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

Spring commencement times finalized
All spring commencement ceremonies will be held in the McLeod Center on Saturday, May 7, 2016. Please see below for ceremonies and times:

- 10:00 a.m. | Undergraduate students in the College of Education, College of Business Administration and/or the Division of Continuing Education & Special Programs
- 2:00 p.m. | Undergraduate students in the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences and/or the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
- 6:00 p.m. | Graduate College

For more information about graduation, visit the Office of the Registrar website.

UNI Dance Marathon exceeds fundraising goal
The University of Northern Iowa Dance Marathon exceeded its fundraising goal for the fifth straight year at its big event on Saturday, March 5. The UNI chapter raised $370,248.05 which was over $90,000 more than last year, and well above this year’s $305,000 goal. Dance Marathon is a nationwide movement involving college and high school students at more than 150 schools. Each school raises money for the Children's Miracle Network Hospital in their community.

UNI and ISU partner on dual physics and engineering degree program
University of Northern Iowa President Bill Ruud and Iowa State University President Steven Leath signed a memorandum of understanding, offering students the opportunity to earn a physics and engineering degree from each university in five years. The program will enable a student to spend three years at UNI before transferring to ISU for their final two years. The student will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in physics from UNI and a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering from Iowa State. Per UNI Provost Jim Wohlpart, faculty from both universities have "initiated this conversation and worked together to create an opportunity for ISU to receive outstanding physics majors from UNI into their engineering programs and for UNI to offer a pathway into engineering for our students.”

UNI named ‘Best College Food in Iowa’
Niche.com recently placed the University of Northern Iowa at the top of the list for Best College Food in Iowa, beating out the other two state universities and many private colleges in the state. This ranking is based on the cost of the meal plan provided by the university, along with over 95,000 student reviews. Nationally, UNI ranked 71st out of 1,713 four-year universities.

Panther PAC announces official launch
Panther PAC, an independent, non-partisan, political action committee, registered with the state of Iowa, officially launched with a kick-off meeting on Thursday, Jan. 28. The sole purpose of Panther PAC is to support candidates for state office who will support and fight for the University of Northern Iowa. Says co-chair Joe Gorton, "It is time for all of us who care about UNI's future to join together in support of candidates who will help UNI move forward. For more information on how to join Panther PAC, sign up for email updates or offer support.

Want more UNI news?
Visit the UNI Newsroom. Follow UNI on Twitter at @uninews. Become a fan of UNI's Facebook site. Subscribe to our YouTube site. Or connect with other UNI alumni through the Alumni Association Facebook page.

EVENTS

May 2-6    Finals Week
May 7      Spring Commencement
Aug. 22    Fall classes begin
Sept. 5    Labor Day
Oct. 1     Homecoming
Oct. 21-23 Family Weekend

For a complete list of events, visit UNI's Calendar of Events.

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

Application for graduation and commencement ceremony reply
Students graduating in the spring or summer of 2016 must fill out the application for graduation and commencement ceremony reply by April 1. Visit the Office of the Registrar’s website for more graduation information.

2015-16 financial aid awards available mid-March
Financial aid award notifications will be available for incoming students approximately mid-March. Students will receive an email providing directions on how to access their award via MyUNIverse. If you haven’t already, there is still time to file a FAFSA – apply today! Use school code 001890 to have your student’s FAFSA results sent directly to UNI. Feel free to contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships regarding any additional questions about the awarding process.

**Advance registration for 2016 summer and fall classes**
Encourage your student to register for 2016 summer and fall classes as soon as they are eligible to do so. Students can log on to MyUNIverse to find the exact date and time they can begin enrolling. Visit the registrar’s website for additional registration information.

**Live on campus this summer for as little as $103/week!**
If your student is planning to stay in the area this summer – whether it’s to take classes, for a job or internship, or to just be near friends – consider the convenience and affordability of staying in the residence halls. Summer housing is available in Panther Village, ROTH and Shull Hall – all with air-conditioned rooms! Students do not need to be enrolled in classes for the summer to live on campus. Students living on campus for 12 consecutive weeks will receive 15% off of the advertised rates – as low as $103 per week! Summer housing contracts are now being accepted. Visit the Department of Residence summer housing page for rates and more information.

**Help with resumes, cover letters and interviewing is available**
UNI’s Office of Career Services offers students help in drafting resumes, writing cover letters and practicing interviewing skills. Tutorials are available online. The office has resources for finding internships and career information.

**Free tax preparation**
UNI accounting students provide free income tax assistance on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. through April 6 (excluding March 14 and 16 during spring break), in 223 Curris Business Building. No appointment is necessary. For more information, call the UNI Department of Accounting at 319-273-2394.

**Academic Learning Center offers tutoring**
A-Team is a tutoring service offered by the Academic Learning Center on Sunday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m., on the first floor of the Rod Library. A-Team has tutors for math, humanities, college reading and study strategies, science, business, Spanish, French and writing. The service is free for UNI students.

**Academic coaches available**
It's never too early to start preparing for final exams and projects. The College Reading and Learning Center can help. Students can call 319-273-2361 to set up an appointment with an academic coach to help with study strategies and preparation for the end of the semester.

**Inside UNI for Current Students**
Students receive a weekly e-newsletter full of UNI news, scholarship opportunities, workshops and exhibitions. Newsletter announcements are posted to the Inside UNI for Current Students website.

**RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS**

**Finals Week Hugs from Home**
Finals week is May 2-6 and Commencement is May 7. Let your student know you're thinking of them during this stressful and exciting time with a Hugs From Home care package.

**What do employers want from your college student? A liberal education.**
Check out this article about the importance that employers place on a liberal arts education. The Association of American Colleges and Universities defines a liberal education as “an approach to
learning that empowers individuals and prepares them to deal with complexity, diversity and change. It provides students with broad knowledge of the wider world (e.g. science, culture and society) as well as in-depth study in a specific area of interest..."

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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