We are delighted to have your student back on campus for the spring semester. Below please find information about our spring semester programs, scholarship opportunities, and the new Community Engaged Research program, as well as the Parents' Student Development Fund and advising tips.

Priscilla M. Clarkson, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor, Dean

Commonwealth Honors College Fast Fact

In our last alumni survey, we learned that 83% of Commonwealth Honors College alumni have attended, are attending, or plan to attend graduate or professional school within the next year. We are surveying our alumni again this winter, and will publish the results on our website. In the meantime, click here to view the results from the last alumni survey.

Spring Programs Foster Alumni-Student Connections

A Series of programs this semester aims to provide honors students with perspectives from honors alumni about their careers, and their recommendations for making the most of UMass Amherst and Commonwealth Honors College.

Several programs are part of the Weekly Wednesday Workshop series and others are collaborations between Commonwealth Honors College and other departments on campus. The first program takes place on February 20 and features alumni working in Human Resources. The following week, Meet the Law, a joint program of Commonwealth Honors College, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and the Pre-Law Advising Office will bring eight alumni attorneys to campus to network with students interested in law school and legal practice.
In March, honors alumnus Matthew Littlefield '99 will speak with students about the parlaying a liberal arts education to private banking on a date in March to be determined. On March 13 honors alumni working for non-profit organizations will share their experiences with students. The final program of the semester is on April 4 and brings alumni working in healthcare to network with students at the Pre-Health Sciences Networking and Awards Dinner.

Please visit the Commonwealth Honors College events calendar to view more information on these and other Commonwealth Honors College programs.

**Alert: Spring Scholarship Application Deadline**

As we welcome students back to campus for the Spring 2013 academic semester, it is important to note that many scholarship deadlines are approaching. They include awards for graduating seniors, summer opportunities, and scholarships for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Scholarships available directly through Commonwealth Honors College can be found by clicking here. Commonwealth Honors College offers a wide range of scholarships for students with different majors and interests. Detailed information on criteria and requirements can be found in each scholarship description. Many applications are due by March 1, but several have earlier deadlines.

Presidential Scholarships are offered through the UMass President's Office and can be found by clicking here. These include the Pappas and Bulger scholarships, which offer significant awards to UMass Amherst students. Most applications are due by March 15.

We recommend that your students review these opportunities immediately to determine which ones they may be eligible for and give your student time to write well-developed essays for the application.

**New Program Matches Students with Research Opportunities**
The Community Engaged Research (CER) program was launched in 2012 to train the next generation of outstanding researchers and scholars to study topics of importance to communities.

The CER program is designed to identify and match undergraduate honors students with community based research opportunities and to prepare them for graduate studies, research careers in universities, research for policy-making organizations, the health care industry, and government agencies.

Please click here to read more about the program and to view examples of the research conducted last summer by honors students. Click here to read more about the Director of Community Engaged Research, Dr. Elena Carbone.

Parents' Student Development Fund: Together We Can Make a Difference

Please consider making a gift to the Commonwealth Honors College Parents' Student Development Fund today! This fund, launched in fall 2011, supports programs for Commonwealth Honors College, such as Pizza & Prof Nights and Weekly Wednesday Workshops, that greatly enhance the Honors experience.

Pizza & Prof Nights bring professors from across the UMass campus to speak with honors students about the latest topics in their fields. Weekly Wednesday Workshops provide honors students with practical advice on how to make the most of their time on campus. Click here for more information on all the sessions scheduled for this semester. This programming is made possible by donations from parents and friends like you!

Please consider a gift so that we can continue to provide honors students with these special opportunities. Gifts can be made securely online by clicking here, or by phone at 866-450-UMASS (866-450-8627). Remember to indicate that your gift is for Commonwealth Honors College Parents' Student
Advising Tips

Juniors should now be thinking about and preparing to register for their choice of Honors Thesis or Honors Project. Juniors are strongly encouraged to register the credits for their honors theses or honors projects before leaving UMass for the summer. Students who elect to pursue an "Independent Thesis or Project" will need to secure a guidance committee. The chair of this committee must be a UMass faculty member from the student's field of research. Departmental Honors students should to speak to the Honors Program Directors about their thesis or project plans. We recommend all students to speak to a Commonwealth Honors College Advisor if they have any questions about the process or if they are encountering difficulty related to it. General information about the Honors Thesis or Honors Project can be found by clicking here.

Seniors should to check in with Commonwealth Honors College Advisors about thesis or project manuscript guidelines. They may find formatting and submission information here.

All students engaged in completing theses or projects should check in regularly with their research committees or faculty sponsors.

Additionally, we strongly encourage all students to check SPIRE to make sure that the information it tracks about them is correct, including their anticipated dates of graduation.