Good afternoon folks!

I’m having a hard time coming to grips with the fact that the holiday season has arrived! It seems like just yesterday that the fall semester began! Obviously, everyone on campus; faculty, staff, and students; are looking forward to some vacation time next week. Students have the entire week off and faculty and staff will be off on Thursday and Friday as the University will be closed.

If you, your student, or other members of your family are traveling for the holiday, we wish all a good and safe journey. We hope that you get to spend some wonderful time together with your loved ones! If you’re cooking, we hope that your meal is fantastic. If you’re watching football, we hope that your team wins…except, of course, if you’re a Utah fan (the Buffs play the Utes on 11/28 at 12:30 MT on the Pac-12 Networks). If you’re focused on simply relaxing, we wish you great success! Happy Thanksgiving from Caro, Lynn, and me!

If you’re going to be with your student during Fall Break/Thanksgiving, I suspect you might have a conversation or two about their CU experience. One thing you might ask your son or daughter is if there is a CU faculty or staff member who has had a particularly positive impact upon them. If they identify someone, please consider nominating that person for the CU Parents Association’s Marinus Smith Award. The award is designed to recognize the folks (faculty, staff, or coaches) that are making a positive difference in the lives of our students. Either you or your student can submit a nomination…it’s quick and easy and is accomplished on-line. We will honor all Marinus Smith Award winners during a ceremony and reception held on April 1st. **Click here** for more information or to complete a nomination.

Another topic that might come up with your student during the holiday break, especially if your son or daughter is a freshman, is where they might want to live next fall. It may seem a little early to start this conversation but it’s a “hot topic” with many students and in December I wouldn’t be surprised if you started receiving postcards and letters from realtors highlighting housing options and the Boulder real estate market. Consequently, I want to introduce you to a great CU resource in this area, **Off-Campus Housing and Neighborhood Relations** (OCHNR). Click **here** to
learn more about OCHNR and here to read an excellent article that they recently published to help you and your student navigate the off-campus housing challenge.

I have a couple of other “quick tips” to share with you:

If your student is planning to use the RTD-SkyRide to travel to DIA, you might suggest they do two things: board the SkyRide at least three (3) hours before their DIA flight departure time and check for potential weather or traffic issues that may delay transit times. For more information visit CU’s Parking and Transportation Services website by clicking here.

The International Student Guide (ISG) Program is accepting applications for 2016. ISG volunteers are responsible for welcoming and helping international students integrate into the CU-Boulder Community. In addition to the satisfaction of providing new international students invaluable assistance in transitioning at CU, volunteers have an opportunity to learn about and gain experience with other cultures. Applications are due on Monday, November 30th. To learn more about the International Student Guide Program click here. Here’s a link to the application to share with your student.

I guess that’s all for now folks! Again, we wish you and yours a very Happy Thanksgiving and if you can find a way to work it in a conversation with your student, please remind them that there are only two weeks of classes left after they return from the break/holiday and to “finish strong!”

All the best…Barney, Caro and Lynn

George W. "Barney" Ballinger
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Caro S.J. Henauw
Assistant Director of Parent Relations

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BUFF OpenForum

Sexual Misconduct on The College Campus: The CU-Boulder Approach

Wednesday, November 18, 6:30-8 pm in Old Main Chapel
live telecast: https://livestream.com/cubouldercmci/events/4481310

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