Panther Parent is UNI's e-newsletter for parents and guardians. Panther Parent is sent three times per semester and features university events, deadlines and tips from the UNI Parents Association.

EDITOR'S NOTES
We want to hear from you! Please let us know if there's information you need or topics you'd like to see addressed.

NEWS
Fall Commencement Details
There will be one ceremony for fall 2014 Commencement. The ceremony will be at 11 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 20, in the McLeod Center.

For your convenience, the Commencement Ceremony will be streamed live.

Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. While there isn't a limit to the number of guests who can attend, we encourage students to keep in mind a seating ratio of approximately six guests per student.

Order handmade diploma frames
The technology department is selling handmade diploma frames. Frames will be ready in time for fall graduation and would make a great holiday gift for students graduating in the spring. If you have questions, contact Tanner Wright.

Panther Marching Band heading to London!
The Panther Marching Band has been invited to perform in the London New Year's Day Parade. This parade is the largest event of its kind in the world with more than 8,000 participants. The street audience is more than half a million people. Band members have been fundraising to make the trip possible.

Recontracting with the Dept. of Residence begins soon
It's time for students to begin thinking about where they want to live next year, and with whom. Students can select their own roommate or use Panther Picks to find a match. Visit the restructuring website for more information. Students will have an
opportunity to check out the different residence options during open houses Jan. 14 and 15.

**Severe Weather Announcements**
Announcements regarding cancellation of classes and/or reduced university operations are made via UNI Alert, local radio and TV stations, the [UNI home page](https://www.uni.edu), Facebook and Twitter. For more information, visit the [UNI Weather Information page](https://www.uni.edu/weather).

**UNI is prepared for Ebola**
Administration and the UNI Student Health Clinic are very aware of the Ebola crisis in West Africa and are following all recommendations of the Center for Disease Control for managing a public health risk. We encourage you and your student to visit the [Student Health Clinic website](https://www.uni.edu/studenthealth) to read more about the most current information on the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. We will keep the UNI community updated on any new developments and recommendations from the county, state and federal levels.

**Yik Yak presenting challenges for colleges**
The UNI community was exposed to anonymous racist, sexist, anti-Semitic and homophobic social media postings on Yik Yak in October. The messages in these postings were hateful and hurtful, and completely inconsistent with our values. The campus has continued to have a consistent, active response to these hurtful posts. We believe that an understanding and appreciation of diversity is an essential component of an excellent education and a foundation for responsible citizenship. We remain committed to these values and will continue to pursue their realization by all means possible.

**Want More UNI News?**
Visit the [UNI Newsroom online](https://www.uni.edu/news). Follow UNI on Twitter at @uninews or become a fan on [UNI's Facebook site](https://www.facebook.com/uni.edu). The university has revamped its [YouTube site](https://www.youtube.com/user/uniuniuni).

**EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 15-19</td>
<td>finals week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 20</td>
<td>Commencement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 12</td>
<td>spring semester begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 19</td>
<td>MLK observance, holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 16-20</td>
<td>spring break week</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>spring Commencement</td>
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For a complete list of events, visit [UNI's Calendar of Events](https://www.uni.edu/calendar).
TIPS
When College Students Come Home
The holidays can be stressful and dealing with a newly independent college student can add to household tensions. Here are some good suggestions on how to handle this new challenge.

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS
Book Buyback
University Book & Supply will buy back text books Dec. 8 through 20. Students will receive cash.

Time to Reapply for Financial Aid
Students must reapply for financial aid each academic year. Students are encouraged to complete forms as soon as possible after Jan. 1. To reapply, visit the FAFSA website. Contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at 319-273-2700 with any questions.

The Hunt for Scholarships
All students are encouraged to make use of the UNI Scholarship Application. The UNI Scholarship Application has all UNI scholarships categorized by college, while also allowing a student to apply for all general university scholarships. Deadlines vary; however, the most common deadline for current students is Feb. 15. Students can visit the UNI Scholarship website to begin applying today.

Taking the Stress Out of Finals
UNI Wellness and Recreation Services offers students opportunities to de-stress with mini massages, furry pets and more Monday, Dec. 15 through Wednesday, Dec. 17, in Maucker Union.

UNI Staff Offers Advice to UNI Freshmen
Here are a few of the points UNI staff members recommend to incoming students.
- Ask for help when you need it
- Find friends to study with in a quiet environment
- Explore the local community, including the great trails
- Get to know someone different than you
- Get involved in Intramural Sports, student organizations and other campus activities

UNI PARENTS ASSOCIATION
All parents/guardians of UNI students are automatically members of the UNI Parents Association, which works as an advocacy group. Benefits include e-newsletters each semester and a parents’ booth at orientation. Contact Leslie Williams, UNIPA liaison at 319-273-2332 with questions.

Get Involved -- Join UNIPA Advisory Board
The UNI Parents Association Advisory Board members get the opportunity to share their opinions and insights with UNI staff and faculty. It's a great opportunity to hear and be heard. Learn more at the UNIPA website.

If you know of other parents of UNI students who would be interested in this newsletter, please forward! We'd like to share this information with as many parents as possible.

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