

April 1, 2008

Greetings!

I hope that you enjoyed some quality time with your student over Spring break. I'm sure you will agree that it's great to hear what our kids are up to and to learn their reactions to things.

Hopefully, your son or daughter has shared with you both the challenges and the fun times during this first year at college. We at the University spent the week meeting with 525 new students and almost as many parents during our New Student Orientation programs.

April 11th is the **deadline to withdraw from a semester-length course** if the faculty member has not established an earlier Drop Date. Should your student be experiencing academic difficulty in a class and all attempts at salvaging the course/grade have not been successful, I would recommend s/he pick up a withdrawal form in Simmons Hall, ask the professor for his/her signature, and process the form with the University Registrar as soon as possible. If the course under consideration is a requirement, students will need to retake the course—but they should have a better idea of what will be expected to succeed and the available campus resources which can help them succeed in the course when they enroll again. If they need assistance with this process, have them contact their academic adviser.

April 17th is the **LIFE Awards Banquet**. This is a special night for students at The University of Akron. Students are recognized for their leadership and contributions to campus life in the areas of Legacy, Integrity, Fellowship, and Excellence, hence the acronym, LIFE. While many of the awards are given to students with junior or senior standing, some are reserved for first-year students. If your student concentrated on his/her classes this year in order to earn an excellent g.p.a., urge them to join a student organization in the Fall. This helps them build their leadership skills while they develop a connection with the University which in a few short years will become their alma mater. Regardless of whether your student receives an award, be sure that they know that you are proud of what they have accomplished!

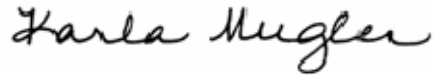
If your student has done well academically at UA by earning "A"s and "B"s, your son or daughter may want to consider serving as a tutor or a Learning Assistant. These are paid positions within the Office of Student Academic Success and your student can learn more by stopping by the lower level of Bierce Library rooms sixty eight and sixty nine. Tutors and L.A.s must go through a training process so that they can be effective in helping others; our training program is certified by the College Reading & Learning Association and students earn more per hour based on the certification they earn. By explaining course material to others, students become more secure in their own knowledge of the subject matter. L.A.s are assigned to specific sections of courses and work with the professor or instructor assigned to that section. L.A.s sit through the lectures with the students who are enrolled; they tutor students in that particular course section and lead study groups for students before the tests. UA students benefit from these Learning Assistants because they are less apt to give up and withdraw from the course; they feel that they can speak with another student about their difficulties in the class. However, I always recommend that students who participate in the L.A.'s study sessions also make an effort to access their professors during the posted office hours so that they can achieve their **full** potential.

Students should be working on their plans for the summer if they have not already done so. UA's Center for Career Management (CCM) has a number of summer internships available for students, and the professional staff in the CCM can help students in developing or revising a resume to reflect their experiences while in college. Summer is a good time for students to investigate career choices, or to shadow a professional in a career field which the student is

considering. As I mentioned in my letter last month, some students may want to enroll in a class at a university or college in your home town while they are working. Just be sure that they don't take on too much, as it is important for them to get a break from the pressure of college work. We want them to be excited about returning to The University of Akron in the Fall, and that won't happen if they've been overloaded with work in the summer.

Please let me know if I, or my Assistant Deans, can be of assistance to your student in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karla T. Mugler".

Karla T. Mugler, Ph.D.
Associate Provost and Dean
of University College

Click on the link below to view the First-Year Parents' calendar for April 2008. Click on the red **X** sign in the upper left corner to view the full screen. For details on specific events, click on the event.

https://www.uakron.edu/cgi-webevent_view/webevent.cgi?cmd=calmonth&calID=124