MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Summer 2013 marks the beginning of the Parents Program’s fourth year at Penn State, University Park. As we welcome our new first-year, transfer and change-of-campus parents into our family, we are also reminded that for the first time we have a full spectrum of families—first-year to senior—that have had the Parents Program as a resource since your student’s first day at Penn State. This is one of those moments when you realize just how quickly time passes!

In this issue of Parents Pride Kate Fox, Education Abroad Adviser, provides an overview of education abroad opportunities, why students should consider a program, and how they can begin to learn more about their options.

Have you been wondering what happened to the HUB lawn and where the Penn State Bookstore went? Mary Edgington, Senior Director, Union and Student Activities, provides an overview of the HUB-Robeson Center renovation project and how that new space will benefit your students.

For both new and returning families, this issue includes important reminders to assist you in your preparations for arrival and features testimonials and advice from current parents. For new families, we have included Welcome Week information and hope you will remind your students to take advantage of our program offerings.

Finally, our book recommendation, Generation on a Tightrope, by Arthur Levine and Diane R. Dean, explores the similarities and differences between today’s college students and those from previous generations, emphasizing the defining characteristics of the current generation—your students. This is a seminal study for those of us who work in higher education and we hope you will enjoy it too.

Jennifer Mallen
Director, Parents Program
EDUCATION ABROAD
By Kate Fox, Education Abroad Adviser, University Office of Global Programs

Studying abroad is one of the many enriching academic experiences available to Penn State students at all campus locations. Participating in a Penn State education abroad program allows a student to spend a summer, semester, or academic year taking courses at an international partner center or university. These courses count toward the student’s Penn State degree. It is truly an exceptional opportunity for gaining greater global awareness and knowledge of another culture and country, as well as enhancing a student’s academic progress.

The Directorate of Education Abroad, within Penn State’s University Office of Global Programs, partners with Penn State colleges and campuses to identify universities and study centers around the world that provide world-class education and cultural immersion opportunities. In fact, Penn State students can choose from nearly 250 programs in 50 countries. In addition, students may participate on short trips that are embedded in a residentially-taught course, often traveling over spring break or in mid-May. Penn State education abroad programs vary in length, location, and academic content, so students can choose the program that is appropriate for their academic and personal goals.

Why Study Abroad?
There are many reasons to study abroad, and it is important to understand that each student’s experience is unique. A few examples of opportunities experienced by students on Penn State education abroad programs include:

- learning or improving foreign language skills in a non-English speaking country;
- comparing financial and political systems of countries in the European Union;
- mapping village development in rural Tanzania;
- earning internship credit for international development work in India;
- researching climate change and rain forest restoration in Australia.

We often hear how a study abroad experience contributed to a student’s personal growth by improving cross-cultural communication skills, problem solving abilities, and sense of independence. More importantly, study abroad strengthens and expands a student’s academic knowledge and preparedness for the work force or graduate school.

How to Get Started
Deciding to study abroad and choosing an education abroad program can be an exciting experience, but it is also a brand new experience for most Penn State students. Fortunately, there are plenty of resources available to help students and their parents understand these decisions. One of the first steps is for students to speak with their academic adviser to ensure...
that study abroad can be part of their personal degree progress.

After that, Penn State students can speak with education abroad peer advisers, study abroad alumni who have returned to Penn State after a semester (or two) abroad to answer questions about their experiences and to guide their peers through the first stages of the process.

Another great way to learn more about education abroad programs is to attend a Study Abroad 101 information session, held monthly at the University Park campus and also available online. (Email educationabroad@ip.psu.edu for a link to the online version.) The first Study Abroad 101 of fall semester will be held on August 27 at 4:00 p.m. in 117 HUB-Robeson Center.

In addition, Penn State students are invited to attend the Education Abroad Fair to be held on October 9 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Alumni Hall of the HUB-Robeson Center. Representatives from many of our international partner universities, the academic colleges at Penn State, the Office of Student Aid, HTH Worldwide Insurance, and the University Office of Global Programs will be present. Last year, nearly 1,400 Penn State students attended the fair to learn more about studying abroad.

Funding the Education Abroad Experience

One of the questions that the education abroad staff members hear most frequently from parents and family members is, “How much does it cost to study abroad?” The answer depends on the specific program that your student chooses. Factors that affect total cost include duration of the program, cost of living in the host country (lodging, meals, local transportation), academic fees, airfare, books, and supplies. There are estimated budget sheets available for each Penn State education abroad program on our website.

A student’s financial aid package is applicable to Penn State education abroad programs (with a few exceptions). Additional scholarships and grants are available through a number of sources. The University Office of Global Programs awards over $300,000 in scholarships each year. In addition, some Penn State campuses, academic colleges, or departments have funding available to support students in their international experiences. Other sources of funding include host institution or host country scholarships and national scholarship competitions here in the United States. Of course, we always refer students to the Office of Student Aid as well.

What’s Next?

We hope you will encourage your student to consider studying abroad. Please know that the staff members in Penn State’s Directorate of Education Abroad are happy to support your student in this exciting endeavor. Your student can email educationabroad@ip.psu.edu with questions on how to get started.
HUB-ROBESON CENTER BEGINS MAJOR EXPANSION AND RENOVATION

By Mary Edgington, Senior Director, Union and Student Activities

Construction has begun on a HUB-Robeson Center expansion that will add 54,800 square feet of new space and renovate another 52,000 square feet. This will be the first major expansion of the Hetzel Union Building since January 2000, when the HUB combined student union space with the Paul Robeson Cultural Center. In 2015, when the current project is completed, the HUB-Robeson Center will total 305,000 square feet of modern, student-centered space.

The need for an expansion has become apparent as traffic has increased over the past decade. An average of 40,000 students visit the HUB-Robeson Center each day, and yet it is one of the smallest Big Ten student union buildings. The expansion will bring the facility more in line with those at peer universities and will increase much needed services and programming space for the Penn State students.

Students have been requesting more seating, meeting and programming space, and multipurpose space for the HUB-Robeson Center for quite a few years now and the expansion will provide all that — and more. Retail space will be organized into one “community,” including a new THON merchandise store. A new mezzanine in the Penn State Bookstore will include the general reading department and a café that can host poetry readings and musicians in support of LateNight Penn State. Located on the store’s main floor will be textbooks and school supplies, general merchandise and gifts, and a technology center. The renovated bookstore will be 25 percent larger and feature additional services.

The food court will be renovated as well, including the addition of two new dining concepts. The entire dining area will be updated to blend with the new look of the renovated space and feature additional seating and programming space. Included in the new expansion is a glass atrium ceiling and a usable, programmable green roof facing Nittany Mountain.

Many of the Union and Student Activities services will be moved to the first floor giving students the opportunity to become more engaged with out-of-the-classroom leadership development experiences. Additional meeting rooms and another theater type programming space will allow more student organizations to meet in the HUB-Robeson Center.

Although traffic patterns will change as construction progresses, the HUB Robeson Center will remain operational throughout the process. To facilitate the renovation and expansion, the Penn State Bookstore will operate from temporary units on the HUB lawn through July 2014. The project design was completed by GUND Partnership of Cambridge, Mass., and the construction manager is Gilbane Inc. of Providence, R.I. The $44.6 million project is being funded through the student facility fee, HUB reserves, Bookstore reserves, and Food Services reserves.

Above and Right: Before and After illustrations of the HUB Addition and Renovation Project.

Please follow the progress of the expansion and renovation online!

facebook.com/HUBExpansion
twitter.com/HUBExpansion
or on the Union and Student Activities web site at http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/hub/
FALL ARRIVAL 2013 - MOVE-IN ADVICE FOR PARENTS

By Conal Carr, Director of Housing Operations

It’s hard to believe we are just under two weeks away from Fall Arrival. If your student is new to Penn State, I want to welcome you to our community. If you’re returning, welcome back. Fall arrival can be a very exciting time for families as they prepare to bring their student to Penn State and the State College community. In my role as Director of Housing, I often get questions about how families can prepare and support their student during the arrival process. I would offer these suggestions for a smooth arrival.

First, enjoy the arrival process and take advantage of the many opportunities, programs, socials and sales offered on campus and in the community. With 40,000 students at University Park, fall arrival can be stressful for families. But if you are stressed about the process and are anxious to get back home too quickly you may miss some great opportunities with your student. You may even cause your student to be stressed as well! So enjoy the process, take lots of photos, enjoy a long lunch or late dinner and purchase a Penn State t-shirt or sweatshirt for your student. The staff and faculty at Penn State, our community leaders, and local merchants have been planning for this arrival for months and want you to have a wonderful experience. Remember, you will only have a few arrivals with your student so make the most of it.

Secondly, encourage your student to get involved with new student clubs and organizations. Fall arrival is a great time for students to enjoy a fresh start. They can meet new friends, start a new hobby, find a new interest or expand on a current one. With over 900 clubs on campus, both academic and social, and a great intramural program, students have excellent opportunities to try something new. Union and Student Activities sponsors Involvement Fairs during Welcome Week which is a great way for them to learn about opportunities. Students will not have these types of opportunities once they leave the Penn State community.

Thirdly, if your student is moving onto campus or into a downtown apartment I would encourage packing only what your student needs for the first few weeks and months of the semester. Your student may want to bring everything now, but they won’t need a winter coat or a pair of skis in September. If you’re able to pack only what is needed for the beginning of the semester you will have more room in your vehicle and an easier time unpacking. Then, when you return for Parents & Families Weekend, a home football game, or just for a visit, you can bring additional items.

Also, with 13,500 students moving onto campus and another 20,000 in the community you should expect some delays during arrival. We will have increased traffic, full parking lots, and lines on and off-campus. Though University staff and community leaders do an excellent job of managing this influx of students we still have peak traffic times between 10:00am-2:00pm during arrival. So if you’re able to plan your trip accordingly, I would recommend arriving earlier or later in the day. However, if this is your first fall arrival at University Park and State College you will be pleasantly surprised, if not outright amazed, how smoothly the entire process works.

Lastly, and possibly most importantly, if your son/daughter is sharing a living space you should encourage your student to discuss expectations with their roommate(s). They should talk about guests (who and how late), groceries (communal or personal), schedules (late night or early morning) and expenses (who’s paying for what). Best friends don’t always make the best roommates, but good communication will help everyone be happier in any living environment.

Again, I want to welcome you or welcome you back to Penn State and the State College community. Our staff and community members are here to assist you with any questions so please don’t hesitate to ask. If I can be of any assistance please feel free to contact me at 814-865-7543.

Sincerely,

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Parents & Families Weekend

Join us

OCTOBER 4 - 6, 2013

for a special weekend that includes a variety of campus-wide programs and family-friendly events. A preliminary schedule of events will be available in mid-July. For more information, please visit www.parents.psu.edu or call 814-863-1313.

Penn State Parents Program www.parents.psu.edu parents@psu.edu 814.863.1313
Last August, we were excited to bring our son Pete to State College to begin his freshman year at Penn State. Since we would be traveling from Northern New Jersey, we drove to State College the day before Move-In. Luckily, we had a reservation at the Nittany Lion Inn, which allowed us to really soak in the Penn State spirit from the moment we arrived in our packed-to-the-gills car.

We went to dinner at a restaurant on College Avenue. The three of us knew that tomorrow was a big day, one of the biggest, but we tried to keep things cool and casual. Just another chat over dinner, right?

I couldn’t resist the urge to toss out a few last minute pieces of advice for making friends…getting involved…being open to new experiences. I felt pressure to get these things in at the last minute (as if Pete were going off to a land without cell phones or email!). Thankfully, my comments were received with not-too-much eye rolling.

The next morning, we proceeded bright and early to Tener Hall (one of the halls comprising the East Halls residential area, where many first-year students live). The massive move-in operation was impressively organized – from which roads to take and where to park to volunteers aplenty answering questions. We arrived and Pete and his Dad went off to the Commons to pick-up his room key and a rolling cart.

When they got back, a group of student volunteers greeted us; they were extremely energetic and helpful, loading up with as much of Pete’s belongings as they could carry. They were super friendly, and engaged Pete with questions about where he was from, his interests, etc. They invited him to a BBQ at their fraternity later that night; I could tell he thought this was kind of cool.

Setting up Pete’s room went quickly. The space was tight…it was a challenge to fit everything. We put away his clothes and since the rooms don’t feature a lot of drawers, we got creative with the under-bed tubs and a couple of crates in the closet. I insisted on making his bed and putting a few photos (family, friends, dog) on the bulletin board.

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As everything was put away, I could tell Pete was ready to get this college thing started. Of course, Mom and Dad delayed a bit more by insisting on lunch together in the dining hall…followed by ice cream at the Creamery.

Finally, there was nothing left to do but say goodbye with hugs and a couple tears (mine). And that was it!

Pete and I texted a few times after we were on the road back to New Jersey. He went to the fraternity BBQ alone (brave!), and then returned to Tener Hall for some of the welcome activities. He started his Penn State experience not at all worried – and neither were his parents!

Laurie Goodman
Penn State Parents Council
Mother of Pete (2016)
When we walked into the Commons we found tables well-marked by the student's last name. We were able to get her key right away. This was it! We now had the key; this was really happening. It was all just a little too real for me to process. This meant I would be leaving her here. The day had finally come and even though I had prepared for it for the past 18 years I truly wasn’t sure if I was ready to let go yet.

When we got back to the car, my husband had everything ready to go. We headed into the hall and grabbed an elevator. My sense of dread began to grow with each floor that we passed. We found her room with her cheery name tag on the door and began unloading.

I took over the bedding area. My daughter handled her clothes, while my husband got her computer and printer set up. Don’t forget that extra long Ethernet cord and plenty of extension cords! Once we finally got her unpacked the inevitable good-bye had arrived. I knew I was going to be a wreck as I tried to put on a brave face. Nothing will quite prepare you for this moment, though. No amount of to-do lists, planning, or itineraries will prepare you. Reading this article won’t truly prepare you. You will experience a range of emotions that can’t be described. Seeing your husband get teary eyed while he hugs his baby girl good-bye will break your heart.

But, knowing that your child is starting one of the most magnificent chapters of his or her life will get you through it. Knowing that you did your best to prepare them to make good choices and wise decisions will get you through it. Knowing that he or she has chosen one of the best academic institutions in the world will get you through it. Knowing that they will come back to you, a little bit wiser, a little bit more mature, and a lot more blue and white will make it all worth wile. Move-in day is tough but I promise you, this is the first step in the amazing future your child will have being a Nittany Lion!

Tina Zacherl (Edu '91, MEd '04)
Penn State Parents Council
Mother of Courtney (2015)

Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity and the diversity of its workforce. This publication is available in alternative media upon request. U.Ed.STA 12-82

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PARENT TO PARENT: SUPPORTING COMMUTER STUDENTS
By Cheri Graham, Lead Programmer/Analyst
in Student Affairs Information Technology
Mother of Brandon (2013) and Kelsey (2014), Commuting Students

• Make your commuter feel just as special about the college experience. Because your student is commuting, that air of excitement has to be built; most likely they are staying in the same bedroom they’ve been in for awhile – maybe their whole life. Consider a fresh coat of paint and some new bedding to start off the college experience. Cleaning out the bedroom in preparation for the overhaul will give you and your student a chance to pack up those years of middle school and high school memories and make room for the college life. Your student may want some milk crates, new posters, a lamp, a desk, and some of the other items that a typical new student gets. New towels might even be a nice touch, but they won’t need shower shoes and a shower tote!!

• Encourage your student to participate in the Commuter Connection program on August 25th at 6pm in the HUB’s Heritage Hall. They might think that they know everything about Penn State and State College, but Penn State is big and they will learn something new. They will also meet new people. There will be students who want to share rides, bike to campus together, hang out, study, or eat a meal between classes.

• Take advantage of the resources offered by the Office of Off-Campus Living. They offer such services as online classifieds, programs to get involved on campus, and can help you connect with the student organization Off-Campus Student Union.

• The best way for your commuter to become a part of Penn State is to become involved. There are endless opportunities. Encourage them to attend the well-planned and diverse Welcome Week events. Fresh Start Day of Service is a great way to begin meeting new people; sign up at www.volunteer.psu.edu. Students can engage in events surrounding music, art, theatre, athletics, and SPA LateNight at the HUB. Becoming familiar with the Office of Student Activities, attending the Involvement Fair during the first week of school, volunteering, reading the Daily Collegian, and asking about opportunities in their areas of interest are all simple ways to get involved in campus life.

• Inspire your commuter to share their knowledge about Happy Valley. Students from outside of the area welcome information about where to go, where to shop, or where to order the best pizza or wings. Even though we aren’t a big city, there are Chinese, Thai, Korean, Indian, Greek, Mexican, Italian restaurants and more all close by. There are sushi, ice cream, gelato, salad, vegetarian, noodle, and cupcake shops. Don’t forget about ceramics, laser tag, movies, bowling, tennis, fly-fishing, ice-skating, roller-hockey, golfing, mini-golfing, go-carts, batting cages, kayaking, mountain biking, hiking, and skiing. Your student can be a great resource to others and should feel proud to offer local information.

Penn State Parents Program • parents@psu.edu • phone: 814.863.1313 • www.parents.psu.edu • 7
SUGGESTED READING

Generation on a Tightrope
By Arthur Levine and Diane R. Dean

The following excerpt is from Doug Lederman's Inside HigherEd review, dated 8/21/12. The full article is available online at http://ow.ly/mxZxT.

The book, Generation on a Tightrope: A Portrait of Today’s College Student (Jossey Bass), uses surveys of students and college officials, interviews from campus visits, and other data to characterize the current crop of college-age Americans as confounded by a series of contradictions -- and, in turn, often confounding to parents, colleges, and employers trying to understand them. Coming of age in the deepest recession in 70 years, yet eager for the economic opportunities their parents enjoyed. In a hurry to be grownups, but more dependent on the adults around them than any modern generation. Global citizens in theory, but ignorant of other cultures. Always in touch, but hampered in face-to-face communication. And perhaps most importantly, digital natives, but maneuvering in a still-largely-analog world.

Read the 1st chapter online at: http://tinyurl.com/khh857m.

KEY DATES:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Academic Calendar: Fall ‘13</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall residence hall arrival: first-year students (students from Centre County and their roommates, and out-of-state students and their roommates)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall residence hall arrival: first-year students (remaining Pennsylvania residents)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall residence hall arrival: upper-class students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labor Day holiday – no classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parents &amp; Families Weekend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Residence halls close for Fall Break at 10:00 A.M. (Students with a Break Access Housing Contract may remain in the halls.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Break (includes the Thanksgiving holiday): no classes, residence halls closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Residence halls open at 10:00 AM.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finals week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester ends: residence halls close on the 21st at 4:00 PM. (Students with a Break Access Housing Contract may remain in the halls.) Halls will reopen for returning students on January 12th at 10:00 AM.</td>
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Community Events:

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania Forest Fest <a href="http://ecosystems.psu.edu/pa-forest-fest">http://ecosystems.psu.edu/pa-forest-fest</a></td>
<td>September 5 10 A.M.- 3 P.M.</td>
<td>Penn State Arboretum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insect Fair <a href="http://ento.psu.edu/public/kids/great-insect-fair">http://ento.psu.edu/public/kids/great-insect-fair</a></td>
<td>October 5 10 A.M.- 4 P.M.</td>
<td>Bryce Jordan Center</td>
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<td>3rd Annual Punkin’ Chunkin’ Festival <a href="http://events.wnep.com/Punkin_Chunkin_Fall_Festival/205016348.html">http://events.wnep.com/Punkin_Chunkin_Fall_Festival/205016348.html</a></td>
<td>October 19 10 A.M. - 5 P.M.</td>
<td>Bald Eagle State Park, Howard, PA</td>
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<td>State College Menorah Lighting <a href="http://www.statecollegepa.us/">www.statecollegepa.us/</a></td>
<td>November 27 (first night of Chanukah) 5 P.M.</td>
<td>Municipal Building, Downtown State College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Santa Express (Bellefonte Train Station) <a href="http://www.bellefontetrain.org">www.bellefontetrain.org</a></td>
<td>December 21–23 (varying times)</td>
<td>Bellefonte, PA to Axeman, PA (roundtrip)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THON <a href="http://www.thon.org">www.thon.org</a></td>
<td>February 21- 23, 2014</td>
<td>Bryce Jordan Center University Park campus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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For more information on community events, please visit the Central PA Convention and Visitor’s Bureau site at [http://visitpennstate.org](http://visitpennstate.org) and click on the “local events” link.