

Welcome to a new academic year! The Community Breakfast yesterday provided a great boost of energy and optimism about the year ahead. The hustle and bustle this week in downtown Amherst is a sure sign that the students are arriving back. Thank you to all of you who will help us welcome them to Amherst in the coming days and weeks. This newsletter provides important information about move-in, new student orientation and plans for the fall, and other updates.

New Members of our Campus Community

We are delighted to welcome **Chancellor Kumble Subbaswamy** from the University of Kentucky. He started in July and has enjoyed spending time in Amherst and the Pioneer Valley this summer. In his comments at the breakfast, the Chancellor remarked, "We should not only think of things as "UMass Amherst" and "the community" but of ourselves as one community. And finding ways to work as one community falls to all of us." He is committed to continuing and expanding town–gown relationships and looks forward to meeting people in town.



The new UMass Police Chief, **John Horvath**, will join us at the end of this month. Horvath joins the university with more than 20 years of law enforcement and security experience. He rose through the ranks at the Hartford Police Department and has served as assistant chief of police since January 2011. He has a lot of experience in building relationships with the community.



Move-In Schedule

New students started moving yesterday and the majority will arrive today between 8:00am-4:00pm. Mixed year move-in will take place on Sunday between 8:00am-5:00pm and Monday between 8:00am-1:00pm.

Last year, Residential Life implemented a new centralized check-in system. Prior to coming to campus, students were required to make a reservation to move in at a specific time. Families have been directed to centralized check-in areas on campus. For students living in Southwest, that location is the stadium lot and for those living in the north and central residential areas, they will go to the parking lot near North Apartments. Cars will be guided to a traffic queue where they will wait to be called up to the residence hall for unloading. There they are met by "minute-movers", 500 student volunteers, who move the belongings up to the room. The family will then have to immediately move their car back to a designated parking lot. Due to the success of this system last year, it will be used for all move-in days this year. Naturally, there will be increased traffic in the area, particularly today and on Sunday. But there will not be long lines of traffic in



neighborhoods around campus waiting to get to the residence halls. For more information, visit http://www.housing.umass.edu/.

New Student Orientation

The University will welcome 5,500 new and transferring students this weekend for orientation. The entire campus has been mobilized to welcome them. New students will take part in convocation on Friday morning, common read discussion groups, and a variety of events and activities. There are two anchor programs all students will attend— Community Expectations: Creating the Environment for Success and Engaging Social Media and Social Justice— to help them understand the expectations and responsibilities they now share as members of this community.

For the first time, the university will also provide transfer students an orientation on Sunday and Monday, and will continue offering tailored programs through September. New student orientation was recently featured in the news. For more information on both programs, visit http://www.umass.edu/newstudent/fall.

Proactive Planning for Fall Semester

Our efforts aimed at new students complement the year-round work we do to enhance the UMass experience for all students. Departments across campus have been actively planning for the arrival of our students. We all want to make sure the semester gets off to a good start. We are working closely with our colleagues in town, including police and fire, the Select Board and town manager's office, and the Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative. The Campus and Community Coalition to Reduce High-Risk Drinking (CCC) met in August with 26 people in attendance to discuss our plans and ways we can work together to curb excessive drinking, better manage off-campus gatherings, reduce other problem behaviors, and offer fun campus programs for students. Here are some of the initiatives we are working on:

- Proactive communication with students and parents about community standards and conduct expectations and the consequences should they choose not to adhere to them.
 These messages were conveyed at summer orientation sessions and will be reinforced this weekend, through residence halls and emails.
- Door-to-door outreach by Amherst Police, landlords and property managers, and others to
 off-campus students to remind them of the laws and policies and the consequences for
 violating them.
- High police patrol visibility, especially during the first six weekends of school
- Close monitoring of social networking media to identify parties or events being planned and proactive outreach to event organizers.
- UMass Center for Student Development and student organizations have planned and widely publicized a range of fun activities and events on campus. The first Friday of every month



is UMass Night Out, a fun night out with tons of activities happening around campus. There will also be more regular music nights at the Hatch in the Student Union.

Neighbor Involvement

Many of you already do this, but please introduce yourselves to students living around you if you see them out and about. Have a conversation about living in the neighborhood. It doesn't always lead to a positive relationship, but at least they will be reminded that there are many non-student people and families living in the same neighborhood.

We understand the impact that late-night noise, large gatherings, and pedestrian traffic has on your quality of life and take these incidents very seriously. If you encounter a problem, it is best to call Amherst Police for immediate action at 259-3000. You can also contact me (Lisa Queenin) in the Community Relations office at 545-2574 or Iqueenin@admin.umass.edu.

Off- Campus Student Services

The Off Campus Student Center, in its new prominent location in the Student Union, provides an array of services and resources to students looking for housing off-campus or living in the Amherst area. The center, overseen by the Dean of Students Office, was created last year, but has evolved and expanded. The team is working closely with landlords and property managers to reach off-campus students and disseminate information similar to how we work with residence halls on campus. The center has also created the position of Off Campus Student Life Coordinator (OCSLC) to engage with students and assist in creating an off campus community. Five students have been hired as coordinators this year. Several neighbors had a chance to meet them at a lunch this week. They will be involved in outreach activities in the community. For more information, visit http://www.umass.edu/studentlife/ocsc.

Community Service Day

On Saturday, September 15, UMass students will participate in UMass, UMake a Difference, a service day dedicated to giving back to the community we share. Volunteers will work at sites throughout Amherst and surrounding communities such as playgrounds, parks, and gardens. We are working in partnership with the Town of Amherst and other nearby communities to identify projects that need volunteer support.

Questions or comments? Contact Lisa Queenin, Director of Community and Regional Legislative Relations, at 545–2574 or Iqueenin@admin.umass.edu.