Welcome to Panther Points, our newsletter for first-year parents at Pitt-Bradford. Here you can find information about upcoming events, campus services offered throughout the semester and a few monthly tips for parents with college students. We'd like you to feel comfortable using this newsletter as a snapshot of what you and your student may be experiencing throughout the semester. Hopefully, we can help bridge the gap between parent-student communications at Pitt-Bradford.

**MAY**

Parent Points tips for Pitt-Bradford parents and students:

- **PLAN AHEAD**
  - Tell your student to grab a copy of his or her major and/or minor curriculum guide from the Academic Advising Center in the Hanley Library 218. Let your student know there are 2-year and 4-year suggested plans for each major and minor in the AAC. These guides were created by professors and are intended to help students navigate through each semester with ease.

- **READ THE FINE PRINT**
  - Make sure your student is mindful of what courses they need to take and when they will be offered. If he or she is having trouble with this remind them to stop by and speak with an academic advisor or to check their degree progress report online. Students can access their degree progress report by heading to the Student Center tab on my.pitt.edu.

- **RECONSIDER PART-TIME/REDUCED LOADS**
  - Some students decide to take lighter courses throughout the beginning of their college career. This method can be helpful to alleviate stress for a short-term period, but students should not solely rely on this method. When students reduce their workload in the beginning it can lead to a heavier workload at a later date. Remind your student to be as strategic as possible when it comes to organizing his or her schedule.

**April 2017**

**DATES**

- **April 8** Fall term open enrollment begins
- **April 11** Visit from young adult author, Sarah Dessin
- **April 19** Vocal Arts Ensemble Concert
- **April 21** Last day of classes
- **April 24** Book Buyback 11:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- **April 25-28** Book Buyback 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- **April 24-28** Final Week
- **April 28** Spring term ends
- **April 30** Commencement
- **April 30** Nursing Pinning Ceremony
- **May 6** Dedication and opening of the Marilyn Home Museum and Exhibition Center

**TIPS ON HOW TO FINISH COLLEGE IN 4 YEARS OR LESS!**

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**SEMESTER-END TIPS**

1. **REVIEW ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES**
   - Make sure your student has reviewed their syllabus to know exactly what needs to be turned in during the final weeks of the semester. Also remind him or her to meet with their teachers if there are any discrepancies in regards to their grades.

2. **SELL/RETURN TEXTBOOKS**
   - The Panther Shop book buyback is April 24-28 during finals week. Make sure your student deposers to sell books early or they could miss out on a buyback deal. Remind your student to also stay alert of when book rentals need to be returned to avoid potential late fees.

3. **REGISTER FOR NEXT SEMESTER**
   - If your student has not registered for classes yet, let them know that they should contact their advisor to do so. He or she must make sure that all holds are taken off of their account. Also remind them that they will not be able to secure housing until they have properly registered.

4. **COMPLETE HOUSING REQUEST**
   - Remind your student that they must pay their housing deposit before they can reserve a space on campus. He or she plans to remain on campus make sure they contact housing.

Summer 2017 is officially here, so it is time to kickback and relax! Both you and your student should congratulate yourselves on a job-well done. See you next fall!