We welcome your student back to campus for the spring semester! Here is the latest news from Commonwealth Honors College.

Daniel Gordon, Ph.D.
Interim Dean, Commonwealth Honors College

Commonwealth Honors College Fast Fact

The results of the latest Commonwealth Honors College Alumni Survey will be published in the coming month. The publication will be posted to the Commonwealth Honors College website.

Spring Scholarships Deadline

The application deadline for spring Commonwealth Honors College scholarships is approaching fast. February 28, 2014 is the deadline for many applications. We encourage students to double-check the due date on the scholarships they are interested in by clicking here.

In addition to the scholarships we offer in the College, the Commonwealth Honors College website also provides links to scholarship opportunities offered by other schools and colleges on the UMass Amherst campus, as well as scholarships offered by the University of Massachusetts President's Office.

Networking Opportunities and Career Explorations Help Students Plan for What's Next

This semester, Commonwealth Honors College is offering students a wide range of
events designed to help them plan for life after UMass Amherst. Programs range from business attire to how to use professional social networking sites like LinkedIn to opportunities for students to meet honors alumni working in their fields of interest.

On February 3, Commonwealth Honors College teamed up with the Career Services Office and the Center for Multicultural Advancement and Student Success to present a career fashion show to instruct students on appropriate business attire for different occasions. A representative from Macy's clarified the differences between business attire, business casual, and interview attire. Student models showed examples of outfits provided by Marshall's and T.J. Maxx in Hadley.

On March 26 a representative from the Career Services Office will provide training on how to use LinkedIn, a social networking platform for professional connections. Students will learn about why LinkedIn is important, how to build an effective profile, and how to use LinkedIn when searching for internships and jobs. Once students attend the training, we encourage them to join the new Commonwealth Honors College LinkedIn group.

Networking opportunities in the spring semester begin on March 20 during Spring Break at an alumni-student networking night in Boston. Commonwealth Honors College students and all honors alumni in the Boston area are invited to gather at Cafeteria Boston (279a Newbury Street, Boston) to make connections and enjoy refreshments. Click here to read more about the event.

On April 2, Commonwealth Honors College, the department of political science and the Pre-Law Advising office will bring alumni attorneys to campus to speak with students interested in law careers at Meet the Law. This event is one of the most popular events on campus, and brings together students and alumni in a fun, speed-dating type format.

On April 3, Commonwealth Honors College will partner with the College of Natural Sciences, the School of Public Health and Health Sciences, and the UMass Amherst Pre-Medical Society to host the Pre-Health Sciences Networking Dinner. This event brings together alumni healthcare professionals, UMass Amherst faculty, and students interested in healthcare careers to network over dinner. This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Christopher Lathan '90 from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.
Information on these events, and other offerings this semester can be found on the Commonwealth Honors College events calendar. For additional career preparation, we encourage students to visit the UMass Amherst Career Services Office. For information on the programs they offer, click here.

**Save the Date: Statewide Undergraduate Research Conference**

Undergraduates from across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will convene at the UMass Amherst Campus Center Auditorium on Friday, April 25 to present their research at the 20th annual Statewide Undergraduate Research Conference. This event showcases the range of research being conducted by undergraduate students in state colleges and universities across Massachusetts, and is well-represented by Commonwealth Honors College students. The keynote speaker at this year's conference will be alumnus Dr. Paul K. Williamson '74, Senior Director of Research and Development for Janssen R&D, part of the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies.

For more information on this event, please click here.

**Make a Difference by Supporting Commonwealth Honors College**

Please consider making a gift to the Commonwealth Honors College. There are many ways parents can support the college with their gifts:

- Contributions to the [Parents' Student Development Fund](#) support programs for Commonwealth Honors College, such as [Pizza & Prof Nights](#) and [Weekly Wednesday Workshops](#), that greatly enhance the Honors experience.

- Gifts to the Commonwealth Honors College [Residential Community](#) will build honors for the future in UMass Amherst's only living/learning community.

- Unrestricted gifts to Commonwealth Honors College allow the College to continue offering scholarships, innovative courses, advising, and more.

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
Advising Tips From the Assistant Dean

Juniors

- Juniors should now be preparing to register for their choice of Honors Thesis or Project in April.

- Students who elect to pursue and "Independent Thesis or Project" will need to secure the chair of their research guidance committee by this time as well. The chair of this committee must be a UMass faculty member or occasionally a Five College faculty member from the student's field of research. The second committee member, often chosen early in the senior year, should also be a UMass faculty member. With permission of the research chair the second member may be a professional from the student's field of research.

- Departmental Honors students are encouraged to speak to all the Honors Program Directors of their major about their thesis or project plans. All students are instructed 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 Project may be found by clicking [here](#).

Seniors

- We ask all seniors to check in with Commonwealth Honors College Advisors about thesis or project manuscript [guidelines](#). They may find formatting and submission information [here](#) and [here](#).

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

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Commonwealth Honors College
301 Commonwealth Honors College, 157 Commonwealth Ave, UMass Amherst, Amherst, MA 01003
413-577-0149 or alumni@honors.umass.edu

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