With spring break nearly upon us, below is information you may want to discuss with your student over the next week.

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

Commonwealth Honors College Fast Fact

Commonwealth Honors College and the Massachusetts System of Public Higher Education have been co-sponsoring the Massachusetts Statewide Undergraduate Research Conference for 19 years. This event features undergraduate students from campuses across Massachusetts giving poster and oral presentations from a wide range of academic disciplines throughout the day. This year's event takes place on April 26. Click here to learn more!

Honors Students Learn About the New Residential Community

The UMass Amherst Office of Residential Life and Commonwealth Honors College held three information sessions for returning Commonwealth Honors College students in February to present information on the process of applying for housing in the Commonwealth Honors College Residential Community next year.

Approximately 450 honors students attended the three sessions, which were held in the campus center auditorium. Staff from the UMass Amherst Office of Residential Life and Commonwealth Honors College presented information about the residential experience, room options, amenities, eligibility, and costs at the new buildings. A handout was provided with this information, including key dates in
the Fall 2013 online room selection process. After their presentation, staff members fielded questions from the students.

The first of its kind at UMass Amherst, the Commonwealth Honors College Residential Community (CHCRC) sits in the heart of campus, close to classrooms, the main library, and the Recreation Center. CHCRC creates a permanent place for honors students to call home and for all of the campus to enjoy. With space for 1,500 residents, CHCRC is designed to accommodate all first-year honors students and offer suites and apartments for others in the college. CHCRC will open in the fall of 2013. Students living in the multi-year halls are expected to move in on Sunday, September 1, 2013.

For more information, please visit the UMass Amherst Office of Residential Life's comprehensive information page on the new residential community or call 413-545-2100.

You're Invited: UMass Amherst Parent and Family Council Meeting

Looking for a reason to visit your student this spring at UMass Amherst? Attend our spring Parent and Family Council Meeting and then spend the afternoon with your student!

The spring Parent and Family Council Meeting will be held Saturday, April 6 at 11:30am on the first floor of Memorial Hall (next to the Old Chapel). This meeting is open to all parents, however, spots tend to fill up quickly, so RSVPs are required.

Enjoy a complimentary lunch and the opportunity to meet other UMass Amherst
parents as you enjoy guest speaker Meredith Feltus, Director of Outreach and External Relations at Commonwealth Honors College.

Meredith will provide an overview of the Commonwealth Honors College Residential Community, which will open this fall. Learn about the advantages the new community will provide to Commonwealth Honors College students, as well as the benefits it will have on the campus as a whole!

To reserve your spot, RSVP to Stephanie Flaherty at stephanief@admin.umass.edu or 413-545-1466.

**Did you know? UMass Amherst is turning 150!**

2013 marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of UMass Amherst. The campus is celebrating this spring with a full roster of events from April 26 - April 29. Commonwealth Honors College events are included in the festivities. Highlighted activities include:

- The 19th Annual Massachusetts Statewide Undergraduate Research Conference
- Commonwealth Honors College Scholarship Awards Dinner
- The inauguration of UMass Amherst Chancellor Kumble Subbaswamy
- The UMass Amherst Founders Day Campus Cookout

Visit the new sesquicentennial [website](#) for information on events, photos from the archives, a history of the campus, and much more! We hope you can join your student on campus to take part in the festivities.

**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 Development Fund. Thank you!