MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It seems impossible that we are nearing the end of summer and fall Arrival is just a short time away!

In our summer issue, we feature Penn State’s recent success in advocating for same level funding in the Pennsylvania state budget, which was due in large part to the advocacy efforts of our student and parent community. In addition, whether you are preparing for your first arrival or you’ve done it before, in this issue you will find key dates and important reminders to assist your planning. We also have a special section with helpful information for our new families—don’t miss former President Walker’s 1968 welcome letter to new students that we found in the archives. As we begin a new academic year, we also recommend two books—Richard Light’s classic Making the Most of College and My Freshman Year by Rebekah Nathan.

We were thankful to receive feedback for our inaugural issue and encourage those of you with ideas to let us know what you would like to see in future issues! Please email us at parents@psu.edu.

Finally, we encourage you to consider a visit to State College for Parents & Families Weekend, which will be held September 28 – 30 at University Park. The registration website and preliminary schedule of events is now available. Please refer to page 9 of this newsletter for more information.

Jennifer Mallen
Director, Parents Program
This year’s state budget process ended recently with Gov. Tom Corbett signing the 2012-13 budget into law on June 30th, but continued education about the budget and its uses remains an important priority. Understanding how Penn State is funded helps our community members build a stronger voice to support public education on our campuses as well as the Commonwealth and beyond.

In early 2012, we were concerned about initial conversation surrounding state funding and the potential implications for our future as a state-related institution. We are a university with a land-grant mission, designed to support widespread access to higher education. The proposed loss of $64 million would have meant greater costs for students and families. Meanwhile, the economic impact of our campuses is incredible and our resources are worth protecting. A thorough economic report was produced in 2008, crediting Penn State for $17 billion in total economic impact in the state. Collectively, our campuses are an extraordinary asset.

As Penn Staters, we want to maintain our standard of excellence. We know the value of well-rounded education through extracurricular activities and value the opportunity to provide such experiences to students from all backgrounds.

The state appropriation enables Penn State to offer a substantial tuition reduction to Pennsylvania resident students. These reductions range from a high of about $12,000 at University Park to a low of about $6,000 at Commonwealth campuses (where tuition is already less than University Park campus in State College).

In 2012, the public part of the state budget process began in February with a budget proposal from the governor, followed by budget hearings by the state Senate and House appropriations committees. We were more than concerned to hear a proposal to cut Penn State’s funding by 30 percent. When added to last year’s $68 million cut, Penn State’s mission as a land-grant institution was in jeopardy. Nittany Lions old and young mobilized to share their dissatisfaction with the proposed appropriation. Members of the community, including vocal students, attended Capital Day on April 4, 2012. Parents, alumni, and other dedicated advocates for Penn State rallied around the efforts through their involvement in the Penn State Grassroots Network.

In mid-May, Penn State President Rodney Erickson pledged that if state funding remained at the same levels as the previous year, Penn State would hold any budget proposal from the governor, followed by budget hearings by the state Senate and House appropriations committees. Earlier this year, the committee unanimously amended and adopted a bill to overturn a proposed 30 percent appropriations cut for Penn State and to restore funding to 2011-12 levels.

Kevin Steele, chair of the Legislative Education and Advocacy Committee of Alumni Council, praised Penn State Grassroots Network volunteers for visiting and writing their state legislators this year and urging them to say no to the proposed 30 percent cut.

“We are grateful to the many alumni, students and parents who raised their voices this year as advocates for Penn State,” Steele said. “Along with a superb effort from Penn State’s governmental affairs office, volunteer efforts helped bring about a major win in a challenging year.”

The value of our parents and families cannot be understated. By engaging our parents and families, Penn State hopes to encourage future advocacy and a more secure future for educational funding. For those who participated in our effort this past year—thank you for all you do. Please consider becoming involved. For more information, visit the Penn State Grassroots web site or get in touch with the Parents Program about future ambassador opportunities on the horizon.

Together, we can secure a future bright for all generations of Penn Staters.
As parents we all realize that a key to running a family is maintaining a family budget. The budget bends, gets stretched, and for a short period of time may even fail. Our budgets control all aspects of our family’s daily lives. During the current economic conditions that we face, our family budgets control more of our lives than we ever thought they would.

We know that our local, state and federal governments have budgets. For most of us the budget time in the capital really only means one thing: a tax increase is coming. Over the past two years, the budgets in the state of Pennsylvania have shown no tax increase for residents. To parents whose children attend public or state-related schools, the breaks meant more. We were paying in-state tuition and being spared sales taxes. However, once we heard about how our family budgets would take a huge hit. The state was planning to cut funding to all education entities across PA, and cuts to PSU were to be upwards of millions. We realized our family budgets would take a hit, so did our parents.

We sent out emails to our state legislators, and asked for meetings in the home offices while the legislators were home from Harrisburg. We had our out-of-state parents explain the challenge of budgeting out-of-state tuition and they helped to articulate that the money they spend in the local community while visiting or dropping off their students is equally valuable to economic development and growth. Many of us as residential parents in the state realized for the first time how important it is to receive support from our out of state students and their families.

We all know how state budgets impact our family budgets and we realized we needed to bring the budgets in line with each other. As our “noise” started to spread, so did our parent involvement throughout the state. At two legislative visits, we were told that the people who had stepped up and the voices were heard. A few weeks later, a group of senators expressed their support to the governor that they were going to re-visit the state budget and give the proposed cuts back to education this year.

This involvement from PSU families proved that we can make a difference if we all take an interest, become educated, and get involved. Our involvement helped our family budgets as well as our children’s education. Our “noise” worked! Consider joining our efforts in 2013.

This year, the preliminary budget once again included a claim of no tax increases. Unfortunately it also included another cut to educational funding. To the parents of Penn State students, cuts are unacceptable, both for our budgets and our students’ institutions. We started our “realizing that funding cuts would not be acceptable

We worked with Alan and others at the Penn State Grassroots Network and discussed the issue at our fall and spring Parents Council meetings. We became educated on the facts about how cuts would impact our children’s educations and our family budgets. We listened to stories from our out-of-state parents that pay higher tuition, and they helped us to make the case for why it is so important to keep Penn State affordable to students in the Commonwealth. We discussed the economic impacts. We realized we needed to make our “noise” heard.

It’s hard to believe we are just a few weeks away from Fall Arrival. If your student is new to Penn State, I want to welcome you to our community. If you’re returning, welcome back. Fall arrival can be a very exciting time for families as they prepare to bring their student to Penn State and the State College community. In my role as Director of Housing, I often get questions about how families can prepare and support their student during the arrival process. I would offer these suggestions for a smooth arrival.

First, enjoy the arrival process and take advantage of the many opportunities, programs, socials and socials offered on campus and in the community. With 40,000 students at University Park alone, this can be stressful for families. But if you are stressed about the process and are anxious to get back home too quickly you may miss some great opportunities with your student. You may encourage your student to be stressed as well! So enjoy the process, take lots of photos, enjoy a long lunch or late dinner and purchase a Penn State t-shirt or sweatshirt for your student. The staff and faculty at Penn State, our community leaders, and local merchants have been planning for this arrival for months and want you to have a wonderful experience. Remember, you will only have a few arrivals with your student so make the most of it.

Secondly, encourage your student to get involved with new student clubs and organizations. Fall arrival is a great time for students to enjoy a fresh start. They can meet new friends, start a new hobby, find a new interest or expand on a current one. With over 900 clubs on campus, both academic and social, and a great intramural program, students have excellent opportunities to try something new. The Office of Student Activities sponsors an Involvement Fair during Welcome Week which is a great way for them to learn about involvement opportunities. Students will not have these types of opportunities once they leave the Penn State community.

Thirdly, if your student is moving onto campus or into a downtown apartment I would encourage packing only what your student needs for the first few weeks and months of the semester. Your student may want to bring everything now, but they won’t need a winter coat or a pair of skis in September. If you’re able to pack only what is needed for the beginning of the semester you will have more room in your vehicle and an easier time unpacking. Then, when you return for Parents & Families Weekend, a home football game, or just for a visit, you can bring additional items.

Also, with 13,500 students moving onto campus and another 20,000 in the community you should expect some delays during arrival. We will have increased traffic, full parking lots, and lines on and off-campus. Though University staff and community leaders do an excellent job of managing this influx of students we still have peak traffic times between 10:00am-2:00pm during arrival. So if you’re able to plan your trip accordingly, I would recommend arriving earlier or later in the day. However, if this is your first fall arrival at University Park and State College you will be pleasantly surprised, if not outright amazed, how smoothly the entire process works.

Lastly, and possibly most importantly, if your son/daughter is sharing a living space you should encourage your student to discuss expectations with their roommate(s). They should talk about garbage (who and how late), groceries (communal or personal), schedules (late night or early morning) and expenses (who’s paying for what). Best friends don’t always make the best roommates, but good communication will help everyone be happier in any living environment.

Again, I want to welcome you or welcome back to Penn State and the State College community. Our staff and community members are here to assist you with any questions so please don’t hesitate to ask. If I can be of any assistance please feel free to contact me at 814-865-7543.

Sincerely,

Planning for Arrival: A Successful Move-in Day

How to prepare your child for a successful move-in.

Welcome Week is in full swing and our students are enjoying their time on campus.

Parents often wonder about their child’s expectations for the new academic year. To help parents better understand their child’s goals, we have put together a list of tips for a successful move-in day.

1. **Be Prepared:**
   - Bring all necessary items, including ID cards, books, and personal belongings.
   - Check the packing list for the first-year housing communities.
   - Make sure your child has a well-packed bag with toiletries, snacks, and medications.

2. **Communicate:**
   - Discuss expectations for the new academic year.
   - Encourage your child to share their goals and thoughts about their new community.

3. **Stay Connected:**
   - Use social media to stay updated on your child’s experience.
   - Keep in touch through regular phone calls and texts.

4. **Support Your Child:**
   - Be supportive of their new experiences and challenges.
   - Encourage them to ask for help when needed.

5. **Plan Ahead:**
   - Plan for unexpected expenses or situations.
   - Ensure your child has a backup plan for emergencies.

6. **Stay Calm:**
   - Remind yourself that your child is grown and can handle new experiences.
   - Take care of yourself and stay calm during the move-in process.

Remember, the move-in day is an exciting time for your child, and it is an opportunity for you to connect with your new community and resources.

814-865-7543

Penn State Students Program • parents@psu.edu • phone: 814.863.1313 • www.parents.psu.edu
PARENT TO PARENT: TIPS FOR SUPPORTING COMMUTER STUDENTS

By Cheri Graham, Lead Programmer/Analyst in Student Affairs Information Technology
Mother of Brandon (2013) and Kelsey (2014), Commuting Students

Such services as online classifieds, programs to get involved on campus, and help you connect with the student organization Off-Campus Student Union.

The best way for your commuter to become a part of Penn State is to become involved. There are endless opportunities. Encourage them to attend the well-planned and diverse Welcome Week events. Fresh Start Day of Service is a great way to begin meeting new people; sign up at www.volunteer.psu.edu. Students can engage in events surrounding music, art, theatre, athletics, and SPA LateNight at the HUB. Becoming familiar with the Office of Student Activities, attending the Involvement Fair during the first week of school, volunteering, reading the Daily Collegian, and asking about opportunities in their areas of interest are all simple ways to get involved in campus life.

Encourage your student to share their knowledge about Happy Valley. Students from outside of the area welcome information about where to go, where to shop, or where to order the best pizza or wings. Even though we aren’t a big city, there are Chinese, Thai, Korean, Indian, Greek, Mexican, Italian restaurants and more all close by. There are vegetarian, noodle, and cupcake carts, batting cages, kayaking, hockey, golfing, mini-golfing, go-carts, batting cages, kayaking, mountain biking, hiking, and skiing. Your student can be a great resource to others and should feel proud to offer local information.

Move-in day is approaching faster than you think. Seeing your students move into their first apartments are big moments. Here are some tips to make the transition a smooth one, especially before and during the big move:

- Encourage your students to confirm the move-in day. With student lessees ending and beginning throughout August, your student can avoid confusion by calling to confirm dates.

- Anticipate needing more. Whereas students have furniture, a set-up, and most needs met in the residence halls, your students may need more supplies and more move-in time. Consider obstacles like stairs, long corridors, and other physical boundaries for moving in furniture. Also anticipate a shopping trip or two. Moving into an apartment and realizing there’s no garbage can or ironing board can be a surprising conclusion for your students who are on their own for the first time.

- Know the parking rules. Avoid getting a ticketed or towed by reading signage, asking questions, and familiarizing yourself with longer-term options if you plan on staying around town for a surprising conclusion for your students who are on their own for the first time.

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Preparing for Arrival:

DATES:

- Students from Centre County (and their roommates) and out-of-state students (and their roommates): Friday, August 24 and Saturday, August 25
- Remaining in-state students: Saturday, August 25, 2012
- First-year students: need to check-in early? Students may arrive beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 22.

First-year students need to check-in early? Students may arrive beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 22. There is an extra $20/nightly fee for Wednesday and/or Thursday nights. To begin by looking up your student’s residence hall and selecting the corresponding campus map. Print the campus map, parking permit, and directions.

What to Expect:

Welcome Activities for New Parents & Families:
Friday, August 24 and Saturday, August 25
HUB-Robeson Center, Noontime Concert Lounge
4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Join us for an informal reception where you will meet current Penn State parent volunteers and Parents Program staff who will answer any lingering questions before you depart for home. Light refreshments will be provided.

Getting Around Town: Transportation for New Students

ON-CAMPUS:
The bus system around University Park is a really helpful way for students to travel, especially without cars in their first year. On-campus, buses are free, so they serve as a convenient way to get across campus quickly. The Blue Loop runs clock-wise around campus by way of College Avenue, and the White Loop operates counter-clock wise down Beaver Avenue. The Red and Green Links travel East to West across Curtain Road, providing access to Rec Hall, White Course Apartments, the Stadium/BJC and even Innovation Park by the Penn Stater Hotel.

OFF-CAMPUS:
Exploring State College will feel comfortable with CATA’s bus services. Students can make use of various bus lines to experience life beyond the campus limits. Here are some popular bus routes:

- **M Bus (Nittany Mall):** The M bus provides service to points east of campus, including Nittany Mall, the Premier Movie Theater, and the Benner Pike shopping center, which includes a Walmart, Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Party City, Sam’s Club, Ross, and Bed, Bath & Beyond. Many of the same points may also be accessed using the C Bus.
- **V Bus (Vairo Blvd):** The V bus serves points north of campus, including the North Atherton Walmart shopping center. Students can also access Eat N Park, TJ Maxx, McDonalds, Hallmark, Target, Wegmans, and many other resources using the V line.
- **B Bus (Boalsburg):** One of the greatest local attractions is Tussey Mountain, which can be accessed on the B line. Tussey hosts concerts, Thursday night Wingfests and movies during the warm months. Students can also miniature golf and use go-carts. When the weather changes, Tussey is a convenient place for skiing, snowboarding and snow tubing trips.

Students seeking other local opportunities can use the CATA website to identify the bus line they need. CATA also offers a free application for smart phones, which shows the buses traveling live for better planning. Interested students and families can search CATA in your phone’s app store.

Taxis are an alternative to bus travel, and multiple companies provide taxi service in the area.

Welcome Week:

All students at University Park have a number of events to look forward to during Welcome Week, which takes place from August 25 – September 8. Students living in the residence halls can find more detailed information about Welcome Week events in their areas through the Resident Assistants.

A complete list of Welcome Week events is prepared for students to anticipate the events and plan their participation! Student IDs may be required for some events, but all are free of charge.
FA L L  2 0 1 2  K E Y  D A T E S

**Academic Calendar:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Semester Tuition Bill Due</td>
<td>August 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Student Arrival Days</td>
<td>August 24-25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welcome Week</td>
<td>August 25-September 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
<td>August 27</td>
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<td>Drop Period</td>
<td>August 27-September 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Add Period</td>
<td>August 27 to 8:00 a.m. on September 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labor Day - no classes</td>
<td>September 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Semester Tuition Bill arrives (to student's email account)</td>
<td>Mid-November</td>
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<td>Late Drop Ends</td>
<td>November 16</td>
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<td>Residence Halls close at 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>November 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday - No Classes</td>
<td>November 18-24</td>
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<td>Residence Halls re-open at 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>November 23</td>
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<td>Spring Tuition Due</td>
<td>November 30</td>
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<td>Withdrawal Deadline</td>
<td>December 14</td>
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<td>Classes End</td>
<td>December 14</td>
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<td>Study Days</td>
<td>December 15-16</td>
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<td>Final Exams</td>
<td>December 17-21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Residence Halls Close at 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>December 22</td>
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**Community Events:**

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<td>PSU Ag Progress Days (State College, PA)</td>
<td>August 14 – 16</td>
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<td>apd.psu.edu</td>
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<td>Bellefonte Arts and Crafts Fair (Bellefonte, PA)</td>
<td>August 19 – 20</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.victorianbellefonte.com">www.victorianbellefonte.com</a></td>
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<td>Centre County Grange Fair (State College, PA)</td>
<td>August 23 - 30</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.grangefair.net">www.grangefair.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tussey Mountain Wing Fest (State College, PA)</td>
<td>August 23 / August 30</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.tusseymountain.com">www.tusseymountain.com</a></td>
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**SUGGESTED READINGS**

*My Freshman Year: What a Professor Learned by Becoming a Student*  
By Rebekah Nathan

After more than fifteen years of teaching, Rebekah Nathan, a professor of anthropology at a large state university, realized that she no longer understood the behavior and attitudes of her students. She immersed herself in student life, moving into the halls and taking on a full course load. Based on her interviews and conversations with fellow classmates, her interactions with professors and with other university employees and offices, and her careful day-to-day observations, *My Freshman Year* provides a compelling account of college life that should be read by students, parents, professors, university administrators, and anyone else concerned about the state of higher education in America today. For more information, see: [http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/my-freshman-year-rebekah-nathan/1100537828](http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/my-freshman-year-rebekah-nathan/1100537828).

*Making the Most of College, Students Speak Their Minds*  
By Richard J. Light  
(Harvard University Press)

Dr. Light’s classic, based on a 10-year study, help outline factors that are most likely to improve students’ learning and overall happiness. Researchers interviewed faculty from 24 institutions and 1600 students about the quality of teaching and advising, academic choices students made, and how they spent their spare time. Dr. Light offers these concrete and fairly simple ways for students to get more out of college, in terms of their academic success as well as their personal happiness. For more information, visit Tania Cawling’s review online: [http://www.familytlc.net/college_experience.html](http://www.familytlc.net/college_experience.html).