Dear Earth & Mineral Sciences (EMS) Undergraduate Student,

Welcome to the Fall 2013 semester and to the semester’s first edition of "EMS Announcements." We hope that you’ve had a satisfying, productive summer -- and that you’re arriving on campus with your mental and emotional "batteries" recharged, eager for the challenges and opportunities that the new academic year certainly will bring.

For those of you new to the college or new to the University Park campus, EMS Announcements is a compilation of academic announcements, EMS club meetings, scholarship and internship opportunities, and just about anything else that comes to our attention in the EMS Student Center (14 Deike Bldg.) that we believe might be useful information for you. Granted, not every item will matter to every EMS student. But we hope that you'll scan the announcements each week rather than summarily relegating them to the trash bin.

If you want more information about any given item (and no contact person is specified) you can call the EMS Student Center at 863-2751 or email us at spangler@ems.psu.edu. If your EMS organization is having a meeting/event and you’d like it announced in EMS Announcements, let us know (send an email by Friday morning). If you have received this message but are no longer pursuing an EMS major (and likely don't want this message in your in-box), just send an email to spangler@ems.psu.edu requesting removal from our listserv.

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ACADEMICS

New Student Orientation Meetings
Are you a student new to University Park -- either a freshman or an upper classman who has come to UP from one of Penn State’s other campuses? If so, we urge you to attend an orientation meeting on Sunday (yes, SUNDAY, the 25th).

Freshmen: your meeting begins at 1:00pm in 26 Hosler Bldg. (just off the Deike Bldg. Lobby). Many of you have already started to get to know each other from your recent TOTEMS experience. But this is the one opportunity for all of you to check each other out! There’s information we want to convey, people we want you to meet, and resources you need to be aware of. It’s a mandatory meeting, but we hope you’ll come enthusiastically!

(Note that there will be an involvement fair for all new freshmen, change of assignment and transfer students beginning at 11:30 am on the ground floor of Deike Building. You should have all received an email invitation.)

Change-of-Campus and Transfer Students: your meeting begins at 2:15pm in 22 Deike Bldg. Yes, we know many of you will just be arriving in town and moving into your apartments. But if you can make it, you too will receive important information about your college and life at University Park.

Your guide to Welcome week activities can be found here:
http://www.psu.edu/oue/change_of_campus_and_transfer_students.html

Other Orientation / Welcome Week Activities
University Park New Student Orientation information can be access at: http://www.psu.edu/oue/orientation.html
Please access http://www.welcomeweek.psu.edu/WelcomeWeek/UP/Fall.cfm for all Orientation/Welcome Week activities.

EMS Undergraduate Student Handbook
The new ’13-’14 edition of the always informative EMS Undergraduate Handbook is now available in the EMS Student Center in 14 Deike. If you are new to University Park and are unable to attend Sunday's EMS orientation meeting, please stop by to pick up a copy of this helpful guide -- full of important phone numbers, email addresses, web sites, and more! If you are a returning student you are also welcome to pick up a copy of this year's edition (as they last; the supply is limited). The new edition is available at http://www.ems.psu.edu/current_undergrad_students

Registration Tips
Still working on crafting your fall semester course schedule? Check out strategies to employ if a class you want is full, at http://dus.psu.edu/students/full_course.html And please check your course schedule to make sure that it reflects your true intentions. That course you meant to drop might still be on your schedule! Be certain!
ACADEMICS (CONTINUED)

Regular Drop/Add Deadline:
The last day to DROP a course from your Fall schedule and NOT have it count as a LATE DROP is Wednesday, September 4th at 11:59pm.

The add period extends eight hours beyond the end of the drop period. Students will be able to add courses on eLion during its operating hours. Following this period, students should follow the late add procedure.

If you have concerns about your schedule please contact either your faculty adviser or Jeff Warner, Stacy Davidson or Liz Agler here in the EMS Student Center (14 Deike).

Intent to Graduate:
The university makes no assumptions about when you'll graduate regardless of how many credits you've earned. If you intend to graduate in December (the ceremony is on Sat. December 21st) you must indicate your intent to graduate by accessing the eLion web site, https://elion.psu.edu/ no later than Sept. 9th. Also, if you haven't downloaded your degree audit from eLion, do so! Most minus signs, indicating unfulfilled requirements, need to disappear in order for you to graduate. See your adviser! Now is the time to avoid a nasty surprise (i.e. not being eligible to graduate!). For hopeful May 2014 graduates, make sure that every course you will need to graduate is either on your Fall schedule or is offered in the Spring (yes, the Spring 2014 course schedule has been posted). Many courses are Fall-only. If you're careless you could be forced to be here next Fall to complete all of your required courses. Again, see your adviser!!

Law School Admission Test (LSAT) Preparation Course
A Law School Admission Test (LSAT) Preparation Course will be offered on Sunday, September 8, and Sunday, September 15, 2013, at the Penn State University Park campus. The registration deadline for this course is Wednesday, September 4, at 5:00 p.m. The registration fee is $300.

The course is appropriate for upper-division students who are interested in attending law school. Attached is a registration form and information about the class. The syllabus is available at http://dus.psu.edu/prelaw/

EMS Poster Exhibition
Are you looking for an opportunity to get some CASH, to build your résumé, and to improve your communication skills? The Ryan Family Student Center is sponsoring the second annual EMS Undergraduate Poster Exhibition designed to help you accomplish the following specific goals:

➢ Learn how to summarize information and present it in a visually attractive manner;

➢ Gain more sophistication in your presentation skills by concisely and accurately explaining and defending your work;

➢ Demonstrate poise and mental agility before faculty and peers;
ACADEMICS (CONTINUED)

➢ Discuss your educational growth and maximize your networking opportunities;

➢ Become better prepared to participate in the spring University-wide Undergraduate Exhibition and develop a more complete EMSAGE application.

We encourage all EMS students to participate, including freshmen. This opportunity is NOT only for those doing laboratory research. Any experiential learning, creative activity, capstone projects, travel experiences, or educational experience relevant to the study of Earth and Mineral Sciences may serve as the subject of a poster. What you did this summer might provide just what you need to enter this poster competition.

Want to talk over some ideas? Make an appointment with your Giles Writer-In-Residence, Kimberly Del Bright (kdb9@psu.edu). You can also go to our website: http://www.ems.psu.edu/ugposterexhibit

And plan to come to a poster workshop on **October 9 in Room 8 Deike from 6 to 7 p.m.** Don’t delay. The RFSC will pick up the cost for printing for “early bird” submissions.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Are you interested in joining the most active Undergraduate Student Council on campus? Come out to the first meeting of the year for EMS Student Council this **Wednesday, August 28 at 6:00pm 112 Walker Building** and find out what sort of fun activities we have planned for the fall. Free food will be provided.

CLUB MEETINGS

ClubEM

One foggy morning while driving on the highway to work, you pass by bright lights and loud sirens. You watch as firefighters extinguish a blaze so that HazMat technicians can clean a sodium hydroxide spill. What could you do to help? Could you nowcast the weather? Analyze population risks with G.I.S.? Utilize computer programs and social media to re-route resources or evacuations? The Penn State Emergency Management Club will allow you the opportunity to pair your knowledge with the skills and strategy of emergency preparedness, operations, and response.

New to campus this Fall, ClubEM is a University Affiliate student organization that will partner with the Penn State Office of Emergency Management. This partnership will allow students to participate in Emergency Operations Center activations, create “Crisis Camps” for national disasters, and to receive official FEMA certificate-level trainings.

If you’d like to combine your College of EMS education with skills useful in emergencies, stop by our table at the College of EMS StuCo club fair on Sunday 8/25 OR contact Tom Bedard at ClubEM@psu.edu.
CAREERS, JOBS, INTERNSHIPS, ETC.

Federal Work-Study

Federal Work-Study allows you to earn money to help cover non-billable educational expenses by working within your college or campus, University office, or at an off-campus, nonprofit organization. Positions are available at every Penn State campus.

http://studentaid.psu.edu/types-of-aid/work-study-and-employment/work-study

Gain Hands-on Work Experience

- Federal work study awards or exceptions
- Service learning with children
- Work in schools, community non-profits & nature centers
- All majors, all years, all campuses
- Open enrollment every semester
- World campus students and distance learners welcome

AMERICA READS @ PENN STATE Sites: psu.edu/americareads ARteam@psu.edu

Fresh START

Want to get your college career started off right? Fresh START is the best way to start off your career at Penn State University Park! Fresh START is the largest Day of Service at Penn State, University Park campus. Over 1,000 Volunteers will take to the streets, parks, and shelters of Centre County on August 31st in an all out effort to make our community a better place. Last year, over one year’s worth of community service hours were completed in just one day by all the volunteers!

Fresh START Day of Service is when students new to the University Park campus participate in community service for a day. You and other volunteers will all be first year, transfer, and change of campus students. Volunteers will join a team with an upperclassman Team Leader to lead them at a service site. With over 40 service sites, there will be something for everyone to enjoy! Whether volunteers help out at the animal shelter, the Penn State Arboretum, or Mount Nittany Conservancy, everyone will have an impact on the community and make great friends in the process. To sign up visit www.freshstart.psu.edu! Volunteers also receive a free Fresh START t-shirt and water bottle. Breakfast and lunch will also provided.

Fresh START’s mission has two essential points. The first is to introduce new students to University Park campus and the many service opportunities available to them. Penn State offers so many opportunities to get involved and make the community a better place, and Fresh START will highlight all of them for you. The second is to provide new students with an upperclassmen mentor, a Team Leader, to help them and answer any questions the students will have about University Park, service opportunities, and college life.

Every new student should sign up for the Fresh START Day of Service! Fresh START offers volunteers a chance to have an impact on the community while making lasting friendships with other great, service oriented new students. Also, the free t-shirt, water bottle, breakfast, and lunch make the Day of Service really amazing.

To sign up visit www.freshstart.psu.edu or come find us at the involvement fair during the first week of classes for more information. Save the day August 31st for the Fresh START Day of Service! See you there!
SCHOLARSHIPS

Nothing reported at press time.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Welcome James Kelly and Elizabeth Agler

What changes, experiences, adventures and/or general enlightenment did you go through since May?? Stop by the Student Center and introduce yourself to our newest Ryan Family Student Center Faculty/Staff members. James is the new MATH 140G instructor and Elizabeth is the newest Academic Advisor.

Alright!! Thanks for reading the announcements clear through to the end (or maybe you just immediately focused on "Fun"??). Ready or not, the new semester is upon us. Your EMS Student Center staff is ready, willing, and able to assist you in any way that we can. And while the Student Center is a great place to simply hang out, keep in mind that keeping the facility clean is everyone's collective responsibility. Pick up after yourself. Put your used dishes and coffee mugs in the dishwasher. And though we'll never fault you for napping on our "living room" furniture, we'll bark at you if your feet are on the furniture!

Our hours are 8:00AM to 8:00PM Monday - Thursday, 8:00AM - 5:00PM on Friday.

Find the Student Center on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=103366709698590&ref=ts

Sign up!

Have a safe and satisfying balance of your weekend! New students, we'll see you tomorrow!

Your EMS Student Center Staff: Jeff, Stacy, James, Liz, Tim, Del, Martha, Rhonda, Nels, Linda (Dillon and Jeff our work study students)