September 2016  Parent Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

The start of an academic year marks a season rich with possibilities. New opportunities, in the form of courses, clubs, friendships, and more have already greeted our incoming first-year students. Members of the Commonwealth Honors College class of 2020, some 600 strong, come to us from 23 states and 9 countries, bringing with them the diverse perspectives that make our community such an engaging learning environment.

Among the new opportunities for all of our students is the honors seminar, "Ideas That Change the World," which now includes texts from W.E.B. Du Bois. Using the W.E.B. Du Bois Center at our campus library, students will visit archives and learn how to work with source documents as part of scholarly research. The college is also developing a new junior year course to be offered next semester.

Even with these new academic opportunities on the horizon, support structure for students - from advising to co-curricular programs - remains firmly in place. The writing coach has returned to assist students one on one, popular Pizza & Prof nights will continue to introduce students to professors' research, and Wednesday Workshops will keep our students connected to opportunities and resources across campus.

All of us at Commonwealth Honors College are excited to explore the possibilities that lie before us and our students this year. Stay connected through our website and social media to join us on our journey.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
Haley Schilling '17 is the first UMass Amherst student to be awarded a prestigious Beinecke Scholarship. The scholarship supports highly motivated college juniors pursuing graduate study in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Schilling is majoring in philosophy and mathematics and worked with the Office of National Scholarship Advisement to apply for the scholarship. Read more...

COLLEGE NEWS

All honors families are invited to join Commonwealth Honors College for our program during the campus-wide Family Weekend. On Saturday, October 22, Commonwealth Honors College Dean Gretchen Gerzina will interview two students, a faculty member and CHC program director to highlight the many opportunities available through Commonwealth Honors College. Read more...

SUPPORT HONORS

When we come together it is amazing what we can accomplish. Gifts to Commonwealth Honors College are used for scholarships that support an economically diverse student body, for underwriting honors research theses and projects that are a key component of the honors curriculum, and for program offerings that inspire students by connecting them to faculty, visiting lecturers and campus resources.

The generosity of parents like you means that we can continue to provide these enriching opportunities for our students. Make your gift today!

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