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UB PARENTS

Dear UB Families:

On behalf of University Life & Services, I want to extend greetings to the new students and their families who are joining us this semester and welcome back our returning students and their families. Wherever your student is on this continuum, I hope that 2012 will be filled with ongoing discoveries, growth, and success.

The **Parent Association** e-newsletter is sent via email on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May. If your contact information changes, or if you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please update your membership **online**. **Note:** you will need your student's UB person number **or** UB email address.

Along with the **Parent Association**, I want to remind you about two important university resources that are designed to help families support their students:

- **Advisory Service**

The Advisory Service offers parents and guardians advice and referrals. It's a great source of information when you have a question or concern and aren't sure who to contact at UB.

- **Parent Website**

This website provides families with important information and updates about the university. We suggest that you add it to your "Favorites" and visit regularly, as information is updated during the academic year.

Best wishes for a very happy new year!

Dennis R. Black

Vice President for University Life and Services

Campus Information and Updates

The Start of the Spring Semester

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

- Spring semester **meal plans** will begin with brunch on Monday, January 16, 2012. **Dining Dollars** will be active on Sunday, January 15, 2012 and may be used at select restaurants and cafes. A schedule of when dining centers, restaurants, and cafes will be open is available **online**.
- Spring semester classes will begin on Tuesday, January 17, 2010. The spring 2012 semester calendar may be found **online**.
- **All new first-year and transfer students who enter UB in January 2012** must complete part I of **AlcoholEdu** by midnight on January 16, 2012 and part II by midnight on March 23, 2012. Students should follow the **directions** provided on the Wellness Education Services webpage.

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 is now available. 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.

New for 2012 – 2013: IRS tax transcripts are the only acceptable form of documentation for federal verification and special circumstances. IRS 1040 forms will no longer be accepted. The **Office of Financial Aid** encourages the use of the IRS data retrieval tool when completing the 2012 - 2013 FAFSA.

TAP

New York State residents can file for TAP using the link at the end of the online FAFSA or by visiting the **HESC website**.

Financial Aid Census and Disbursement Information

Students should refer to the **financial aid website** to determine when to finalize their spring 2012 semester registration for financial aid eligibility and to find out when the funds will begin to be released to the student's account.

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 three-installment payment plan is February 4, 2012.

Billing and Payment

The second spring semester **eBill notification** will be emailed to your student's buffalo.edu email account on January 30, 2012. Payment is due February 21, 2012 by 6 pm (unless you are enrolled in the payment plan).

Tuition Liability Deadline Changes

Spring 2012 tuition liability deadline dates have changed to coincide with the academic deadlines below:

- **Last day for students to register for the spring 2012 semester without having a \$40 administrative fee assessed:** January 16, 2012
- **Last day to drop spring 2012 semester courses without a financial or academic penalty:** January 23, 2012

1098T forms

Students may expect to receive their 1098T tax forms by the end of January. Students need to update their permanent mailing address in HUB Student Center.

Additional Information

Countdown to Commencement: May 2012 Degree Conferral

- Students planning to graduate after the spring 2012 semester (for June 1, 2012 conferral) need to apply for graduation through their HUB Student Center by February 15, 2012. More information about the graduation process may be found [online](#).
- A [graduation checklist](#) is available online for students to ensure that their “Countdown to Commencement” is on target.
- The spring 2012 [commencement schedule](#) may be found online.

Online Nutritional Analysis

Students can now use our [interactive nutrition analysis program](#) to help them select nutritionally balanced meals.

LGBT Outreach

If your student, or you, is seeking LGBTQ resources or support, contact Jim Bowman, jbowman2@buffalo.edu, (716) 645-6935, or your student can stop by the LGBTQ Drop-In Support Office located at Wellness Education Services, 114 Student Union.

UBBreathe Free and Cessation Services

UB is a completely smoke-free campus. Smoking is prohibited everywhere on campus, at off-site UB locations, and in university-owned vehicles. This applies to students, employees, visitors, and vendors. UB offers a wide variety of support services to help people who want to quit smoking, including personal quit coaching and access to free nicotine replacement therapy.

Valentine's Day - Greetings From Home Packages and Gifts:

If you're interested in sending a care package to your student for Valentine's Day, [Greetings from Home](#) has a variety of gift packages and flower arrangements.

What's happening on campus?

Keep up-to-date on campus news by reading:

- [The Spectrum](#)
- [UB Reporter](#)

Winter Welcome and Late Night UB

While January in Buffalo may be chilly, there are many activities to keep students busy on campus. Check out the array of [Winter Welcome and Late Night UB](#) activities.

Career Services

Making Career Decisions

You can help your student make sound career decisions by encouraging him/her to meet with a [career counselor](#). [Career Services](#) offers numerous resources for [major and career exploration](#), including [MyPlan](#), a free self-assessment tool that helps students learn more about themselves and their occupational options.

Finding a Part Time or Work Study Job

College students can gain valuable skills and experiences by holding a part-time job. The [Career Services](#) job and internship database, BullsEye, is a great starting point to identify possible employment opportunities, both on and off campus. Please encourage your student to check out job searching [tips and strategies](#).

Career Workshops, Career Fairs, and Employer Visits

[Career Services](#) offers an array of [workshops, career fairs, and employer visits](#).

Transportation for Students

Teal Line Shuttle

[Parking & Transportation](#) is excited to introduce the new Teal Line Shuttle for the spring 2012 semester. The Teal Line was created in response to discussions with the Flint Village Council and Community Assistants (CAs). It will encompass stops at Flint Village East and West, Alumni Arena, and along the academic spine. Check out the [shuttle schedules and the spring semester Stampede Bus schedules](#) online.

Free Metro Rail-Only Passes

There are still plenty of free [Metro Rail-Only Passes](#) available for students. If your student lives near the NFTA Rail Line, or has responsibilities on the Downtown Campus, your student can apply for a sticker to put on his/her UB Card to ride the Metro Rail free of charge.

Fall 2012: On-Campus Housing (Residence Halls and Apartments)

- **Current UB students who are interested in residence hall housing:** Submit a

\$300 housing deposit between January 17, 2012 and March 1, 2012. Students will then participate in “Room Selection” and will choose their own residence hall room in March.

- **Current UB students who are interested in on-campus apartment housing:** For students who have 60+ credits (at the time of occupancy, not including AP courses), Campus Living will begin accepting apartment applications on January 17, 2012. Students who apply by January 27, 2012, will be issued a lottery number based on class standing and number of semesters they have lived on campus. Apartment offers will be made starting with the lowest lottery number. After January 27, 2012, applicants will be offered apartment space on a first-come, first-served basis (after those with lottery numbers have been offered an apartment space).
- Further information is available [online](#).

Student Success

Fall Semester Grades

By now, your student should have reviewed his/her final fall semester [grades](#). Our advice for students who did well is of course to keep up the good work. However, for students whose grades were low, now is the time to focus on lessons learned from last semester and on improving in the spring semester. Possible areas of concentration for the spring semester:

- [Academic Advising](#)
- [Faculty Office Hours](#)
- [Study Skills](#)
- [Time Management](#)
- [Tutoring](#)

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. Students need to be aware that repeating a course may affect financial aid eligibility. If planning to repeat a course, students should consult with a financial aid advisor.

Academic Standards Review

To maintain [academic standards](#) and determine eligibility for continued enrollment, financial aid, and participation in university activities, UB regularly reviews the academic records of all undergraduate students. This review addresses the quality of

students' studies as measured by grades.

Dean's List

Students will be named to the **Dean's List** if, in any single semester, they earn a 3.6 GPA or better, having completed at least 15 UB credit hours of study during the semester, 12 of which are letter graded. Students will be nominated to the Dean's List for each semester in which they achieve this standard.

A New Semester: Potential Transition Issues

If this is your student's first semester at UB, he/she may experience **transition issues**. However, returning students may also have lingering transition issues that carry over from the fall to the spring semester. Please be aware that there are many support services on campus to help students, including:

- **Academic Advising**
- **Counseling Services**
- **Faculty**
- **Hall Directors and Apartment Complex Directors**
- **Life & Learning Workshops**
- **Tutoring**

Spring Semester Goals and Objectives

Whether this is your student's first or last semester at UB, the beginning of each new semester is the perfect time for your student to set realistic, attainable goals and objectives. Before the start of the spring semester, we recommend that parents and guardians initiate an open discussion with their students about goals and objectives for the semester.

Outside the Classroom

In college, a great deal of learning occurs through coursework. However, there is much more to be gained through **out-of-classroom involvement**. Campus involvement provides students with enhanced opportunities to grow, to develop leadership and organizational skills, and to meet other students who share similar interests.

Honor Societies

The **Center for Student Leadership & Community Engagement** supports several **honor societies** for students who excel at UB.

Greek Affairs

If your student is interested in joining a Greek-letter social organization, information may be found **online**. Please encourage your student to **thoroughly** research an organization before committing to membership and to make sure that the group is **recognized by the University**. There are a few **groups of university students who**

fraudulently portray themselves as fraternal organizations, but are not; and are not recognized by UB. The university strongly discourages students from attending events sponsored by and/or affiliating with these groups. If you, or your student, have any questions or concerns, please contact **Greek Affairs** at (716) 645-2055.

UB Parent Fund

You will soon receive a phone call from one of our students asking you to support the UB Parent Fund. We are very appreciative of the support that you have provided in the past. Your gift makes a significant impact on the quality of life for your student here at UB. Parent Fund contributions have improved safety on campus, have helped students look internationally for internships and jobs, and have assisted students in finding their own unique strengths and learning how to translate them into success in the classroom and in life.

Your chance to make a difference will be coming soon. Your support of the UB Parent Fund makes an important impact on the services that Student Affairs and the University Libraries offer your student. Thank you for all that you do!

To update your information or remove yourself from this list, visit:

<http://parent.buffalo.edu/registration>