

November 2, 2009

Greetings!

This Fall term seems to be speeding by! I hope that your student is making the most of the term, by attending concerts and programs put on by other students or by the talented speakers and performers who come to campus each year. Almost 1,000 volunteers from the University as well as from our surrounding community worked as part of the Make a Difference Day observance this past Saturday; the students who participated enjoyed working side-by-side with faculty and administrators and much good work was accomplished.

While the calendar indicates that it is Fall, the University is looking ahead to the next semester. Spring term will be here before we know it, and registration for classes has already begun for Honors students. The majority of first-year students will be able to register by **November 6th**, so this would be a good time for your student to consult with his/her adviser. Advisers in the Academic Advisement Center are meeting with students on a walk-in basis in order to accommodate more of their advisees, and students can always e-mail their adviser with their specific questions. It is advisable for students to come to the AAC with a tentative schedule of courses they would like to take in the Spring. The academic adviser can then work with the student to assess whether the initial choices are appropriate based on the student's intended major and the success s/he is having in courses this Fall. Your student can access the Spring Schedule of Classes through ZipLine from www.uakron.edu.

In the event that your student needs to withdraw from a class this term after consultation with his/her professor and adviser, it is important to note that the signed withdrawal form must be submitted to the University Registrar by the deadline which is **4:30 pm on Friday, November 13th**. Some professors have alerted students that they will **not** sign withdrawal forms after a specific date which they have established **prior to the 13th**, so students should consult their syllabus for the course, and process these forms as early as possible!

I've been asked by some parents to share some thoughts about how to discuss college with their students, while not sounding "too nosy." It is sometimes difficult to express the interest that we all share as parents in our children, but not be seen as "asking too many questions." Believe me, as a parent of a 29 year-old son and a 25 year-old daughter, I am aware of that fine line that we must walk! That being said, here are a few discussion starters you might like to use over Thanksgiving break with your student:

- Which class(es) do you particularly like this term? What makes it special?
- Do you understand the objectives of each of your classes?
- If you could start the term over with the knowledge that you have now, what would you do differently?
- Has any faculty member given you encouragement? Have you made any effort to speak with a faculty member outside of class?
- Has anything about the campus surprised you now that you've been at The University of Akron for three months?

- What are your academic plans for next term? Will you be taking a bigger load of courses? Or a smaller load?

Of course, I wouldn't suggest using **all** of these questions in the **same** conversation!

The University of Akron will close at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25th, for the Thanksgiving recess. If your student usually has a class on Wednesday evenings, it will **not** be held. I hope that if this is your student's first visit home since the term began, that you have a great time catching up on all of the experiences s/he can share. Best wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration with your family!

Sincerely,

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

**Click on the link below to view the First Year Parents' calendar for the month of November 2009.
Click on specific events for details.**

http://www.uakron.edu/audiences/ua_parents/parents_calendar.dot