



*Celebrating 150 years  
of academic excellence  
and civility*

# FAMILIES MATTER

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE  
PARENTS AND FAMILIES ORGANIZATION  
AT EDINBORO UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

[parents@edinboro.edu](mailto:parents@edinboro.edu)  
[www.edinboro.edu/cwis/studaff/recreation/pfo/home.html](http://www.edinboro.edu/cwis/studaff/recreation/pfo/home.html)

Dear Edinboro Families:

We are ready to embark upon another exciting semester at Edinboro University and the second half of our yearlong Sesquicentennial Celebration. The Spring Semester is a time of beginnings and renewal as we return to campus following a busy and, I also hope, relaxing holiday season. The start of this semester is also a perfect opportunity for me to thank you – the families of our students – for your support of them and for doing all those things you do to allow them to be successful students.

Spring Semester at Edinboro University is always one of the most enriching times of the academic year. And now, with our Sesquicentennial observance in full swing, I can't help but be doubly excited about our celebration of a variety of important cultural events, most of which are free and open to the public.

Here are just several of the great events you'll be hearing more about in the next few weeks: SnowFest, February 11-17; our Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Luncheon on February 2; and the annual Frank G. Pogue Honors Scholarship Luncheon in March. I'll tell you all about the luncheon's very special keynote speaker in a later update.

The Spring Semester is also a time when we especially embrace and celebrate civility and diversity through such events as Black History Month in February, Women's History Month in March, Holocaust Remembrance Weeks in March and April, and Disability Awareness Day and Arts Week in April.

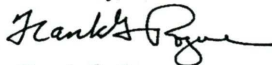
To launch the Spring Semester on an appropriate Sesquicentennial note, we've planned an extraordinary rededication of Academy Hall on January 18. Academy Hall is the nation's oldest former Normal School building in continuous use for educational purposes. Constructed in 1857 in the Italian Renaissance style, our first campus building recently underwent a \$2.4 million renovation and now sparkles inside and out. Academy Hall continues to fulfill Edinboro's academic mission begun 150 years ago as it now houses our Admissions Office and a new Welcome Center. Academy Hall allows us to reconnect with our roots and heritage as we look toward another 150 years of success. I hope you'll all take the opportunity to stop by Academy Hall during your next campus visit.

As the Spring Semester begins, it allows us to again appreciate one of the wonderful things about life in northwestern Pennsylvania: The dramatic change of seasons we experience. Each season is unique, each beautiful in its own way. Edinboro during winter is well known for having one of the highest annual snowfall amounts in Pennsylvania. While that can bring smiles to the faces of winter sports and nature enthusiasts, it also means we must be especially vigilant for severe weather warnings and adverse traveling conditions. Although Edinboro students are accustomed to such wintertime weather, occasionally these conditions require us to cancel classes for short periods of time. To keep our students informed of class cancellations, we will update the University Hotline at 814-732-2676, and the University's web page at [www.edinboro.edu](http://www.edinboro.edu).

We encourage our students who commute to always exercise caution and good judgment regarding travel during severe weather and to allow for extra travel time during such conditions. The University offers its comprehensive Guide to Winter Weather Safety on our web page under "Campus Life" in the student links.

As we begin a new semester, I want to reconfirm for you Edinboro University's commitment to doing everything in its power to ensure the success of your student during his or her academic career. Together, through our Parents and Families Organization, we can make that goal of success a reality.

Sincerely,



Frank G. Pogue  
President

### WHAT IS THE PFO?

The Parents and Families Organization (PFO) was established to bridge the gap between the University and the families of our students. We believe that everyone can play a vital role in the success of our great University. Members of the Parents and Families Organization are goodwill ambassadors who inform other parents and family members about the strengths and needs of the students and the University. As a family member of an Edinboro University student, we consider you a member of the PFO.

The PFO is committed to your student's experience at Edinboro University. We believe an informed, supportive family plays an important role in a student's educational success and strongly encourage parents and families to get involved in activities that connect them with the University. Working with enrollment management and student affairs, the PFO provides valuable information on upcoming events, campus issues and University development.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact us at [parents@edinboro.edu](mailto:parents@edinboro.edu) or:

**Ms. Kimberly Kennedy**  
Director of Student Transitions  
(814) 732-2782  
[kennedy@edinboro.edu](mailto:kennedy@edinboro.edu)

**Ms. Marilyn Goellner**  
Director of Annual Fund & Stewardship  
(814) 732-1778  
[mgoellner@edinboro.edu](mailto:mgoellner@edinboro.edu)

**Mr. Daryl Parker**  
Assistant Director for Residence Life and Housing  
(814) 732-2818  
[dparker@edinboro.edu](mailto:dparker@edinboro.edu)

### PEER TUTORING AVAILABLE

The Dr. Gerald P. Jackson Department of Academic Support Services offers tutoring for all students. The peer tutors and faculty volunteers in the tutorial college work mostly one-on-one with tutees, providing academic support and expertise. They spend time working on academic problems that are unique to the tutee. Tutoring is free and is offered for a variety of subjects, including: Accounting, American Government, Anthropology, Art, Astronomy, Chemistry, Computer Science, Criminal Justice, Economics, English, Geosciences, History, Mathematics, Music, Philosophy, Physics, Politic Science, Praxis, Psychology, Russian, Social Work, Sociology, Spanish, and Study Skills.

Students may contact Dr. Armendia P. Dixon (814) 732-2218 or visit the website, keyword *tutoring*.

### TOP 5 WAYS ..... TO STAY CONNECTED to Edinboro University and support your student:

1. **Provide feedback and information** about your student's experiences to the PFO so that we are aware of current issues. Email [parents@edinboro.edu](mailto:parents@edinboro.edu) or call the on-campus liaisons with questions or concerns.
2. **Become familiar with** the University website ([www.edinboro.edu](http://www.edinboro.edu)) to learn how the University operates.



3. **Be an active partner** in the education of your student – If/when your student calls you or tells you about a problem or concern (with a roommate, a difficult class, making new friends, finding their "niche" on campus), help your family member realize that ALL students are working through one or more of these issues and help him/her take a step back and think about how to work through these issues on their own. There are many valuable resources on campus to assist your student.
4. **Encourage your student's involvement** on campus – Satisfaction with the University experience is linked to finding ways to get involved: joining a student organization, getting involved in the Student Government Association, participation in University-sponsored lectures and events, interacting with instructors and academic advisors, and volunteering at various sites on campus.
5. **Communicate** about the "tough" issues – Research has shown that when parents and families have conversations about important issues (such as alcohol/drug use, getting along with a roommate, being successful in the classroom, time management) DIRECTLY with their student, it has a positive impact on behavior. Encourage your student to use resources available on campus such as Counseling Services and to meet with their instructors during office hours.

### **SWEET SUCCESS: THE PARENTS FUND PHONATHON**

Every year, our students call more than 20,000 alumni, parents and friends to ask for financial contributions to Edinboro University. This extraordinary effort results in a significant source of funding for student scholarships and improvements in the quality of education offered at Edinboro University.

We offer special thanks to all parents and family members who provided a gift! We are pleased to announce that more than \$25,000 was pledged this fall to benefit the Culture and Arts Program. If you haven't yet paid your pledge or

would like to make a gift – it is not too late! You can make a secure gift online, keyword: *giving*. Thank you for your commitment to Edinboro University.

### **COLLEGE STUDENTS: BUDGETING IS HIP. IT'S COOL.**

Experience can be a dear teacher when it comes to overspending at college. Many students discover, at the most inconvenient and embarrassing times, that their expenses have exceeded their income – they are out of cash! The question is: What to do? Call home? Borrow from the roommate? Both are short-term solutions at best. A better solution is to design a budget using a worksheet for college spending and taking control of the cash flow.

There is probably no demographic that is in more need of a budget than the college student demographic. Budgeting certainly does not sound cool. If your student is continuously struggling with finances – you can help them create a student budget.

#### **Credit Cards and College Students**

Research indicates that undergraduates hold average credit card balances above \$3,000! College students have access to credit cards and while credit cards are useful when used appropriately, the temptation to overspend can lead to expenses that could destroy their budget as well as their financial independence. Students sometimes wisely use credit cards to pay for unexpected expenses such as car repairs or medical emergencies, with the full understanding that it costs money to borrow money if the credit card balance is not paid in full each month. Credit history begins when students establish credit in their own name and a student's credit rating follows them wherever they go; a bad credit rating can affect their ability to get a job or buy a car or house.

#### **College Budgeting 101**

The primary purpose of a budget is to design a realistic plan for spending limited financial resources. A student budget requires flexibility to adapt to the changing circumstances of college life. Essential steps in designing a budget are:

Identifying income sources – Income can include an allowance from home, take-home pay from student employment, savings allocated to college expenses, interest, dividends, gifts, grants, and scholarships.

List fixed and flexible expenses – Fixed expenses are exact amounts due on a specific date. Flexible expenses include money spent on wants and needs that are irregular in nature.

If expenses exceed income, identify ways to increase income or reduce expenses. This is not rocket science, but doing it right is terribly important to your student's economic well-being at college.

Peer pressure and conveniences such as automatic teller machines can play havoc with

student budgets, because ready cash makes it easy to buy things on a whim. A budget can help sidestep impulse spending. It puts the student in control of the decision to buy or not to buy, based on needs and available cash.

Your student's spending practices will have a significant effect on shaping his or her financial security, and a budget helps keep spending in tow. Effective use of a student budget will help your student gain a sense of independence that comes from being in control of personal financial affairs, whether they have "plenty of money" or are operating on a shoestring!

(sources: [bankrate.com](http://bankrate.com); [youneedabudget.com](http://youneedabudget.com), [in.gov.com](http://in.gov.com))

## AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE FOR STUDENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND SERVICES

The Office for Student Financial Support and Services will be conducting a series of Financial Aid Workshops in February and March to give students guidance in the financial aid renewal process for the 2007-2008 academic year. Other topics will include satisfactory academic progress and summer school cost and aid availability.

Listed below are the dates, times and locations for the Financial Aid workshops.

Sat., Feb. 3	12 noon-2 pm	Edinboro University, University Center Room 306 B&C
Mon., Feb. 5	6:30-8 pm	Edinboro University in Erie – Porreco Center, Room 7
Sat., Feb. 17	11:30 am-1:30 pm	Edinboro University in Erie – Porreco Center, Room 5
Thur., Feb. 22	6-7:30 pm	Edinboro University in Meadville
Wed., Feb. 28	4-6 pm	Edinboro University, University Center, Zahorchak Seminar Room
Sat., Mar. 3	10 am-12 noon	Edinboro University in Meadville
Wed., Mar. 7	4-6 pm	Edinboro University, University Center Room 306 B&C

**The preferred filing deadline for the 2007-2008 FAFSA is March 15.** The goal of these Financial Aid Workshops is to educate the students so that they are able to work with their parents in the completion of the financial aid forms, etc. This will be an opportunity to learn what changes have occurred and to get questions answered. Parents and families are asked to encourage their sons and daughters to attend one of the sessions.

Please feel free to contact the Student Financial Support and Services Office at: 814-732-5555, ext. 474, or toll-free at 888-611-2680 or via e-mail at [finaid@edinboro.edu](mailto:finaid@edinboro.edu) for additional information.

*Edinboro University is one of the 14 universities in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education*