

SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE



Springfield College **CONNECT**

News and Happenings from Alden Street

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This newsletter serves as a communication tool for our students, their families, and our campus community to stay informed. This is an important information platform for Springfield College to periodically share and exchange plans so that, together, we emerge strongly from the COVID-19 crisis.



A Message from Student Activities

Dear Students,

It is so nice to finally see campus life back at Springfield College. Although things are still different from the norm, the fact that we are able to all be in one place (socially distanced and masked, of course) is something to celebrate. In the cold months of winter, it is easy to stay in and avoid the outside world. In the spirit of our Embracing the Moment theme, the Division of Student Affairs staff is determined to provide as many activities for you to participate in—whether you are on campus as a residential

student, a commuter, or learning remotely—as possible.

For those on the campus this semester, you might have noticed the ice rink on the Administration Green. We are planning activities around this space, and offering open skate times, as weather permits. Don't own a pair of skates? That's okay! We have skates available for you to use for free. Simply bring your Springfield College ID with you to check out a pair. The rink hours will be shared through the Student Activities and Campus Recreation social media accounts, as well as on PrideNET.

We offer other on-campus activities, as well. Every Saturday, a food truck will serve up a variety of eats from 7-9 p.m. on the Administration Green. This grab-and-go program is free for students, so make sure you pick up your food while supplies last. With our Rent-a-Theatre program, you and a group of friends can choose a day to stream a movie on the big screen in Fuller Arts Center—candy included! For more information, reach out to Brianna “Kirk” Kirk at bkirk@springfield.edu. Lastly, at our Sip 'n Serve event, the Center for Service and Leadership staff will provide hot chocolate and service projects every Sunday in the Campus Union café from 6:30-7:30 p.m. No sign-ups are required so just stop on by.

COVID-19 has brought many challenges, but fear of missing out (FOMO) is significantly heightened. We continue to host virtual events so all can participate. This semester, we created a Google calendar specific to upcoming campus events at bit.ly/SCactivitiescalendar. If you would like your campus club or organization events/meetings to be added to the calendar, please email Julie Koivisto at jkoivisto@springfield.edu.

Although times may be difficult right now, we know that you will be able to rise above the challenges and come out of this experience strong. The feeling of Zoom fatigue and isolation can have a great impact on our mental health, so it is important now more than ever to lean on each other for support, and to embrace the little moments that bring us together.

The Office of Student Activities Team

Annie Warchol, Julie Koivisto, Jen Dutko, Karen Kisiel, Brianna Kirk, and Laura Cafaro



Unsung Heroes Making a Difference On and Off of the Campus

Spread throughout this issue, you will see some student faces and information about them. These are some of our true unsung heroes who have been named by their peers to be recognized for all the good they are doing to take care of each other on campus. When you see Shannan Fields, Emma Krish, Walker Randall, and Luther Wade, give them an air high-five or a round of applause.

Our goal is to search for and recognize students who go above and beyond to inspire and support their peers without needing the fame. If you know of anyone who deserves to be recognized, please fill out this form.

Name your Unsung Hero.

We will recognize other Unsung Heroes throughout the rest of this semester.

UNsung HERO SHANNAN FIELDS

Industrial/Organizational Psychology, Class of 2021, and Advertising and Research Manager in the Office of Communications

“Shannan participates in many activities outside of school requirements. She has been a mentor for me in my first year of graduate school. We are in the Springfield College Industrial/Organizational Psychology Consulting Group together and she brings so much to the table. She is knowledgeable in her field as well as an amazing leader. She goes above and beyond in all she does, and she truly deserves this award.”



Keep the Circle Small and Other COVID-19 Lessons

After a long semester break, we made it back to the campus. It is great to see the campus buzzing with energy once again. As everyone knows, we have a long semester ahead. And it will take all of us, each doing our part to get through this safely as an entire community. So, we ask and encourage you to do the following:

Keep Your Circle Small

Part of the reason we sheltered in place at the end of October was because we had run out of space in supported isolation and quarantine housing. We have dramatically increased the number of those spaces this semester, but one way to better ensure that we don't run out of space is for students to intentionally keep their in-person socialization circles small. It is one situation when we have five positive students and through contact tracing find that they each have four or five direct contacts. It is an entirely different situation if they have 18 to 20 direct contacts. If that happens enough in a short period of time, we will run out of spaces very quickly, and we don't want

that to happen. Students can help by choosing a small group of friends to socialize with in person; you can keep connected with a larger group virtually.

Be Vigilant

We know how challenging it is to wear masks all the time and to persistently try to maintain appropriate social distance. But these are the steps that, if done correctly and consistently, will help us get through this semester. Please remind and support each other in these efforts.

Stay on Campus

We know how tempting it is to head to off-campus places where protocols and restrictions are less enforced or not enforced at all. Please take advantage of the many programs and events scheduled throughout this month on campus.

Brighter days are ahead. The number of cases is decreasing in Massachusetts and across New England. The distribution of vaccines is accelerating. It is tempting to relax, but the finish line is still in the distance. We must stay the course. Do it for yourself, do it for each other. We will do it together!



UNsung HERO WALKER RANDALL

Class of 2022

“Walker deserves so much credit for all the hard work he has put in regarding his major, his work in the city of Springfield, and on our own campus. In addition to his immense schoolwork, Walker is constantly signing up for shifts working as an emergency medical technician in the city of Springfield where he works 12-hour shifts and then comes back to continue pursuing his passion for this line of work. Walker is one of the most hardworking people I know who embodies the true Humanics philosophy—and he deserves to be recognized for that more than anyone.”



Important Information on Housing Selection

It's already time to start thinking about housing for the 2021-22 academic year. Whether or not you've lived on the campus before, as a currently registered undergraduate student, you are eligible to take part in the housing selection process for next year. Living on the campus is a great way to stay close to all the action, maintain a short commute to classes and other campus resources, and stay connected with your peers and the campus community. That all comes with the added support of Residence Life student leaders and professional staff, should you need extra assistance.

The housing selection process occurs online through the **"My Housing"** tab on PrideNET. Be sure to **check your Springfield College email regularly** throughout the process for extensive details, as well your specific selection date and time information. You can begin the process by signing your housing contract online starting on Feb. 16. "Grouping" begins on March 3, while housing selection begins on March 12 and continues throughout the month. Look for more information to come on grouping via email and on PrideNET. To make sure you have all the information you need, plan to attend one of the **Zoom housing selection information sessions** on Feb. 23 and 24 at 7 and 8:30 p.m. An email with details and Zoom links will be sent later this week.

We are expanding our Gender Inclusive Housing program to include both apartment style and mid-year traditional areas, which include Alumni Hall, Abbey-Appleton Hall, International Hall, and Lakeside Hall. Students will be able to group with other students of any gender, both in a suite and/or in an individual room. We recognize that some students may be most comfortable rooming with someone of a different gender and support students who are exploring their own gender identity, identify outside of the binary, or identify as something other than the sex they were assigned at birth. Gender inclusive housing will be solely by choice. We will never randomly assign someone of a different gender to a suite that is currently all one gender.

Concerned about finding a roommate or need a couple more people to fill a suite? Check out the [Roommate Finder Facebook Group](#).

REMINDER: Check your email regularly throughout the process. We will send much more detailed information, including your individual or group selection date and time for any process you are eligible for. As always, please contact our office with any

questions at (413) 748-3102 or reslife@springfield.edu, or visit our new office in the lower level of Alumni Hall during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

UNSUNG HERO EMMA KRISH

Class of 2022

“Emma is the glue of every organization and club she is a part of. She is more reserved while she allows people to have their chance to lead and speak up, but her presence is strong and mood altering. She has the most impressive way of connecting with people, and she often is the one lifting others up.”



UNSUNG HERO LUTHER WADE

Class of 2022

“For almost a year now, I have seen Luther through social media and on campus have a powerful role in emphasizing the Black Lives Matter movement. Between playing a major role in the BLM march that was held on campus last fall and his continued effort dedicated to activism, it is clear he wants to leave a positive impression on his peers and inspire them each day. I am proud to call Luther my friend and I feel he is more than deserving to earn this distinction.”

Parents, if you'd like to be added to the COVID-19 mailing list, please send a message to studentaffairs@springfield.edu.

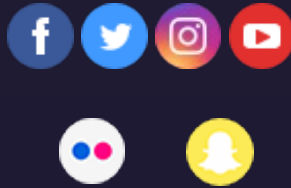
Check out other Springfield College Covid-19 updates.

If you have questions or comments, please contact the Office of Student Affairs staff at studentaffairs@springfield.edu.

Join the Springfield community online.

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

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Springfield College is a smoke free/tobacco free campus.

Employment Opportunities

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