MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It has been a long and icy winter in State College, so we are excited to finally see signs of spring. On campus, our graduating students are busy with wrapping up their classes and spending time with the friends they have made over the last few years. At the same time, we are busy welcoming accepted students and their families as they move closer to deciding whether they will be joining the Penn State family—we certainly hope they do!

Last month, the Parents Program celebrated five years on campus. We have seen great growth in parent involvement efforts, with an increasing number of families interested in volunteering their time to Penn State. Our Parents Council and Parent Ambassador Program have grown this year and contributed positively to both the Parents Program and student success initiatives—including the development of this newsletter.

In this issue, we focus on sharing information about spending the summer at Penn State as well as the HUB expansion project that was recently completed. In addition, for those of you joining us for Blue-White Weekend, we have included information about this year’s events along with the history of Blue-White. For families with graduating seniors, information about Spring Commencement, class rings and the yearbook is included. We hope you will find the finals tips for parents beneficial as we get closer to the end of the semester.

Jennifer Mallen
Director, Parents Program

SAVE THE DATE!
Parents & Families Weekend
October 16-18, 2015

Join us October 16-18, 2015 for Parents & Families Weekend. A preliminary schedule of events will be available in late summer at parents.psu.edu.
The Blue-White Game is a great opportunity to see the football team up close. The tradition of a scrimmage game open to the public dates back to 1951 when the game was called “The Bucket Bowl”. The Daily Collegian proposed that a water bucket was to be presented to the captain of the winning team and so they referred to the game as “The Bucket Bowl”. The first spring scrimmage hosted in 1951 was created to benefit Penn State’s general scholarship fund. The intrasquad scrimmage was sponsored by the Alumni Association. Since new grass had just been planted at Beaver Stadium, State College High School agreed to let the game be played on their field. Students were given half price from the $1 admission to encourage support for the game. The first game was not very successful in raising money for the general scholarship fund, but they tried again in 1952. In 1952, the team was again unsuccessful in raising money for the scholarship fund since the game competed for student attendance with a home baseball game that same day. By 1955, the Blue-White Game had become a tradition at Penn State and student attendance was increasing each year. The first scrimmage in 1951 saw about 500 people in attendance while more recently we have seen the numbers surpass 70,000 fans in attendance. The tradition of the Blue-White Game has spanned 63 years and has developed into a weekend of events with the football scrimmage at the center of it all.

For more information about the history of the Blue White Game visit the Penn State Athletics Site at http://www.gopsusports.com/genrel/041714aaa.html. This year the Blue-White Game will be presented by AAA and is set for Saturday, April 18. Kickoff for the game has been announced as 4:00 p.m. There will be no admission or parking fee for the Blue White Game. Starting three hours prior to kickoff the Penn State football gameday Fan Festival will take place on Curtin Road, just as it does during the regular season, and will feature numerous merchants, food vendors, games and interactive displays. Please keep in mind that Beaver Stadium and other venues at Penn State have a strict bag policy that will be in place for Blue-White Weekend. For more information about the bag policy visit http://www.gopsusports.com/facilities/bag-policy.html.

---

Blue & White weekend is an opportunity for you to meet up with your Penn State Student and all of their friends, especially if you can tailgate. (The number of friends your student brings for you to meet is directly proportional to the amount of food you provide!) Enjoy the campus in its springtime glory, and allow your student to show you the places where they are making memories that will last a lifetime. Hear them say, “I love this building” with reverence in their voice the way my son did when he took me on a tour. Let them tell you “I love my school, not just for football, but for THON, and all the other things PSU stands for, like integrity, perseverance, loyalty and success with honor.” We are Penn State!

-- Shelley Nelson
Penn State Parent
The University’s Office for Summer Session is responsible for general oversight of the University’s summer session. Staff in the office collaborates with academic colleges and Outreach units at University Park to develop, coordinate, and market summer course offerings and scheduling. In addition, the staff communicates information to students, faculty, and advisers about how students can integrate summer session into their study plans.

Summer classes at Penn State University offer a unique opportunity for students to fulfill their goals by allowing them to:
- Get ahead in their program to graduate early
- Stay on track to graduate on time
- Catch up on missed requirements or incomplete credits
- Linger over an idea and enjoy individual attention in smaller classes
- Focus on a challenging class
- Tackle prerequisites for fall semester classes
- Take classes that fill up fast during fall and spring semesters
- Take summer classes and save time in order to do an internship in the fall or spring when there is less competition

The Office for Summer Session also provides two important summer programs for incoming first-year students and rising juniors transitioning from Penn State’s Commonwealth campuses and non-University Park colleges.

The Learning Edge Academic Program (LEAP) is dedicated exclusively to incoming first-year students to the University Park campus. LEAP promotes active collaborative learning on the part of students when they enroll in two small, linked classes such as English 015 and CAS 100. The two three-or-four credit LEAP courses are a part of the general education curriculum and are suitable for all students irrespective of their colleges or academic interests. A group of 24 students enroll in the same linked classes and live together in the same dorms. Upper level student mentors provide academic and social support to assist LEAP students in the transition process.

Student Transitional Experiences Program (STEP) is a summer program designed for students making the junior-year transition to University Park from another Penn State campus. STEP offers students the opportunity to take not only two courses in their majors but also an excellent introduction to the University Park campus. The program also provides students the opportunity to meet and interact with other students making the same transition. The supportive environment that this program offers makes the transition to the University Park campus not only a seamless one but also an enjoyable experience.

PARENT TO PARENT:
“Summer at University Park is entirely different than the rest of the year and I highly recommend that your student experience it at least once. My son participated in LEAP as an incoming freshman. Of course, his biggest complaint was giving up his summer, but I explained that University Park welcomes over 7000 freshman in the fall and getting familiar with the campus during the summer was worth it. I also told him that obtaining good grades in only two classes would be easier than trying to do the same during a full course load. The following summer he returned as a LEAP mentor—a wonderful opportunity for him to learn leadership skills. He just informed me that he will be taking a class this summer. He realized that summers are a great way to get a jump on credits. When I asked my son about his two summer sessions, his reply was that he met his best friend the first summer and then met a great bunch of LEAP mentors the second summer.”
-- Bill Roberts
Penn State Parent

“Sometimes you have to go to summer school, but it doesn’t carry the stigma in college that you might have encountered in high school. You might be short a credit, need a specific class, or want to stay at Penn State for the summer with some friends. Whatever the reasons, here are some things to consider:
- Can your residence hall accommodate you over the summer? Will anyone else be in the fraternity/Sorority for company? Is there a pool?
- Classes are condensed – four months of work in two.
- You may need a flexible schedule to accommodate work and classes.”

(Continued on next page)
• Financial considerations: Cost per credit should play into your decision.
• You get the classes you want and they are excellent.
• There’s a lot going on in State College in the summer: art fairs, Special Olympics and more.
• Campus is beautiful, with a relaxed, kicked back feel, and there are many opportunities to explore in the area.
• There’s a different set of people on campus to get to know.
• Classes are condensed, but if you’re not taking a full course load, you can fully immerse yourself into the class.
• It’s a great time to get in that PE requirement. Golf anyone?”

— Betsy Millane
Penn State Parent

FINALS TIPS FOR PARENTS
BY CAROL IDO
PENN STATE PARENT

How can you help your student cope with the stress of finals? It’s hard to rank these five tips, as they are all important!

• Open all channels of communication -- text messages, social media, email, video chat. We have our daughter over for family dinner, placing a laptop on the table to video conference.
• Be available. Your child may need a boost at 9:15 a.m...or 2:15 a.m.
• Listen and respond as a friend. You can resume your parenting persona and have a debriefing after the crisis has passed.
• Send stuff. There is nothing like an old-fashioned card, letter, care package or items from Penn State Bakery.
• Equip your child ahead of time to care for themselves and manage stress or mild illness -- remind them to get refills of prescription medications and stock up on snacks for those long nights of studying.

Want to send your student a treat for finals? Check out the delicious treats available through the Penn State Bakery, like the ones below.
http://www.bakery.psu.edu.

COMMENCEMENT INFORMATION FOR SPRING 2015

Commencement ceremonies will be held from May 8 through May 10 this year at the University Park Campus. Ceremonies will be held at the Bryce Jordan Center and Eisenhower Auditorium. Each of the 11 colleges will be conducting separate ceremonies. Specific information concerning your student’s college ceremony was provided by the college. For a complete schedule, please visit http://commencement.psu.edu/future.html.

Each ceremony will last approximately 90 minutes. Seating for guests will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Tickets are not required and there is no guest limit. Visit http://commencement.psu.edu/guestseating.html for complete families and guest information.

Bryce Jordan Center Parking and Directions
Guests attending commencement at the Bryce Jordan Center are encouraged to park in one of the following lots: Stadium West, Jordan East and Orange E (near Shields Building). There is no fee. Guests should enter the Bryce Jordan Center at Gates A, B, C or D. Parking for guests with disabilities is available in the Founders Parking Lot (Orange L) at the Bryce Jordan Center. For directions to the Bryce Jordan Center, visit http://www.bjc.psu.edu/directions.aspx.

Eisenhower Auditorium Parking and Directions
Guests attending commencement at Eisenhower Auditorium are encouraged to park in Eisenhower Parking Deck located directly behind Eisenhower Auditorium. There is no fee. For directions to Eisenhower Auditorium, visit http://cpa.psu.edu/directions.

Photographs
Photographers from GradImages™ will be at each commencement ceremony to take photographs of students as they individually approach, cross and exit the stage. GradImages™ will contact students soon after graduation with complete details.

Diplomas
Diplomas will be mailed, at no cost, approximately four weeks after the ceremony. If you have questions regarding commencement, please contact the Office of University Relations at graduation@psu.edu. For more information, please visit http://commencement.psu.edu/.
HUB EXPANSION
By MARY EDGINGTON, SENIOR DIRECTOR, UNION AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The HUB-Robeson Center has undergone a $50 million expansion and renovation. The project started in earnest four years ago with the hiring of the GUND partnership architect firm out of Boston. With plans to add 54,800 square feet of new space and renovate 52,000 square feet, the HUB-Robeson Center project has been an important and exciting experience for all who have been involved in the planning and implementation. Students have been a major part of this experience as they were included in various focus groups and surveys prior to the design phase, in selection of the architect and construction firm (Gilbane Building Company), in selection of furniture styles and fabric, and beyond. The expansion opened on Monday, March 2nd with a ribbon cutting ceremony and celebratory music, tours, food, giveaways and student performances all day long to welcome students to the new space. The goal of the expansion is to provide students with more space for meetings, activities, collaborative study areas, and informal as well as formal engaging learning opportunities.

The Penn State seal has been embedded in the terrazzo floor near the new east entrance as a gift from Homecoming, the Interfraternity Council and PanHellenic – all recognized student organizations at University Park.

A new THON retail store has also opened in the new space. The THON store will feature merchandise that will support the THON mission. The THON store will be open year round and proceeds will benefit the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State’s Hershey Medical Center.

Housing and Food Services renovated the dining area and added two new franchises over the summer, Jamba Juice and McAlister’s Deli and the renovated and expanded Penn State Bookstore has been relocated back to the HUB-Robeson Center from its temporary HUB lawn location, and opened on February 16th. The newly opened atrium connects all these areas into one retail type of community with skylights and a usable Green Roof that will open this summer.

There will also be two new offices off the main lounge. A new center dedicated to engaged scholarship called the Center for Character, Conscience, and Public Purpose will be opened this summer as well as an extension of the Student Activities Office.

The expansion features new seating and lounge spaces that take advantage of the natural light in the HUB-Robeson Center. We hope the new space will allow students to hangout, study, and socialize in a more comfortable environment at the center of campus. The HUB-Robeson Center has been under construction for most of the school year and students have been eager to explore the new spaces. Next time you visit campus, be sure to check out the newly renovated HUB-Robeson Center and the view of Mount Nittany from the Green Roof!
COMMUNITY EVENTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date &amp; Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 19, 2015 Medlar Field at Lubrano Park</td>
<td>State College Spikes Season (Minor League Baseball) Home Opener</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 25, 2015 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pennsylvania Military Museum</td>
<td>Allegheny Mountain Region AACA Car Show</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regional Antique Automobile Club of America Chapter’s annual summer season kickoff event featuring many pre-war through modern classics on display throughout the grounds of the 28th Division Shrine Complex/PA Military Museum. $5 for on-site parking.

For more information on community events, please visit the Central PA Convention and Visitor’s Bureau site at http://visitpennstate.org and click on the “local events” link.

UNIVERSITY CALENDAR:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May 1</th>
<th>Last day of classes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 4-8</td>
<td>Final Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 8-10</td>
<td>Commencement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>Spring Semester Ends - Residence Halls close at 4:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>Maymester classes begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Summer Session 1 classes begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>Memorial Day - No Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1</td>
<td>Summer Session 2 classes begin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

University Health Services (UHS) at the University Park Campus began billing insurance companies in August 2014. An e-mail was sent to all UP students at the time; however, not all parents were informed. The UHS website (www.studentaffairs.psu.edu/health) lists the insurance companies in which UHS participates. Even if UHS participates with your insurance company, some of the company’s HMO plans may not cover costs in the State College area. The safest thing to do is to contact your insurance company and find out where your student can receive care.

If your insurance company does not cover visits to UHS, consider purchasing the Penn State student insurance health plan. This plan covers most visits to UHS and to specialists/hospitals in the State College area.

Please make sure your student has a copy of their insurance card. Students may give UHS their insurance information ahead of time by going to our website at www.studentaffairs.psu.edu/health/.

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