an RIT case manager at 585-475-3963.

Change of Program Fair
The Change of Program Fair is an opportunity for students to learn about the available majors on campus and the resources offered to change majors. Representatives from all nine colleges, University Exploration, and the School of Individualized Study will be at the fair to talk with students about their options. The Change of Program Fair is on October 25 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Student Alumni Union 1829 Room.

Immersion, Minor, and Major Fair
On October 26, the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Science are hosting the Immersion, Minor, and Major 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.

Family Study Abroad—Explore Croatia
Parents, it’s your turn to study abroad! The Parent & Family Programs-in partnership with Education Abroad and the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement-is excited to offer this study abroad program for families and students. On this 10-day visit to Dubrovnik, Croatia and the surrounding area, RIT families will explore culture, history, and ecology through guided tours, nature excursions, and sampling local cuisine. Learn more and apply on the Explore Croatia website. Applications are due on January 8, 2018.
The housing selection process for 2018-19 will begin at the end of October and continue into early December. While this may feel early in the year for many—particularly first-year students—having the process in the fall allows students to prepare, including allowing students who will be going on a spring co-op or learning abroad secure housing for when they return.

Students—even those who have only been on campus a few months—likely already have ideas about where they want to live in the coming year. They know where their friends and classmates live and what their experiences have been. The names and lingo might not be as familiar to you, but as a parent, you can support your student through this process with gentle reminders of things they might not think about. Here are some quick housing facts to help you better understand RIT housing and the housing selection process:

- There are many housing options, including residence halls, Global Village, University Commons, apartments, and the RIT Inn.
- All housing options, including each individual apartment complex, have different rates, allowing students to select their preferences based on what fits best with their financial situation.
All students who participate in housing selection select their own housing assignments and roommates.

Each type of housing has a fixed number of spaces, so preferences cannot be guaranteed.

Students living in University Commons, apartments, and the RIT Inn can renew their contract each year; that is, they can stay in the same apartment as long as they are enrolled at RIT.

Students living in the residence halls and Global Village cannot renew—they must reapply to housing each year.

Global Village—the newest housing complexes on campus—is primarily for second-year students.

Despite their proximity to campus, Park Point, Province, and the Lodge are not RIT housing—these apartments are owned by an outside company who leases primarily to RIT students. RIT housing policies do not apply to these apartments.

Students with RIT housing contracts do not have to worry about subleasing during the summer and have options when leaving for a co-op or learning abroad experience.

The housing selection process has different timelines, depending on if your student is renewing a contract or signing a new contract:

**Renewal Sign-Up Dates**

For students currently living in RIT apartments, University Commons, and the RIT Inn who want to return to the same space.

- October 31-November 3: Renewal sign-up
- November 6-12: Roommate adds

**Room Selection Sign-Up Dates**

For students currently living in residence halls, Global Village, and Greek Circle, as well as student living in other RIT housing who do not want to renew their contracts and students currently off campus.

- November 15-26: Complete the 2018-19 contract and request roommate(s)
- November 28: Housing selection appointment time is sent to students’ RIT email accounts
- Early December: At their appointment times, students can go online and select housing

**Open Information Sessions**

For students wanting to learn more about how to sign up for housing.

- October 22; 7-8 p.m. Ingle Auditorium
- November 1; 5-6 p.m. Student Development Center (interpreted)
- November 7; 5-6 p.m. Student Development Center
Please remind your students to mark their calendars with these dates, and if they have any questions about housing selection, they should contact Housing Operations. See all housing selection workbooks, information sheets, and power points to be shown at the information sessions on the Housing Operations website.

Information and Updates

**Flu Shots**
Flu shots are now available for students at the Student Health Center (SHC). The cost is $20, payable by cash, check, Tiger Bucks, or Visa/Mastercard. The SHC provides receipts which can be submitted to insurance companies for reimbursement. In addition, Wegmans Pharmacy is sponsoring several flu shot clinics on campus where students can receive the vaccination, and Wegmans will directly submit the cost to the student’s eligible insurance.

**Academic Advisement Report**
Help your student stay on track to graduate by reminding them of the Academic Advisement Report (AAR). The AAR visually displays a student’s progress towards degree requirements based on complete and in-progress coursework. The AAR serves as a valuable tool for students and their advisers to track their progress towards graduation. The AAR is updated daily and can be found on SIS (Student Information System).

**Summer Research and Study Abroad Programs**

*National Science Foundation International Research*
Students have the opportunity to gain international research experience in Bonn, Germany in summer 2018. They will assist RIT faculty in the Information Science and Technologies Department in research that will help understand and model the use of mapping technology for disaster resilience. If selected for this opportunity, a full living stipend and travel expenses are provided. Application deadline is November 1.

*Galapagos: Ecology & Evolution*
This faculty-led study abroad program is a once-in-a-lifetime experience to learn about the wildlife, ecology, and geology of the Galapagos Islands, and their influence on Darwin's theory of natural selection. Students will be enrolled in a spring 2018 course at RIT and will travel to the Galapagos as part of the course in early summer. Program cost includes airfare, meals, and all excursions that are part of the week-long field experience in the Galapagos. Application deadline is October 22.
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 September, we asked if you would be supportive if your student wanted to join a sorority or fraternity. 43% said you were unsure and would need more information. 32% of you would be supportive, and 22% would not. Please take a moment to answer our October question.

Camille’s Corner
Housing and Roommates
The semester is chugging along as usual! If your student is at RIT for their first semester, they have likely settled into their new environment. If they’re a returning student, they’re back in the swing of things. Now that everyone is settled, it’s time to start thinking about housing for next year! It might seem early in the year for students to be deciding where they’ll live this time next year. I remember in my first year, I thought I had barely been on campus for 15 minutes before I had to make this big choice. Ultimately, I was relieved to get this process out of the way early.

Your student may choose to live in an on-campus apartment, or they might decide to live off campus in Henrietta, Rochester, or one of the surrounding towns and villages. Different living situations work better for different people. For example, one friend of mine prefers to live on campus because her classes usually end at 9 p.m. Another prefers to live in town because it makes her feel more independent. The most important thing for students to do is think about the costs and benefits of all living situations, and to make the decision that is best for them-academically, financially, and socially.

Your student will also need to make a choice about roommates for next year! This can be the most overwhelming decision for first-year students, since most of the people in their lives are relatively new friends. I was incredibly lucky my first year that I had a group of friends that obviously made the most sense to live with; the four of us met during orientation and hung out every single day of the first semester. Encourage your student to speak to their friends about how they want to live to find out if they would be a good fit- best friends don’t always make the best roommates!

Featured Photo
In case you don’t follow the Parent and Family Programs Facebook page, here’s what you’ve missed: Parents sampled local food and drink at Taste of Rochester during Brick City Weekend 2017.
Sincerely,

Chelsea A. Petree, Ph.D.
Director | Parent and Family Programs
Student Affairs | Rochester Institute of Technology
585-475-4198 | parents@rit.edu

To unsubscribe from the Parent and Family Newsletter or change your email preferences, please visit the Newsletter Archives and Options page.