Good afternoon CU Buff Parents!

Fall weather finally seems to have arrived! There’s snow on the mountains, high temperatures are in the 50’s and we’re actually getting some much needed precipitation.

I know it’s hard to believe, but we are also more than halfway through the fall semester! I suspect that many of you have received some “feedback” from your students regarding mid-terms and their academic progress thus far. If not, it’s probably a good idea to ask your student how things are going. As parents, your best source of information regarding your son or daughter’s academics is your student. Mid-term/interim grades are not available to parents even if your student has signed a Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) release. The FERPA release will only give you access to your student’s grades after the semester is complete. I know this is disappointing to many of you experiencing college as a parent for the first time, but this situation is not unique to CU. This is why I recommend “checking in” with your son or daughter.

If you sense your student needs some help on the academic front, I have several recommendations:

- There is free tutoring available to students living in the residence halls through Residence Life’s Academic Success and Achievement Program. Click here for more information.

- The Student Academic Success Center provides two types of
assistance: scheduled academic workshops and assistance finding professional tutors.

Every faculty member holds office hours. Encourage your student to pay their professor/instructor a visit. They can ask for help directly from the faculty member or ask if they have any recommendations for any other sources of help. At the very least, it will demonstrate your student's interest in/concern for their academic performance to the faculty member.

Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) can also provide academic support.

The bottom line: encourage your student to seek help now and not wait until the end of the semester. I know it can be a challenge to get your student to ask for help, but impress upon them the fact that seeking assistance is viewed positively, not negatively, and demonstrates a student's interest in and desire to succeed.

While I'm on the subject of academics, registration for the spring semester begins in November. Now is the time for your student to seek an appointment with their academic advisor if they have questions about what courses to take next semester!

Last week, Chancellor Phil DiStefano, Provost Russ Moore, and Senior Vice Chancellor and CFO Kelly Fox participated in a “new look” State of the Campus event. Instead of a prepared speech, the campus leaders answered questions from CU-Boulder faculty, staff, and students. Click here to read more and here to watch the entire event.

GREAT NEWS! CU-Boulder was recently rated number 46 out of 750 universities worldwide, according to new rankings from U.S. News & World Report! Click here to read more.

Here are a few “quick tips” to ponder:

Wardenburg Health Services is offering FREE flu shots to all CU-Boulder students through November 21st. For details click here.

Fall/Thanksgiving Break is just around the corner—23 through 27 November. The residence halls stay open during Fall/Thanksgiving Break, but dining is limited. Click here for a dining calendar.
Winter Break isn’t far behind—18 December through 11 January. The residence halls close during Winter Break—from 1:00 p.m. on Friday, 18 December until 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 6th. Students must vacate the residence halls within 24 hours after the completion of their last final (students must request exceptions from the appropriate hall director). Students do NOT need to move their belongings out of the residence halls for the break.

Winter Commencement 2015 occurs at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 19th in the Coors Events/Conference Center. The majority of school/department recognition ceremonies occur on Friday, December 18th.

Are you looking for a great gift for your son or daughter? Are you a CU alum looking to etch your name in CU history? Legacy Bricks at Folsom Field offer an opportunity to forever recognize your son or daughter or your own alumni status at CU-Boulder. Personalize your own brick message or purchase a gift certificate for your favorite Buffs. Engraved bricks start at $125. Order before October 23rd to ensure keepsake items, such as brick replicas and display cases, are delivered before December Commencement or the upcoming holidays. Visit www.cubuffs.com/legacy to pick your perfect gift.

Finally, I want to recognize a significant anniversary…CU-Boulder’s Volunteer Resource Center (VRC) is 50 years old! The VRC has been engaging students in service since 1965, developing programs and events that promote volunteerism as a vehicle for the transformation of individuals and society. One VRC program, Alternative Breaks, is particularly noteworthy. Alternative Breaks sends teams of CU students to engage in community-based service projects during each college break, providing opportunities for students to learn about the problems faced by members of communities with whom they may otherwise have had little or no direct contact. Click here to learn more about Alternative Breaks. Don’t forget to tell your student about this wonderful program. If you’re inspired to make a gift and support Alternative Breaks, you have two choices: you can click here to donate to the CU Alternative Breaks Fund or you can support the Casey Feldman Alternative Breaks Memorial Endowment by clicking here.

I guess that’s all for now folks!
All the best…Barney, Caro and Lynn

George W. "Barney" Ballinger Colonel, (USAF, retired)
Assistant Vice Chancellor and Director of Parent Relations

Caro S.J. Henauw
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