We welcome your student to campus for another year! Below please find recent news from Commonwealth Honors College.

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

Commonwealth Honors College Fast Fact

Did you know that Commonwealth Honors College is now on twitter? Follow us here.

Residential Community Open and Serving Students

The Commonwealth Honors College Residential Community is open and now serving students! On Friday, August 30, first-year Commonwealth Honors College students moved into the residential halls in the completed Commonwealth Honors College Residential Community. Upper-division students followed over the weekend of August 31 - September 1.

On September 3, the college welcomed the campus community to an afternoon Sweet Tooth Social, featuring treats such as ice cream, cupcakes, and a chocolate fountain. Honors students answered questions and led group tours of the community to interested guests. To see a photo gallery of move-in weekend and
Commonwealth Honors College staff and Residential Life staff serve students needs through advising, programs, activities and more. Please visit the Commonwealth Honors College website for our calendar or events, advising information and more.

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. This residential community will create integral links among academic, social, and residential life. All staff will work together to promote a safe, caring, and inclusive community.

In Memoriam: A Leader, Lost

The excitement of students moving into the CHCRC was tempered by the somber news of the passing of Commonwealth Honors College Dean Priscilla M. Clarkson. On August 25 she passed away peacefully at her home in Leverett, MA after a long battle with breast cancer.

A triple-alumna of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Clarkson earned an undergraduate degree in zoology in 1969, a master's degree in marine science in 1973 and a Ph.D. in human movement/exercise science in 1977. She was a professor of kinesiology.

In her 36-year career at UMass Amherst, Clarkson rose to the top ranks in her field, authoring more than 200 scientific publication and becoming a fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine. She founded and ran the Muscle Biology and Imaging Lab at UMass Amherst and was well known for her work in muscle function and dysfunction. She was appointed Dean of Commonwealth Honors College in 2006. The campus awarded her teh Chancellor's Medal in 1997 and the university named her a Distinguished Professor in 2008.

She leaves behind her husband, Ronald Pipkin, professor emeritus of legal studies at UMass Amherst, her mother, Mary Massei, and her brother Edward (Jay) Massei, Jr. of Millbury, MA. Click here and here to read more about her life and accomplishments. Gifts in her memory may be made to the Commonwealth
Family Weekend to Feature Reception at CHCRC

We hope you will join us for UMass Amherst Family Weekend from October 4 to October 6. The College invites all honors students and their families to attend our annual reception on Saturday, October 5 at 1:00pm. Meet acting dean Daniel Gordon and other Commonwealth Honors College staff in the events hall in the new Commonwealth Honors College Residential Community. Refreshments will be served.

Following the reception, honors students will be conducting brief tours of the residential community for any interested families attending family weekend. For a complete schedule of events and activities taking place during UMass Amherst's Family Weekend, 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 phone at 866-450-UMASS (866-450-8627). Thank you!

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