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# UB PARENTS

## Dear UB Families:

This is the final e-newsletter for 2011. The first issue of 2012 will reach your inbox on Wednesday, January 11, 2012. In the meantime, if any portion of your contact information changes, please update your Parent Association membership [online](#).

Also, as a reminder, if you have questions or concerns, contact the [Parent Advisory Service](#) for advice and referrals.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a very happy new year!

Dennis R. Black

Vice President for University Life and Services

## Campus Information and Updates

### End of the Fall Semester and Winter Recess

#### Final Exams

Fall semester final exams will end on Monday, December 19, 2011; winter recess will begin on Tuesday, December 20, 2011.

#### Residence Halls

- **The residence halls will close** at 9 am on Tuesday, December 20, 2011.
- Most residence halls will be closed, locked, and unoccupied during the break period. **With prior permission from their area office**, some students may remain in Goodyear, Clement, Clinton, Red Jacket, Richmond, and Greiner Halls. However, because residential fees for the fall semester only cover the period from Saturday, August 27, 2011 to Tuesday, December 20, 2011, students who must remain in the halls after December 20, 2011, or during any portion of winter recess, will be assessed a daily charge based on the type of room occupied. Students who are relocated to a lounge during winter recess will be charged \$12 per day.

#### Meal Plans

The residential dining centers will close after dinner on Monday, December 19, 2011. Several restaurants and cafes, which will accept [Dining Dollars](#), will be open on Tuesday, December 20, 2011. A schedule of when dining centers, restaurants, and cafes will be open may be found [online](#).

#### Express Bus Home

The [Express Bus Home](#) can get your student home to New York City, Albany, and

Rochester for winter recess. Buses will leave the university on Saturday, December 17, 2011 and Tuesday, December 20, 2011 and will return to UB on Monday, January 16, 2012.

### **Leaving a Vehicle on Campus during Winter Recess**

Students wishing to leave a vehicle on campus during winter recess may do so. However, the vehicle must be parked in an area that is designated for **overnight parking**. Students should look for signage in the parking lots and, if in doubt, they should call the Parking Office at (716) 645-3943.

### **Zipcars**

If you're looking for a holiday gift for your student, consider Zipcar. Zipcars live at UB. Gas, insurance, and \$35 driving credit are included in each Zipcar car sharing membership. Details are available **online**.

### **Spring Semester** **Calendar**

The spring 2012 semester will begin on Tuesday, January 17, 2012. The current and future academic calendars may be found **online**.

### **Residence halls**

The residence halls will reopen for the spring semester at 12 Noon on Sunday, January 15, 2012.

### **Meal Plans**

- As a reminder, students have until January 13, 2012 to change their spring semester meal plan, either at the UB Card Office, 228 Student Union, or **online**. Students who plan to keep their current meal plan selection do not need to do anything, as it will automatically renew for the spring semester.
- Spring semester meal plans will begin with brunch on Monday, January 16, 2012. **Dining Dollars**, which may be used at select restaurants and cafes, will be active on Sunday, January 15, 2012. The schedule of when dining centers, restaurants, and cafes will be open is available **online**.
- **Dining Dollar** balances from a fall semester meal plan will automatically transfer to the spring semester **if a student has purchased a spring semester meal plan**.

### **Money Matters**

#### **Financial Aid**

All financial aid recipients must re-apply for financial aid each year. The **Free Application for Financial Aid (FAFSA)** for the 2012-2013 academic year will be available on January 1, 2012. The FAFSA for 2012-2013 requires 2011 tax year information. Financial Aid advisors are available for phone or campus appointments by calling (716) 645-2450.

#### **Payment Plan**

The **payment plan** is available for the fall or spring terms. You must enroll at the beginning of each term. The spring semester payment enrollment option is now available. The last day to enroll for the four-installment payment plan for the spring

semester is January 4, 2012.

### **Spring Semester Billing and Financial Aid Disbursement Information**

- Please review the information posted regarding [spring semester billing and financial aid disbursement](#) along with answers to [frequently asked questions](#).
- The first [spring semester eBill](#) notification has been emailed to your student's buffalo.edu email account. If you are not in the payment plan, payment is due by 6 pm on January 10, 2012.
- Looking to help pay your student's bill? Have your student designate you as an [Authorized Payer](#).

### **Planning for Next Fall**

#### **Moving off Campus**

If your student is considering living off campus next year, we suggest that you take time during winter recess to discuss the potential move, including the following:

- University Police do **not** patrol off-campus neighborhoods. Off-campus, independent housing is, therefore, under the jurisdiction of the local police department. Evaluate potential neighborhoods at <http://www.crimereports.com/#>.
- Before signing a lease, make sure that the landlord provides a copy of a certificate of occupancy, indicating that the property has been inspected in the last few years.
- Visit the Off-Campus Student Services [website](#) for information and suggestions.

## **Student Success**

### **End-of-Semester Issues**

The semester isn't over until students turn in their last exam, paper, or project, which means that they need to stay motivated until the very end.

### **Suggestions for Productive Studying**

- Continue practicing effective [time management](#) and [study skills](#).
- Be aware of potential time wasters that can get in the way of productive studying.
- If [procrastination](#) is an issue, prioritize what needs to be done, set attainable study goals, and see them through to completion.
- Study in an area (not necessarily your room) that is free of distractions. (As some students finish before others, there can be distractions in the residence halls and apartments.) Suggested options for productive studying are [University Libraries](#) and [Academic Success Centers](#).
- If you have questions or don't understand something, contact professors and/or teaching assistants (TAs).

### **Test Anxiety**

If your student is experiencing test anxiety, the [Counseling Services](#) website offers [information and suggestions](#). At some point, your student may also want to make an appointment at Counseling Services.

### **Preparing for the Holidays**

As students complete their fall semester academic responsibilities, they may feel that they are missing out on family holiday preparations and may also be concerned about not having enough time (or money) to buy gifts before the holidays. If possible, we advise families to wait until students' exams are over before finalizing plans and making extensive preparations.

### **Final Grades**

**Grades** are available to students as soon as their instructors post them, which they need to do before December 27, 2011. Students may access their grades through their HUB Student Center tab in MyUB. Then, under the "Academics" section, they can click on the "View My Grades" link. From there, they can see both their midterm and final grades.

### **Course Repeat Policy**

Students need to be mindful of the policy regarding **repeating a course** to replace a failing grade, a resignation, or to seek to improve their record when their first enrollment resulted in a passing grade. They also should be aware of the Course Enrollment Control Policy, which limits repeat registration in certain courses during the fall and spring semesters. Additionally, students planning to repeat a course should consult with a financial aid advisor to identify the consequences of that repetition for their financial aid eligibility status.

### **Successes and Challenges from the Fall Semester**

During winter recess, we encourage you have an open dialogue with your student about the successes and challenges of the fall semester.

Potential conversation starters:

- What were the highlights of your fall semester?
- What went well? What were your challenges?
- What do you know now that you wish you had known when the fall semester started? How will you apply this knowledge to the spring semester?
- What are the most important things that you learned about yourself? How will knowing these things help you next semester?
- Did you take advantage of campus resources?
  - **Academic advising**
  - **Career Services**
  - **Counseling Services**
  - **Faculty office hours**
  - **Tutoring**
- How was your **time management**? How did you keep track of your obligations?
- Describe your **study skills**. Where did you study? Were these locations conducive to productive studying?

### **Networking during Winter Recess**

Winter recess is also a good time for students to network. **Career Conversations**, a student-alumni networking event, is a valuable opportunity for students to explore career interests and build connections for the internship and job search. This year's Career Conversations will be held in Rochester (January 4, 2012 ), Albany

(January 5, 2012), and New York City (January 10, 2012). Advanced registration is required.

### **Sophomore Internship Program**

The **Sophomore Internship Program (SHIP)**, a new initiative sponsored by **Career Services**, allows high-achieving sophomores to gain real-world experience in the non-profit sector. Sophomores of all majors or intended majors are encouraged to apply.

## **UB Parent Fund**

In this season of gratitude and giving, we'd like to thank you for your continued support of the **UB Parent Fund**. We are pleased to let you know that contributions to last year's fund will be put to great use this coming spring to help us launch our UB Cycle Share program. This bike lending program will provide UB students with a healthy, fun, safe, and sustainable alternative to get around campus. Students will register and check out bikes online. The UB Parent Fund will purchase the initial 20 bikes for the program and will also pay for bike racks and signage. The bicycles will be conveniently placed at locations across the campuses, including the Student Union, Ellicott Complex, Governors Complex, and Alumni Arena on North Campus along with Clark Hall, Clement/Goodyear Halls, and Main Circle on South Campus. Students will be able to check bicycles in and out at their leisure.

Thank you once again for all of your support and we look forward to being in touch in the New Year!