

THE BINGHAMTON PARENT

Fall 2010



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BINGHAMTON
UNIVERSITY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As Binghamton University's new president, I am pleased to welcome you to our campus community. For those of you who are alumni — or have exceptionally long memories — you may recall that I served as president in the early 1970s. The campus today is larger, but is still distinguished by the same high-quality education, dedicated faculty, hard-working staff and, most of all, by its exceptionally bright students. I am delighted to have the opportunity to return here to meet this generation of Binghamton undergraduates.

I have always believed that it is important to keep learning throughout your life, so we will all be learning together — I, too, as the “new” president.

This is a good time to be enrolled at Binghamton. The University continues to receive accolades for academic excellence and value — consistently landing among U.S. News & World Report's top 50 public colleges and universities, and again being named by the Fiske Guide to Colleges as a “premier public university in the Northeast.” Equally important, during a time of economic and environmental uncertainty, we also are widely recognized for our academic value and environmental contributions; this year, the Princeton Review named Binghamton sixth among its top 10 “Best Value” public universities, and has again included us as one of the “greenest” colleges in the nation.

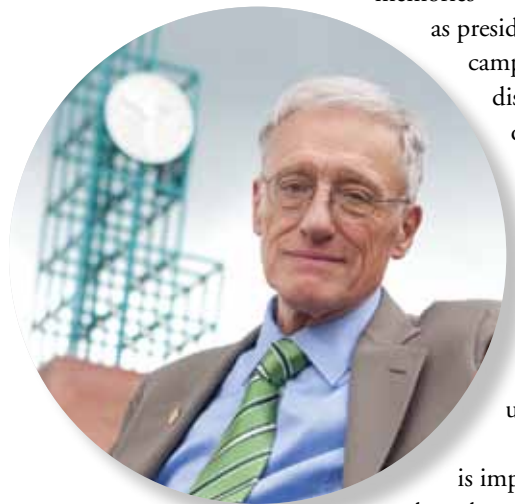
Our academic programs are among the best in the nation. Students work closely with world-

class scholars and researchers who are making world-changing discoveries — from developing more efficient solar collectors and creating new superconducting materials, to finding cures for stress disorders and helping communities reduce teenage pregnancy. As a result, Binghamton students will be ready to make an impact as advanced graduate students or as leaders in fields ranging from law and healthcare to engineering and accounting. I hope that you will encourage your student to invest in learning at Binghamton so that he or she can benefit from the unique educational opportunities we provide.

At the same time, please work with us to ensure that the University has the resources it needs to offer the academic experiences that your student needs to succeed. Your efforts to support and advocate for Binghamton can pay large dividends for our campus and our students. The partnerships we have with parents who commit their time and resources are important — making Binghamton a stronger University that can better address the needs of our students, our state and nation, and our world.

You can learn more about the University and our efforts to provide positive learning experiences for our students at our annual Family Weekend, which will be held October 23-24. This will be an entertaining and informative event that offers an opportunity to visit your student on campus and learn more about the University. I hope you can join us and that you will stay actively engaged in your son's or daughter's education. Best wishes to your student, and to you, for the new academic year.

Sincerely,
C. Peter Magrath



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

After a busy summer, the start of the academic year reminds us all of why we are here: to educate students and assist them as they strive for success.

In support of this mission, the Office of the Dean of Students works in collaboration with other administrators and offices across campus, providing guidance and advocacy for students when high-level guidance is needed.

My staff and I are the primary point of contact for students experiencing a variety of issues affecting their life at Binghamton, such as serious illness, academic difficulties, financial problems and other personal emergencies.

You can find us in the University Union West, room 205. Or contact us at 607-777-2804 or dos@binghamton.edu. We look forward to working with you.



Sincerely,
Elizabeth Droz, PhD

ACADEMIC CALENDAR, 2010-2011

Fall Semester 2010

Aug 23-29	Graduate pre-semester registration, fall 2010
Aug 26	Residence halls open for new students 9 a.m.
Aug 27	Residence halls open for returning students 9 a.m.
Aug 27-29	Undergraduate pre-semester registration, fall 2010
Aug 30	Classes begin
Sept 4	Residence halls close 9 a.m.
Sept 4-12	No classes (Labor Day and Rosh Hashanah)
Sept 12	Residence halls open 2 p.m.
Sept 13	Classes resume
Sept 17	Course add deadline/Course drop/delete deadline*
Sept 17	Classes recess 1 p.m.
Sept 18-19	No classes (Yom Kippur)
Sept 20	Classes resume
Oct 23-24	Family Weekend
Oct 29	Course withdraw (with a “W”)/change grade option deadline*
Oct 29	Last day for seniors to submit an application for degree for spring 2011
Nov 24	Classes recess 1 p.m. (Thanksgiving)
Nov 24	Residence halls close 2 p.m.
Nov 25-28	No classes (Thanksgiving)
Nov 28	Residence halls open 2 p.m.
Nov 29	Classes resume
Dec 10	Last day of classes
Dec 11-12	Reading period
Dec 12	Fall Commencement
Dec 13-17	Final examinations
Dec 18	Residence halls close 11 a.m.

Winter Session 2011

January 3-21

Spring Semester 2011

Jan 20	Residence halls open 9 a.m.
Jan 21-23	Pre-semester registration, spring 2011
Jan 24	Classes begin
Feb 4	Course add deadline/Course drop/delete deadline*
Feb 21	No classes (Washington's birthday)
Mar 19	Residence halls close 9 a.m.
Mar 19-27	Spring recess
Mar 27	Residence halls open 2 p.m.
Mar 28	Classes resume
Apr 1	Course withdraw (with a “W”)/change grade option deadline*
Apr 1	Last day for seniors to submit an application for degree for fall 2011
Apr 16	Residence halls close 9 a.m.
Apr 16-25	Recess (Passover, Easter)
Apr 25	Residence halls open 2 p.m.
Apr 26	Classes resume
May 13	Last day of classes
May 14-15	Reading period
May 16-20	Final examinations; residents must vacate residence halls 24 hours after last exam
May 21	Graduate Commencement ceremony
May 22	Undergraduate Commencement ceremonies

Summer Session 2011

Term I: May 31-July 1
Term II: July 11-August 12
Term III: variable

*Courses meeting less than the full semester have proportionately adjusted deadlines. Calendar is subject to revision.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Whether you're the parent of a student new to Binghamton University, or one who has been around a year or two, reminders about the services available to students can come in handy. Our caring, professional staff is trained to work with college students and can respond to their needs, recognize worrisome behaviors and deliver programs designed to enhance their overall college experience.

Encourage your son or daughter to refer to the Help Directory section of the online Family Handbook (www2.binghamton.edu/dean-of-students/parents/news-and-information/parent-handbook.html) for a more complete list of offices serving students.

Student Affairs — a division of the University that provides a broad range of programs and services that complement the University's academic mission and enhance quality of life.

Career Development Center — offers career information, internship and job opportunities, résumé and interview preparation, pursuit of graduate studies and more.

Financial Aid and Student Records — helps with all aspects of financing a Binghamton education (completing financial aid forms; establishing eligibility for all federal, state and institutional financial-aid programs; and more).

New York State University Police — a fully empowered police force trained to protect life and property, working to maintain a safe and secure environment by promoting personal safety and emergency-response awareness.

Off-Campus Services — focuses on the welfare of students who do not live in University-managed housing, helping with off-campus housing information, lease review, community relations, and fraternity and sorority life.

Residential Life — helps students acclimate to college by providing social and educational programs, maintaining residence halls and facilitating an environment conducive to personal and academic success.

Services for Students with Disabilities — assists students with physical, learning or other disabilities to ensure their equal access in academic and non-academic aspects of campus life. Current and comprehensive disability documentation is required.

University Counseling Center — assists students with psychological, emotional, intellectual and personal development and provides confidential individual or group counseling/psychotherapy.

University Health Service — assists students in reaching and maintaining physical, psychological and emotional health through a wide range of services including acute care, women's healthcare and sports and travel medicine.



“What is FERPA?” and Other FAQs — Answered!

The Dean of Students Office will assist parents and guardians when issues arise, but there are always questions about what information can be provided to family members, and under what circumstances. For answers to some of these questions, visit www2.binghamton.edu/dean-of-students/parents.html.

communications

B-LINE

The University's official means of communicating with students, B-line is distributed to all registered students via e-mail Monday through Friday when classes are in session. B-line includes items of interest and importance to students ranging from reminders of dates and deadlines to general-interest meeting announcements for student groups. Students can submit items to B-line at www2.binghamton.edu/b-line/submit_news.php. All submissions are edited before they are included in the e-mail distribution and posted live to the Web.



EMERGENCY TEXT SERVICE

Because no single means of communication is sufficient to reach the entire campus community in the event of an emergency, Binghamton University uses a number of methods to communicate emergency information to students, faculty and staff.

Text/electronic messaging is one method that enables emergency messages to be sent directly to a student's mobile device and to a student's e-mail address. Students are automatically registered to receive this service at the mobile number the University has on file and at their University e-mail address, but they must log onto bubrain.binghamton.edu to verify their contact information and add additional phone numbers and e-mail addresses, including those for parents, should they so choose.

This system is used only for essential communication during critical incidents, not for other purposes, and allows registered students to stay informed during urgent situations.

ARE YOU CONNECTED?

Visit www.binghamton.edu/dean-of-students/parents/parentForm.html to sign up to receive Binghamton University news, information and reminders via e-mail. You'll also find there the Family Handbook, a directory of helpful links and additional information about Family Weekend to help you get to know Binghamton University.

SEMESTER CHECKLIST

Acclimating to a new environment or getting back into the swing of things can be difficult for students. The semester checklist at www2.binghamton.edu/self-service/start_of_term.html can help. It has easy-to-follow reminders for students — from the time they return to campus for the start of a semester to the time when they check their grades as the semester ends.

While we're on the topic of communications

Binghamton University participates in online communities and social networking sites. You can find us on Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube and LinkedIn. Our social media directory at www2.binghamton.edu/social-media can answer your questions and help you get started.





Campus GROWING by Leaps and Bounds

Anyone who steps onto campus will quickly see that we're growing, with both academic and residential buildings under construction.

Replacement of Newing College and Dickinson Community — the two oldest residential communities on campus — is well underway. The new Bingham Hall opened in fall 2009, and the new Delaware, Endicott and Broome halls in Newing College are slated to open in fall 2011. Each of the three new halls will be six stories high and will house approximately 400 students. The “neighborhood” style is being used, featuring rooms housing two students with six students sharing bathroom facilities that include sink/toilet areas separate from showers.

The Chenango Champlain Collegiate Center will also open in fall 2011, providing programming space and dining facilities for the two communities. It will have two distinctive areas, one for each community, that include a large lounge, a stage at the front of a multi-purpose room and six meeting rooms that can be opened into a single space or divided into smaller spaces. Community offices, including student government offices and the faculty masters' offices, will also be located in the collegiate center.

Newing and Dickinson residents will have

East campus housing construction



Science 5 construction



separate entrances to their respective portions of the collegiate center. Broome Closet, unique to Newing College, will be housed in the Newing portion, while the Dickinson side will include the CoRE (computers, robotics and engineering) special-interest housing module that is unique to Dickinson Community.

Meanwhile, construction of Science 5 is moving forward. The outer shell of the building is substantially complete now, and the rest of the project will be completed by summer 2011. Situated between Science 3 and Science 4, this 65,000 square-foot, three-story building of limestone, metal and glass will connect to both Science 3 and 4, and will provide research and surge space to allow for renovations of the older science building on campus as funding permits.

Across the street, yet very much an integral part of campus, the Engineering and Science Building is also progressing. When complete in August 2011, the building, which connects with the Biotechnology Building at the Innovative Technologies Complex, will house some Watson School of Engineering departments, in addition to academic and research space.

For more information on campus construction projects, visit www2.binghamton.edu/physical-facilities/construction-news.html.



FRATERNITY AND SORORITY (GREEK) LIFE

Fraternities and sororities at Binghamton University provide an opportunity for students to form lifelong bonds with friends while being encouraged to strive for excellence, maintain high academic standards, develop leadership skills, serve the community and become active members of campus life. The University has 55 recognized organizations, each belonging to one of seven different councils (Asian Greek Council, Interfraternity Council, Latino Greek Council, Multicultural Greek and Fraternal Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, Panhellenic Council, Professional Fraternity Council).

If your son or daughter is approached to join an organization, contact Off Campus Services at 607-777-2797, greek@binghamton.edu or occ.binghamton.edu to learn the organization's status. Some may be forming new organizations and are seeking University recognition, while others may have been banned from campus for violations of University policy.

TEXTBOOK RENTALS

The University Bookstore is now offering textbook rental on a number of titles to save students money — more than 50 percent off the cost of purchasing new books. Other benefits include:

- the convenience of renting textbooks either from the campus bookstore or the bookstore's website, eliminating shipping costs or needing to wait for books to arrive in the mail
- the ability to return rental textbooks to the campus bookstore or via mail using free return shipping the flexibility to use a variety of rental payment options, including financial aid and campus debit cards, as well as cash and credit cards

Students can highlight and take notes in the rented textbooks, and can keep them for up to 10 days after final examinations. They'll receive automated e-mail reminders that the rental period is ending and books need to be returned to the bookstore. Visit www.binghamton.bncollege.com to see which titles are for rent.

ONLINE HELP DIRECTORY Our Family Handbook includes a Help Directory at www2.binghamton.edu/student-handbook/help-directory.html that provides quick contact information for offices and services on campus to help you address academic, counseling, employment, health, housing and other concerns, as well as information to connect with religious organizations, transportation services and vendor relations offices.

Important Policies

Binghamton University students are expected to abide by policies established by the University. One key policy governs the use of copyrighted materials such as music, videos and publications.

Copyright infringement — the reproduction or distribution of a copyrighted work without permission or legal authority — is illegal. In the file-sharing context, downloading or uploading substantial parts of a copyrighted work without authority constitutes an infringement.

Copyright infringement can result in civil and criminal penalties. In general, anyone found liable for civil copyright infringement may be ordered to pay either actual damages or “statutory” damages fixed at not less than \$750 and not more than \$30,000 per work infringed.

For “willful” infringement, a court may award up to \$150,000 per work infringed. A court can, at its discretion, also assess costs and attorney fees.

Willful copyright infringement can also result in criminal penalties, including imprisonment of up to five years and fines of up to \$250,000 per offense.

For more information, see the U.S. Copyright Office website at www.copyright.gov and the FAQs at www.copyright.gov/help/faq.

A complete listing of University policies can be found in the Student Handbook online at www2.binghamton.edu/student-handbook/other-university-policies/index.html.

Dean of Students Office
PO Box 6000
Binghamton, New York 13902-6005

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FAMILY WEEKEND

Save the date! Make your plans now to join us Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 23 and 24, for a great Family Weekend when you can share briefly in your son or daughter's college experience.

Stop in at our registration and welcome center between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday in the University Union West, under the clock tower, to pick up your schedule. It'll be packed with activities and fun.

For complete details including event updates, locations, intramural

and club sport schedules and religious activities, check at www2.binghamton.edu/dean-of-students/parents/index.html.

Then, let us know you're coming. Register online at <https://www.bconnectalumni.binghamton.edu/FamilyWeekend2010>.

For directions to campus and links to hotels and restaurants in the area, visit www2.binghamton.edu/about/visiting-campus/index.html.

We hope to see you soon!

