

SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE



Springfield College **CONNECT**

News and Happenings from Alden Street

Volume 1, Issue 1 • September 23, 2021

This newsletter is published by the Division of Student Affairs as a communication tool for our parents and families to stay informed.

Welcome from the Vice President for Student Affairs Slandie Dieujuste (pronounced “Dah-Juice”), PhD

Dear Parents and Families:

Welcome to a new year at Springfield College! This community would not be what it is without our amazing students and your support of them. It's been a tough year and a half. Many of us have dealt with unimaginable losses and pain. We make space for that and acknowledge it. However, to paraphrase our wonderful president, Dr. Mary-Beth Cooper, we are moving ahead. We are choosing hope rather than fear. Our timeless Humanics mission demands that we continue to go forth boldly and lead in service.

As I mentioned to the Class of 2025 at New Student Convocation, Springfield College is home. It is a place of care, of growth, and of service. Our students' contributions and legacy will continue to greatly enrich this community that they call home.

Our goal is to partner with you to make sure that our students have a positive Springfield College experience. We hope that this parent and families e-newsletter will strengthen our relationship. Hopefully, it will help you become familiar with the different programs and resources we offer and empower you to comfortably refer students to them and to us.

We are always a phone call or email away. Take care.





Welcome Week

Welcome week was a huge success! After a long year of being virtual, students enjoyed the opportunity to engage face to face with their peers. The Office of Student Activities staff will continue to provide week and weekend programming throughout the semester. In addition, students will be able to enjoy a food truck every

Saturday night in front of the Flynn Campus Union from 8-10 p.m.

COVID Updates

As of Sept. 21, the vaccination rate for undergraduate students is at 93 percent, 89 percent for graduate students, and 96 percent for employees. Our hope is that this high vaccination rate and our established COVID protocols will allow us to have a safe and as normal as possible academic year. Please visit springfield.edu/covid for up-to-date COVID-19-related information.



Housing and Residence Life News

We are very excited to have our new and returning students living in campus housing. The residence halls provide students an opportunity for self-discovery, to

develop new skills, such as respecting a community, and to make lifelong friends. The residence halls are staffed with full-time and graduate community directors as well as a resident assistant (RA) on each floor or wing. RAs are sophomore, junior, or senior level students who serve as mentors and support for residents in their respective buildings.

So, what's new for fall semester?

- New washers and dryers have been installed in all residence halls.
- We “cut the cable cord” and have migrated to the Xfinity IPTV service in all residence halls. This allows students to stream even while off campus.
- New type of mattresses (firm one side/softer on other side) have been introduced to Abbey-Appleton Hall.
- Gulick Hall has a new ordering system and signage.
- All lounges and hall kitchens are open again and accessible for the fall semester.
- New vending machines are being installed.

If you have questions or need more information, contact reslife@springfield.edu or call (413) 748-3102.

Harvest Table: Exciting Changes to Dining Plans

Our Harvest Table Culinary Group staff was hard at work this past summer, preparing to welcome student guests back to campus and give them a true Harvest Table dining experience. We reinvented our meal plans to provide guests with more flexibility and value for their money. The two meal plan options available to underclass guests allow them “all access” to The Table at Cheney Hall, our all-you-care-to-eat dining hall. One standout addition is the installation of a sustainable hydroponic farming system, which allows our culinary team to grow their own greens and herbs. We also added Tractor Beverages, the popular organic, non-GMO juices, featuring all-natural ingredients in unique flavors like mandarin cardamom and stone fruit.

We know Springfield College students are busier than ever and we want to be sure they never miss a meal. This year we introduced a sustainable to-go meal program in which guests on meal plans receive a reusable green container to be filled with their choice of food from Cheney. Guests return their used containers, which will be cleaned and sanitized, and they can swipe in for another container whenever they choose.

Pride's Place features not only a new name, but a whole new vibe and a brand-new feature called the “meal exchange.” A meal exchange, similar to a combo meal, allows guests to choose from a variety of meal options at Dunkin', Subway, Roasted, or La Sabrosa (restrictions apply). Underclass meal plans include either three or seven meal exchanges each week and can be used to purchase food at their favorite Pride's Place locations, in place of using dining dollars. Dining dollars may continue to be used as they have previously, but the flexibility of meal exchanges provide guests with more meal options within their plan. Meal exchanges, like all ordering in Pride's Place, is offered on our GET app to allow guests to pre-order food for pickup or can be done in-person.

Still have questions? You can reach out directly to Harvest Table staff at (413) 748-3205 or email scdining@springfield.edu.

The Counseling Center is Here for Your Student

As we start a new academic year, we want parents/guardians/family to know more about the Counseling Center in case our services are needed. The Counseling Center is a free, professional and confidential resource/service for our students to help them with their mental health. We don't bill insurance and there are no co-pays or hidden costs. If your student wants help, all they need to do is contact us and set up an appointment.

We are a professional office staffed by a combination of licensed mental health providers and advanced graduate students (under our supervision) who are specialists in collegiate mental health. The quality of care is as good as you will find with any therapist in the community.

As we abide by the state laws of Massachusetts, we keep all interactions with our students confidential, with the legal exceptions of imminent harm to self or others, and abuse to certain groups (children, elders). This means that students can talk openly with our counselors without anyone at Springfield College or outside the College knowing about our conversation. We can always hear from others who may be concerned about their student, but we can only listen and not give information (unless we have a release to have this conversation).

So, if your student is struggling with depression, anxiety, relationship issues, and/or many other mental health issues, please know we are here on campus so they can be successful in college and life. The Counseling Center is located on the main floor of Massasoit Hall and we can be reached at counselingcenter@springfield.edu or (413) 748-3345. For additional information, visit springfield.edu/counseling.

Upcoming Campus Flu Vaccination Clinics

The staff of the Springfield College Health Center, in conjunction with Walmart Pharmacy, will host a flu vaccination clinic Tuesday, Sept. 28 from 1-5 p.m. and Wednesday, Oct. 6 from 1-5 p.m. (dates and times subject to change) in the Testing Center at 239 Wilbraham Avenue. This event is open to all students, faculty, and staff. Most insurances will be accepted. Please bring your insurance card/information. The Health Center staff will also have flu vaccinations available for \$20 for anyone whose insurance doesn't cover it. Additional information will be emailed to the campus community.

Get to Know the Office of Multicultural Affairs



The Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA), under the leadership of the Division of Inclusion and Community Engagement, aims to cultivate and sustain a campus climate that is inclusive, student-centered, pluralistic, and safe. The five OMA pillars are: Academic achievement, cross-cultural competence, intergroup dialogue, leadership development, and social justice education.

OMA staff oversee the Cultural Connections Leadership Program. Several new and transfer students participated in this pre-orientation program where they engaged in conscious cross-cultural conversations with an emphasis on social justice, social change, and leadership. Several events are scheduled throughout the semester, including a BIPOC mental health panel on Oct. 4 at 6:30 p.m. with keynote speaker Yomaira Lopez Cruz, PhD, bilingual outpatient psychotherapist at Community Services Institute in Springfield, Mass.



Family Weekend 2021

We are very excited to welcome you to **Family Weekend**, scheduled for Sept. 24-25, 2021. At this time, registration is closed, but you may still join us for the fun. Please come to the Flynn Campus Union foyer upon your arrival to sign up for the weekend in person.



Information on Homecoming Weekend and Class of 2020 Graduation

The **Commencement ceremony for the Class of 2020** will be held on Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021, beginning at 9 a.m. in the Field House of the Wellness & Recreation Complex on the Springfield College campus.

Coupled with **Homecoming Weekend** (Sept. 30-Oct. 3), students can expect an opportunity to walk across a stage in their regalia; celebrate with faculty, family, and friends; and enjoy a reception hosted by President Mary-Beth Cooper and members of the Springfield College Alumni Council following the ceremony.

Campus Events and Activities

Interested in knowing about upcoming campus events? There's a **Google Calendar** you (or your student) can subscribe to. We hope that by having all the events in one place, it's easier to find out about and join in the activities. New events are being added on a regular basis. Students also will receive a weekly email blast on Sundays highlighting upcoming events. We encourage them to share that information with you.

About the Division of Student Affairs

The Division of Student Affairs aims to foster an engaging and inclusive co-curricular learning environment where students grow as leaders while exploring, understanding, and living the Humanics philosophy. The Division is comprised of the following offices and programs: Spiritual Life, Community Standards, Alcohol and Other Drug Education, Dean of Students, Undergraduate Student Orientation Programs, Career Center, Counseling Center, Housing and Residence Life, Student Activities and Campus Union, Campus Recreation, Center for Service and Leadership, Veterans and Military Services Center, and the Health Center.

Join the Springfield community online.

Get an inside look at what life is really like at Springfield College.



Springfield College is a smoke free/tobacco free campus.

Employment Opportunities

