Someday soon, a doctor may be able to look at your genetic code and prescribe a personalized treatment for your illness. Developments like these are possible because of emerging genomics research, according to Courtney Babbitt, Assistant Professor and Commonwealth Honors College Professor in Biology. On October 7, Babbitt presented "The Unfolding Genomics Revolution" to a crowd of students in the Student Union Ballroom. Read more...

At this year's Family Weekend reception on October 3, Dean Gretchen H. Gerzina interviewed two students and two faculty members about their experiences within the honors community and how they have participated in the various opportunities in Commonwealth Honors College. Read more...

Commonwealth Honors College now offers students the opportunity to work one-on-one with an experienced writing coach. The writing coach assists with process, editing, structure, and style on papers and writing assignments from any course or on sections of the Honors Thesis. Students can schedule a 30-minute appointment in advance or drop in for a 15-minute appointment available on a first-come, first-served basis. Read more...

First-Year Students
Is your student unsure of what their CHC requirements are and what they have left to complete? They can track their own progress towards requirement completion on the Academic Requirements Report (ARR) in SPIRE.

**Sophomores**

Students should be planning to finish the General Studies portion of the curriculum by the end of sophomore year and moving into the second part of the curriculum, Advanced Scholarship. Encourage your student to see an advisor to discuss which of the Advanced Scholarship options - [Departmental Honors](#) or [Multidisciplinary Honors](#) - is right for them.

**Juniors**

Planning prior to going away is critical for students who are studying abroad. Students should meet with advisors to develop a plan for completing remaining course requirements on time. If doing an Honors Thesis or Project, students should approach faculty members about sponsoring their Honors Thesis or Project.

**Seniors**

Is your student doing Departmental Honors but just hasn't gone through the steps of getting approval from the [Honors Program Director](#)? This should be done to ensure that the student's credentials are correct and are included on the diploma/transcript.

**SUPPORT HONORS**

Making higher education accessible, affordable, and open to deserving students is part of UMass Amherst's original land-grant mission. You can help make certain that promising students can continue to come to UMass Amherst regardless of their family's financial means by supporting the Community Scholarship Program. Commonwealth Honors College is encouraging parents to contribute to the Community Scholarship fund for students accepted to Commonwealth Honors College.

The Community Scholarship [Program](#), launched in 2014, will help ensure that the doors to an excellent education remain open and within reach for UMass Amherst students. Community Scholarships benefit students with demonstrated financial need with preference for either first-generation college students or those who are underrepresented on the UMass Amherst campus. These scholarships will ease the financial burden on families, enable students to remain focused on progress toward their degrees, and open up career choices including public service and entrepreneurship.

Please make your gift today. Thank you!