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
The fall commencement ceremony for all undergraduate and graduate students will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 19, in the McLeod Center. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis, and doors will open at 8 a.m. While there is not 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. Tickets are not required for the General Public Seating areas. If you require assistance with Special Needs/Accommodations Seating, please contact the Office of the Registrar at 319-273-2241.

It's Recontracting Time!
Has your student selected which hall and room they wish to live in next year? Room selection has begun for the 2016-17 academic year. Students may reserve their room and select a meal plan by logging in to the housing and dining contract. Living on campus gives students easy access to the events and activities happening around campus, surrounds them with friends, offers learning beyond the classroom, and of course makes the walk to class that much shorter. Plus, they're never far from getting something great to eat at one of our award-winning dining facilities.

Safety and Health Website
Keep up to date on the current safety and health services at UNI. From counseling, to student health to UNI Alerts, visit the safety website.

Updates on Class/University Cancellations Due to Weather
Whenever possible, the university will remain open during inclement weather. However, we encourage students, faculty and staff to use good judgment and avoid serious risks when traveling to and from campus. When classes are cancelled or university offices closed, that information will be posted on the UNI home page. Additional information is available on the UNI weather cancellations policy webpage.

Panther Open Houses and Up Close
If you know anyone considering college options, please encourage them to reach out to us and/or schedule a visit. The best way to see UNI is to meet us in person! UNI is holding Panther Open Houses on March 25 and 28, and April 2 and 8. Visitors can meet with faculty, talk to current UNI students, take a campus tour and more. High school and transfer students that have already been admitted are encouraged to attend Up Close on February 12 or 26.

Want More UNI News?
Visit the UNI Newsroom online. Follow UNI on Twitter at @uninews, become a fan on UNI's Facebook site or visit our YouTube site.

EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 14-18</td>
<td>Finals week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 19</td>
<td>Fall Commencement</td>
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<td>Dec. 21 - Jan. 8</td>
<td>Winter break</td>
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<td>Jan. 11</td>
<td>Spring semester begins</td>
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<td>Jan. 18</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</td>
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<td>March 14-18</td>
<td>Spring break</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2-6</td>
<td>Finals week</td>
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<td>May 7</td>
<td>Spring Commencement</td>
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For a complete list of events, visit UNI's Calendar of Events.
RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

Taking the Stress Out of Finals
The Center for Multicultural Education and UNI Wellness and Recreation Services offers students opportunities to de-stress with mini massages, furry pets and more, Monday, Dec. 14 through Wednesday, Dec. 16, in Maucker Union.

Residence Halls Remain Open During Break
Residence halls at UNI do not close during break periods, as they stay open for students to remain on campus over Thanksgiving, winter and spring breaks. There is no additional cost but students should sign up in their hall office so that hall staff is aware of their intent to stay during break. Dining centers are, however, closed during breaks, but food options are available at open retail locations across campus.

Book Buyback
University Book & Supply will buy back textbooks Dec. 7 through 19. 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 Jan. 15. Students can visit the UNI Scholarship website to begin applying today.
What I Wish I’d Known Freshman Year of College
As the fall semester winds down, consider encouraging your student to check out this article written by a current college senior about some of the things she wishes she could go back and tell her freshman self.

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS
Talking to your College Student About Grades
Fall semester grades will be posted in students' MyUNIverse accounts on Saturday, Dec. 26, 2015, by 3 p.m. For suggestions to help you discuss grades with your students, check out this article from the College Parents of America site.

REFER A STUDENT TO UNI
At UNI, we help students discover their strengths, gain hands-on experience and become well-rounded individuals ready for life after college. Refer a student you know!

UNI Parents Association

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 on 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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