



Your DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE

DECEMBER 2016 PARENTS' E-NEWSLETTER

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LATE NIGHT BREAKFAST, STRESS FEST AND THE END OF SEMESTER PARTY

Greetings from Hamline Campus, where the end of semester events are in full swing! Last night was our biannual **Late Night Breakfast** from 9-11 PM. This year was a “PJ’s and Pancakes” theme, with professors and administrators making and serving up comfort food to pajama-clad Pipers in preparation for finals. Students had a great time and showed their Piper Pride, enjoying music, dancing and prizes at this traditional Hamline event.

STRESS FEST was also held on Tuesday, December 13th. Another Hamline end-of-semester tradition, STRESS FEST falls on the last day of class before finals begin. Students who attended this semester’s event in Anderson Forum learned some tips on how to de-stress during finals (and in life in general), and kept their fingers busy making stress balls and learning to knit with the KnitWits (a Hamline knitting group).

And now it’s time to celebrate! The Hamline Programming Board’s biannual **End of Semester Party** will be held this afternoon from 1-3 PM. This always-popular event features free massages, decadent chocolates, live piano music, mugs for students to paint and DIY cocoa mix to take home for later or as gifts for friends. This semester’s End of Semester Party will also feature a free Build-A-Bear stuffed animal making activity, a tarot card reader, and a palm reader. As always, attendees will receive three raffle tickets to enter for several excellent prizes!

FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS AND WINTER BREAK: EXPECTATIONS

It’s been an entire semester since your student first came to Hamline! Below are a few thoughts about what parents can expect as their student returns home for the holidays:

- Know that your student is likely to need some time to recover from the stress of finals, so don’t be too surprised if what they really feel like doing for the first few days home is sleeping!
- Your student may have a strong desire to catch up with old high school friends or community members, in addition to spending time with their family members.
- Your student may have spent the past four+ months thinking of the Twin Cities as “home.” They are developing new friendships and trying on new ideas as they mature into adults, and once they return to their family homes they may discuss viewpoints or values that may be unfamiliar.
- It’s important to know that some students may express a desire to leave university after a difficult first semester. Parents can play a key role in helping their students make informed decisions about whether to stay at Hamline or to investigate other universities or opportunities.

Finally, know that the best way to ensure a successful holiday visit home is to remember to communicate expectations to your student. Remember, they have been used to living on their own and making their own decisions, and they may not recall or see the need to follow the rules they functioned under when they lived in your home. Be sure to remind them of your expectations regarding things like being notified of their location, acceptable hours to be out of the house, etc., but also remember to be open to discussion. Let your student know how much you care about them, and that they have your support both at home and while they are away at school. **For more information about helping your first year student through their first winter break back at home, visit <http://www.collegebound.net/content/article/college-winter-break-blues/19719/>.** And for a humorous take on one parent’s experience as a first semester “empty nester,” visit <https://anangryhum.com/2016/12/12/cramming-for-finals-is-how-i-roll/>.

RESIDENTIAL LIFE HALL CLOSURES AND MEAL PLAN DETAILS

Winter Break Housing for Residence Hall Students (December 21 – December 31): The Residential Life Office will provide housing over winter break **for students who apply by December 14 (today)**. A \$100.00 fee will be charged to your student's account for all or any portion of winter break, if they have applied. Students apply for winter break housing by logging into hamline.simplecampushousing.com and completing the winter break housing form. **Parents, please note: Only residents who apply for break housing will have access to their halls. Residents who did not apply for winter break housing will not have access to their building or room during the winter break period and should remove all items they may need.** If for any reason a resident needs access to their room during the winter break period a \$25.00 charge will be applied to their student account.

J-term Housing Information for Residence Hall Students: Spring semester's housing contract dates are January 1 through May 19. J-term classes begin on January 3. Students are allowed to live on campus during J-term even if they are not taking a J-term class. Students who are released from their housing contract and move off campus any time during spring semester will be charged for housing from January 1 to the day they officially check out with an RA. **Students who are withdrawing or graduating at the end of fall semester must check out prior to 5 pm on December 21 to avoid spring term housing and meal plan charges.** Please note: Housing credits are not issued to students who choose not to live on campus during J-term.

J-Term Meal Plan Information

If your student has any declining balance left on their meal plan after fall semester, it will carry over into their spring semester meal plan. Students' fall meal plans will be in effect until January 14, and spring term meal plans will begin on January 15. **Please note that the Bishop's Bistro will open for J-term on January 3.** Students do have the option to change their meal plan for spring semester. **The deadline for submitting a change form to the Dining Services office is February 15.**

WINTER BREAK PERMIT PARKING

Parents, please note: Permit parking rules will be enforced by Safety and Security during Winter Break. **If your student plans to leave their car at Hamline over break, they should contact Safety and Security at 651-523-2100 to coordinate where they will leave it.**

HOLIDAY SEASON and J-TERM DATES

A reminder that fall semester classes ended on December 13th, and that finals will run from December 15th—20th. **The University will be closed from Friday, December 23rd—Monday, January 2nd in observation of the holidays.**

For students who are registered for J-term, classes begin on **Tuesday, January 3rd**. J-term classes run through January 26th, with a holiday for Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 16th.

DID YOU KNOW?

The only United Methodist university in Minnesota, Hamline fosters a community ethic of **social justice and civic responsibility.**

