Student Experiences:

Many of you will find that your student spends a lot of time sleeping, particularly at the beginning of the break, preparing gifts for family and friends, and spending needed time to finish coursework and upcoming holidays. This can induce stress as well, however. Students are torn between making plans for classes and some of the normalcy of family holiday traditions. The combination of finals and December brings a mix of anxiety about finals and excitement about holidays and break. While this is challenging, please know that we are here to support your student. Know when to turn to the professionals. Discuss the resources available and empower your student to think about their plans, rather than misuse substances. Learn more at TrueRemove®.

Support Your Student:

The Office of Student Conduct would like to share a few interesting and thought-provoking books that potentially qualify for additional institutional and need-based aid opportunities. If your student encounters any issues selecting your grading option, please encourage them to contact the Office of Parent and Family Relations at 610-436-3419. Faculty-awarded grades will be visible in the selection tool at 4 pm on Wednesday, December 16, 2020. You can also find the Fall 2020 Multi-Year Planning Calendar and the 2021 Academic Year Alternative Grading Policy at the following links: myWCU training website, Financial Aid website, Temporary COVID 19 Merit Aid Policy.

FINANCIAL AID UPDATES

The Alternative Grading Policy offers two available grading options for the 2020-2021 academic year in response to COVID-19. The Alternative Grading Policy offers two available grading options for students with the option to choose from either of two possible grading systems: “Pass/No Credit” or “Alternate Grade.” The Office of Parent and Family Relations can provide more details about the grading options and answers to frequently asked questions. Check the Office of Parent and Family Relations website for more information.

STUDY DRUGS & GEN-KX

Study drugs are legal stimulants prescribed to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Some students may misuse study drugs to improve their concentration and academic performance; however, study drugs have no significant positive impact on GPA. Many of these drugs are misused by students who believe they will help them with their academic accomplishments. Please encourage your student to avoid these drugs and seek help if they have a problem with substance misuse.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, your student may have experienced a heavier course load, countless assignments, and disappointment. As it is usually Boyd’s day off, the Friday after Thanksgiving, Boyd partnered with the Office of Parent and Family Relations to deliver 7,000 gift bags to students in residence halls. These gift bags contained non-perishable food, fresh fruit, and cold-weather gear. The gift bags were distributed on Friday, November 27, 2020.

Checks should be made out to WCU Foundation. In the memo line, please note: Resource Pantry assistance. If you are able to help, please make a donation via the pantry@wcupa.edu. Please mail a check to West Chester University Foundation, 202 Carter Drive, West Chester, PA 19382.

This has been a difficult year for everyone, and for the underserved members of our campus doubly so. To address this issue, the Ram Fam gave over 20,000 meals to students who need food assistance. The students arrived early and worked very hard to sort and pack hundreds of chilly bags.

On the Thursday before Thanksgiving, members of the campus community masked up and gathered in two shifts in Sykes Student Union to sort and pack groceries, toiletries, and cold-weather gear for homeless and foster youth.

Ram Fam Reunions:

As always, please be in touch if you have any questions or concerns. I am more than happy to assist when needed.

Lexie McCarthy, Director
Office of Parent and Family Relations

Greetings Ram Fam!

It is my hope that this newsletter finds you and your families safe and well. As your students head into exams next week, we are nearing the final stretch. Congratulations to you and your students for nearly completing this very unique semester. It is finally time to rest, recharge, reflect on accomplishments.

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