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
Plan to Attend Family Weekend
There will be activities for the whole family at this year’s UNI Family Weekend, Nov. 6-8. Children will love the chemistry magic show and The Dean of Juggling, and can learn about technology used in solving crimes or creating fashion and interior design layouts. Tour the buildings where your students take classes and visit with professors. See the UNI football team in action at 4 p.m. on Nov. 7 in the UNI-Dome. Many fun activities are planned for you and your family, so plan your weekend at UNI now!

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.

To successfully graduate in December, students must take the following steps:
• Submit a Application for Graduation by November 10, 2015 to ensure inclusion in the Commencement Program
• Submit the Commencement Ceremony Reply
For information about additional steps students should take in preparation for graduation, please visit the commencement website.

**Advance Registration for Students**
Advance registration for students will take place during the first two weeks of November. Please encourage your student(s) to register on time. Dates for advance registration are as follows:

- November 2: Graduate students
- November 2-3: Seniors
- November 4-6: Juniors
- November 9-12: Sophomores
- November 13-18: Freshmen
- November 18: Unclassified

**It's time for your student to think about where they'll live next year!**
The recontracting process begins in November for students returning to the residence halls for the 2016-17 academic year. Students may reserve their room on campus and select a meal plan by logging in to the [housing and dining contract](#).
Take a moment to review the recontracting timeline and discuss next year’s plan with your student.

**Running low on Dining Dollars?**
Around this time in the semester, many students find themselves running low on their Dining Dollar balance. Don't let them go hungry! [Hop online](#) and load them up so they have plenty to get them through the end of the semester.

**U.S. News & World Report ranks UNI among top Midwest public universities**
UNI is ranked second in the "Best Regional Universities (Midwest)" category for public universities, according to the U.S. News & World Report's 2016 "America's Best Colleges" guidebook. UNI also ranked No. 18 in the overall Midwest list.

**UNI selected as a 'Best Business School' by Princeton Review**
UNI is an outstanding business school for the 10th consecutive year, according to The Princeton Review. The Princeton Review features UNI's College of Business Administration in the just-published 2016 edition of "The Best 295 Business Schools."

**UNI Selected as Military Friendly School for the Fifth Year**
UNI has been selected by G.I. Jobs Magazine as a Military Friendly School for 2015, an honor placing the university in the top 20 percent of schools doing the most to embrace America's veterans as students. According to G.I. Jobs, the list honors the top colleges, universities and trade schools that share a priority for recruiting students with military experience. Learn more about UNI’s [Military and Veteran](#)
Student Services office programs and resources.

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 Happening Now
If you know of other individuals considering college options, please ask that they reach out to us and/or schedule a visit. The best way to see UNI is to meet us in person! UNI is holding 11 Panther Open Houses in October and November. Visitors can meet with faculty, talk to current UNI students, take a campus tour and more.

EVENTS

Nov. 6-8 Family Weekend  
Nov. 23-27 Thanksgiving break  
Dec. 14-18 Finals Week  
Dec. 19 Commencement  
Jan. 11 Spring semester begins

For a complete list of events, visit UNI’s Calendar of Events.
RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

Registrar's Office Website
The UNI registrar's website is a great resource with information on how to drop/add a class (the last day to drop full-semester courses for the fall 2015 semester with a "W" grade is Oct. 30; after that date, when a student drops a class, the grade of "F" will be assigned), u-bill due dates, step-by-step tutorials on registration, commencement, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) information and more.

Scholarship Opportunities
For the upcoming year, current students should be sure to complete the UNI Scholarship Application. This one application allows both current and incoming students to apply for scholarships available in specific majors and other university departments. The application is available between September and April 1. Deadlines vary. Be sure to renew the FAFSA starting January 1 to be considered for need-based scholarships.

TEACH Grants
This federal grant is for students who will be teaching in a low-income school and in a high-need field of study. A student could receive a grant of up to $4,000 per year for four years as an undergraduate and two years as a graduate student.

“Live Like a Student” Financial Literacy Program for Students
"Does your student know how to "live like a student?" College is often the first time a student has to manage money on their own, and learning that living like a college student now so they don't have to later is a very important lesson. Fortunately, the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships is here to help. All UNI students can enroll in "Live Like a Student" sessions designed to provide a personalized approach to exploring budgeting, financial aid, credit, credit cards and identity protection. The sessions are FREE, with each student receiving a t-shirt and the chance to win a $500 scholarship. Encourage your student to visit the Live Like a Student webpage and sign up now.

How do Students Know What's Going on at UNI?
"Inside UNI for Students" is the official source of university information for students. It's emailed directly to students every Wednesday during the academic year. Please encourage your student to read Inside UNI and to check the website for updates.

A Response to "There's nothing to do."
UNI fields 17 NCAA Division I intercollegiate athletic teams, and the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center hosts 350 performances each year. The UNI u-Card (student I.D. card) gives full-time students free admission to all Panther regular-season home games. UNI offers a wide array of student clubs/organizations.
in a variety of interest areas, including politics, music, computer gaming and more.

**Student Ticket Policy for GBPAC Shows**
Full-time UNI students receive two free tickets per semester (fall and spring) to GBPAC shows. For many GBPAC shows, $5 student rush tickets may be available on the day of the show. Students can sign up online to receive an email notification when rush tickets are available.

**Student Health 101**
UNI Wellness and Recreation Services subscribes to Student Health 101, an interactive e-magazine that is filled with information to help UNI students have healthy, successful and fulfilling college experiences. The magazine’s core material is prepared by nationally respected professionals in the field of health promotion, though each issue is customized to UNI with additional information provided by our own health professionals. Ten issues per year are posted the first week of each month at the Wellness & Recreation website. Click on Student Health 101.

**RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS**

**Get to Know UNI**
A handy website for parents and guardians to quickly find UNI information is the "Get to Know UNI" page. You'll find links to the Cedar Falls/Waterloo community, campus maps, University Book & Supply, UNI history and more.

**UNI Third Party/Parent Portal**
Students may share records from the student information system with a third party using the UNI Third Party/Parent Portal. Students are responsible for creating and maintaining their third party accounts.

**2014 UNI Graduate Report**
Each year, the University of Northern Iowa Office of Career Services releases a report detailing post-graduation success. In 2014, 93 percent of graduates self-report they were employed or attending graduate school within six months of graduation. Read more about UNI graduates’ success.

**Panther Parent Advice**
Parents often wonder: How can I help my student select the right major?

- Encourage job/career exploration – work with Career Services
- Encourage them to take career interest assessments
- Push them to take a variety of courses that interest them
- Don't rush them to declare a major, let them explore (About 25 percent of new students are undecided each year.)

What can I do to make sure my student fits in, doesn't get home sick, etc.?
-Spur them to get involved in extracurricular activities (UNI offers more than 250 different student organizations/clubs.)
-Seek advice from current students and parents
-Encourage them to live on campus, stay on weekends
-Find Learning Communities – helps with academics as well as meeting new people

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 Parent 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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