Welcome Back Penn Parents and Happy New Year!!!!

We hope that you had the opportunity to celebrate, relax and enjoy your Penn student(s), family and friends over the Winter Break. 2015 brings another year of opportunity for your Penn student. Our colleagues from the Penn Cultural Centers, Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, Penn Abroad and the Center for Undergraduate Research are happy to provide you with resources about student life that your Penn student may already participate in or may be interested in joining. For Senior parents and families, 2015 marks a time to celebrate, as your Penn student prepares to graduate this May. We are happy to provide you with ceremony dates/times and some tips for having a memorable and truly enjoyable experience. As the New Year begins, we also invite you to connect even deeper with the Penn community and join us as a Penn Parent volunteer.

The Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships

The Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships (CURF) helps undergraduates get involved with research across the Penn campus and the world, helps them find funding to do their own independent research, and provides advising and support for students and alumni applying for international fellowships. CURF has many resources on its website that help familiarize students with the research process and connect them with like-minded faculty. In addition, CURF is the home of the Benjamin Franklin Scholars and the University Scholars. Since its inception in 2001, CURF has directly overseen well over $1 million in undergraduate research funding and connected students with many more external funding opportunities.

One of CURF’s flagship programs, the Penn Undergraduate Research Mentoring Program (PURM), will soon be open for applications from freshmen and sophomores. PURM is a funded, ten-week one-on-one summer research experience with Penn faculty from all disciplines and schools, and it has exploded in popularity since its beginnings in 2007. There are many other summer research opportunities available through CURF, including (but not limited to) the Summer Humanities Internship Program, the College Alumni Society Research Grant, and the Gelfman International Summer Fund.

CAPS Has Moved to a New Location

Click here to visit their website

Career Services

Spring is a busy time at Career Services. We continue to work with seniors who are applying to graduate programs or searching for employment. At the same time, our focus shifts to underclassmen, especially juniors seeking summer internships.

Each year, about 180 employers conduct on-campus interviews for internships. Students interested in financial services, consulting, technology, and retailing have multiple opportunities to meet in person with potential employers.

Other employers utilize our job board (Pennlink) and internship consortium (iNet), where they can post internships. Last year there were over 8,000 internships available on these sites. Students should check Pennlink and iNet regularly, setting up “search agents” to alert them when positions of interest are posted. To learn more about your student’s job search, click here.

We will for the first time this year be offering a Creative Careers Fair on February 18th in Houston Hall. We hope to attract employers from performing arts, design, publishing, digital media, advertising, museums and other creative fields. Students drawn to the arts, culture, or design should not miss this fair, whether they are seeking an internship or a full-time position. For more information, please see Creative Careers Fair Info.

Career Services is also excited to sponsor our annual Start-Up Fair on February 19th in Houston Hall. Last year, we hosted 70 start-ups whose founders or recruiters were eager to attract Penn students for both technical and non-technical opportunities, internships and full-time positions. This year, we expect companies from Philadelphia, New York, Northern California and beyond. For details, see Start Up Fair Info.

On February 20th, we will host our Spring Fair, also in Houston Hall. Spring Fair features for-profit and non-profit employers from organizations large and small, from a broad range of industries, who will be looking for both interns and permanent hires. Last year the Spring Fair maxed out at 90 employers and more than 1,000 students. For more information, see Spring Fair Info.

The application process for graduate school can start early, especially for health professions programs. Career Services offers Pre-Health Application Workshops beginning in February for students applying for fall 2016 matriculation. Medical schools start accepting applications in the summer of 2015, so please talk with your student about starting early. For students interested in law school or other graduate programs, advisors are available to discuss the application process and when to apply. For more information about all graduate school processes, click here.

Today’s workplace is challenging for new entrants. Undergraduates at Penn, who have excelled academically and in numerous other arenas, are sometimes perplexed by the range of opportunities, only some of which have clear-cut entry points. Please encourage your student to attend our programs and workshops, and more importantly, to schedule an individual appointment with one of our knowledgeable career advisors. For more information, please click here.
Parent Webinar: Transition to Penn for Students with Disabilities

Are you ready to turn over the responsibility for arranging accommodations and services to your son or daughter? Is your student ready to take the reins to seek resources and self-advocate at Penn? How can you help facilitate a smooth transition?

The Office of Student Disabilities Services (SDS) invites you to participate in an interactive webinar on February 17, 2015 from noon to 1:00. Participants will:

• learn about differences between high school and college for students with disabilities
• learn how to facilitate a smooth transition to Penn
• gain information about resources available through SDS

Please email shapiros@upenn.edu for additional information and instructions for connecting to the webinar.

Closing Thoughts......Staying Connected!

Dear ##FirstName##,

I hope that the winter break with your family was lovely and that you were able to take some time to recharge and reconnect. In this New Year, Penn Parents is focused on continuing to develop and present opportunities to stay connected so this e-news is filled with information from our campus partners about the spaces, programs and events where the “connections” happen! I recognize that the college years may be filled with moments of challenge as well as great opportunity and it is my hope that your Penn student has the best experience possible. We will continue to provide you with information from the individual schools and our campus partners about ways that you can support your sons and daughters in their time at Penn. Please encourage your children to get connected and make use of the resources and support that Penn provides. I hope that your children will take advantage of all that Penn has to offer and through them you too will get a glimpse of the dynamism of life on campus or around the world if they are studying abroad. I also encourage you to consider volunteering or take a look at the events calendar and try to attend an event near you or “virtually” by participating in Penn Parents webinars. We aim to provide creative approaches to keeping you engaged with the University and hope that you will have the opportunity to take part. Although it is cold outside, there is warmth in knowing that I may connect with many of you in the coming days, on campus or in your home regions, and I look forward to it because there are no parents like Proud Penn Parents! I appreciate your enthusiasm, insight and commitment to ensuring that your Penn student has the best experience possible and I look forward to brighter and warmer days ahead! Until then, Please take good care,

Kenya LeNoir Messer, Ed.D.
Director Parent Outreach and Development

Room Selection for 2015-16

Room Selection for 2015-16 is underway. There are only a few years left for your student to live on campus and get the full Penn experience. Learn how to apply at www.upenn.edu/roomselection. Questions? Contact the Housing Assignments Office at living@exchange.upenn.edu or call 215-898-8271.

Feb Club - A Month of Senior Celebration!

This quintessential senior tradition consists of a month-long slew of activities organized by the Class Board, Seniors for The Penn Fund, and other campus student organizations. This year, the Class of 2015 has organized over 20 events that explore Philadelphia’s most iconic, cultural, and social hot spots, ranging from famous bars and restaurants to athletic arenas and concert halls, not to mention a national landmark or two. If a senior attends all the events, his or her name will be engraved on the “Feb Club Champions” plaque in Smokey Joe’s. The annual kickoff event, known as the “1st Toast” is hosted by the Seniors for The Penn Fund committee and the Class Board in recognition of their upcoming transition from undergraduate students to alumni. Later in the spring, Final Toast, another class-wide event, will formally welcome the class into the alumni ranks. This year, 1st Toast will be held on Friday, January 30, 2015 from 8:00PM to 11:00PM at Xfinity Live. Be sure to encourage your child(ren) to attend!

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