

January 2, 2008

Happy New Year!

This letter is reaching you a bit late as I took some time off for a family vacation in South Carolina. Our son and daughter who are both living in Chicago—one is in grad school and the other is applying to MBA programs—joined us, so we had a lot of fun and R&R! I hope that you have enjoyed the holiday season and some special time with your student. As a parent, it just feels “right” when our children are home—perhaps you’ll agree.

If you were tuned into the Capital One Bowl Game yesterday, you no doubt heard the news that Zippy, UA’s beloved mascot, won the Mascot Challenge! In the 11 weeks of voting this Fall, Zippy compiled an unprecedented, undefeated record in the regular season’s head-to-head matches with the rival mascots. The top six vote-getters then advanced to the playoffs; Zippy successfully moved through the brackets to face off against Goldy Gopher from the University of Minnesota in one final week of voting. In addition to winning the title, Zippy’s victory secured a \$10,000 scholarship from Capital One which will support UA’s mascot program. Special thanks to those of you who voted for Zippy regardless of your *alma mater*!

The new year brings a fresh start and a new semester; regardless of your student’s achievement last term, there is an opportunity to accomplish even more during the upcoming semester. I think one of the hardest lessons I have learned as a parent is that your student’s grades are his/her accomplishment—not yours. If the grade point average (gpa) is not as high as you think it could be, encourage your student to find the resources on campus to help him or her improve, but realize that accessing the resources, meeting with their instructors during office hours and going for tutoring is up to them. If their grades are excellent, applaud their effort as the adjustment from high school to college is not always a smooth one. Regardless of your student’s grades, s/he needs your support at this time.

Each of the deans’ offices just began their review of students’ academic progress which will continue next week. Students who earned a gpa of 3.25 or better during the Fall term in graded classes will receive a Dean’s List card in the mail, within the next few weeks. If your student struggled during the Fall semester and earned less than a 2.0 gpa, s/he will be placed on probation. It is important for students to take the necessary steps to improve their gpa during the Spring term. If they failed a course and feel that they can do better, I would urge them to repeat the course as soon as possible. The grade for the second attempt is used to compute the student’s gpa so this can certainly change a student’s cumulative gpa quickly.

Students can make changes to their schedule on-line should they need to add or drop a class. Once classes begin, however, they will need to process add/drop forms in person in Simmons Hall. Should your student want to confirm his or her new schedule with their adviser, I’d

advise them to e-mail the adviser. Advisers gave students their business cards during their initial New Student Orientation appointment and many students have been in to see their adviser during the Fall. Should your student have misplaced that information, s/he may call the Academic Advisement Center (AAC) at (330) 972-7430 in order to get the adviser's voice mail number or e-mail address. University College advisers are available on the AAC web page at <http://www.uakron.edu/colleges/univcoll/adv.php#advisers>. We are currently advising new students who are just entering the University for the Spring term, so the adviser will get back to your student as quickly as possible.

As you can see on the attached calendar, payment for the Spring term is due on January 9th; should full payment not be made or if the student is not enrolled for the Installment Payment Plan, classes will be dropped on January 21th. Classes for the Spring semester begin on **Monday, January 14th**. Students will have until the close of business on January 28th to process any class changes (adds or drops), but we strongly encourage students to make any class adjustments within the first week so that they can be successful in their courses. The Office of the University Registrar will remain open until 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday during the first week of classes to assist students with any changes to their course schedule. During the week of February 18th through February 22nd, the University College Dean's Office will offer workshops to students on probation. The SOS workshops which stand for **Save our Semester**—help students focus on what habits they need to change in order to be successful during the Spring term. Interested students can sign up for these free workshops by calling (330) 972-7066.

Best wishes for a healthy, happy, and successful new year for you and your student!



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Click on the link below to view the online parents' calendar for January 2008. Once the link is open, 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