

# Russell Sage College

## WOMEN OF INFLUENCE



### Parent & Family Newsletter

Fall 2017

Dear Family Members:

Hello from the Russell Sage College Deans! By now, whether your student is a first-year student or a senior in the final semester, coursework is beginning to pile up and grades are starting to come back, which may be causing happiness and excitement, and even some anxiety and fear. Your student may be thinking about some important dates and deadlines coming up and we wanted to be sure you were aware of them as well.

- **November 17: Last day to withdraw from class**
- **November 17: Last day to opt for a Pass/Fail option**
- **November 22-26: Thanksgiving Break** (Residence halls will close between 11 AM on Wednesday until 12PM on Sunday.)
- **December 8: Last Class Day**
- **December 12-15: Final Exams**
- **December 16: All residence halls will close by 11AM**

Additionally, most students will begin registering for the spring 2018 semester during the week of November 6. As a reminder, students need to be cleared by their faculty advisors and have no holds on their accounts to register. Students should contact the Student Accounts office at 518-244-2205 or visit their office in Cowee Hall if they have any questions about possible holds on their accounts. They can also access this information through their SageAdvisor accounts. If they weren't able to get a seat in a required or desired course, students should enroll themselves on the waitlist for the class and consult with their advisor about potential alternatives.

As you may have heard, we have had a pretty busy fall semester already. In between class work, lab experiments, internships, nursing clinicals and student teaching, the RSC community has found time to participate in community service through SageEngaged, dance the night away at the RSC River Cruise, put on a great production of *Cabaret*, and attend fun events, like Spa Night and our first annual Haunted Hall! In addition, the entire community came together to celebrate the inauguration of Dr. Christopher Ames, The Sage Colleges' 10th President, on October 20th (more details and photos about this historic event are on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter).

As the semester continues, we're showing no signs of slowing down. Once students return to campus after the Thanksgiving break there are only 2 weeks of classes left in the semester, so you are likely to see them studying quite a bit over the break. Check in with them about upcoming final exams (which are scheduled based on the meeting time for their classes during the semester) and reinforce that they should not plan any trips or other activities until their final exams are completed.

Our goal is to make sure that every student has the opportunity to perform their best on final exams. To that end, we participate each semester in the 11th Hour Pancakes celebration! It's one of our students' most beloved traditions where we, the deans, serve them pancakes in the dining hall on the eve of finals week. This is open to all resident and commuting RSC students and we hope for a great turn out this year!

With warm regards,

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The Inauguration of Sage's 10th President, Dr. Christopher Ames

## Upcoming Events

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### Diversity & Inclusion Student Forums

November 8 (Troy)

November 15 (Albany)

### Junior Ring Dinner

November 9

### NYC Bus Trip with discounted tickets to School of Rock

November 11

### A Christmas Carol Schacht Fine Arts Center

December 1-14

### 11th Hour Pancakes Served by the Deans

December 10

# FINAL EXAMS WEEK: DECEMBER 12-15

[Final Exams are scheduled according to class meeting times. The complete [Final Exam Schedule](#) is online.]

## Faculty Tips for Student Success

"Start studying now and keep up with it! A little bit each day - 20 to 30 minutes of active studying each and every day - is much better for learning and memory than cramming during finals week. And always make time to eat, sleep, and exercise or to just take a break during finals week, as these are all critical for learning and memory along with mental health and general well-being."

"...I always encourage students to meet with the ... tutor, even if they think they are on track. It can't hurt.... Students may set themselves up for failure by convincing themselves that the test will be too difficult and then they may consciously or unconsciously act in ways that will make this a reality. They may spend hours complaining about studying for the exam; texting friends; calling parents; calculating what they "need" to get on the exam; and ordering pizza instead of actually studying for the exam."

## Sage Inaugurates its 10th President



On October 20th, nearly 500 members of the Sage community, along with local officials and visiting dignitaries from colleges and universities as far away as Princeton and Valparaiso, joined in the celebration of the official installation of Dr. Christopher Ames, The Sage Colleges' 10th president. The planners of the ceremony aimed to match Pres. Ames' warm and inclusive spirit, exemplified in the inaugural procession that included more than 150 faculty, staff, administration, alumni, current students, current and former trustees, and other specially invited guests, including renowned playwright, poet and Ames family friend, Robert Earl Price, who composed a poem specifically for the occasion. In his inaugural address, Ames referenced Price's sestina, "Chain of Change," and how "the change of a single syllable suggests how a chain that can represent bondage and restriction can also signify strength, inheritance and community and make productive change possible." Ames recalled Sage's founding as a women's college during a time when women didn't even have the right to vote. Our historic mission to provide access to education to those who might not have seen college as an option continues today. According to Ames, "that spirit is expressed by an ongoing dedication to women's education, leadership and empowerment. And it is reflected in our co-ed branches through the deep engagement with individuals who are the first in their families to attend college or who come from low-income backgrounds or both."

Patricia Timpano Sparrell (RSC '78), chair of Sage's Board of Trustees, led both the search committee that selected Dr. Ames and the installation ceremony itself. In her welcoming remarks, she shared Ames' own words that he wrote to the search committee: "I am passionate about envisioning and managing the changes necessary to keep small colleges built on the foundation of the liberal arts vital and competitive. This position provides an unusually apt opportunity for me to make a difference: to combine my expertise gleaned from 25 years at private liberal arts colleges with the new skills and vision I have honed ..."

We are grateful for Pres. Ames' enthusiasm and vision for our community. He, and his wife, Lauren, have already welcomed students and families into their home during Family Weekend and they look forward to engaging more closely with our students during class dinners and other RSC traditions.

## Student Activities

**Commuter Coffee Hour**  
November 6

**The Rev's Student Open Mic Poetry Night**  
November 16

**Stay & Play Event to benefit Project Linus**  
November 19

**Commuter Thanksgiving Pie Social**  
November 21

**TIS presents: Santaland Diaries**  
November 25-26

**Stay & Play: Fitness Challenge**  
December 2

**Commuter Holiday Breakfast**  
December 4

**Stress Free Zone: Free Chair Massages**  
December 5

**Therapy Dogs International**  
December 5

**Senior Caroling**  
December 7

**Stay & Play: Holiday Crafts**  
December 9





Playwright and Poet Robert Earl Price delivered his sestina "Chain of Change" composed explicitly for the Inauguration.



RSC's Emily Taylor provided greetings on behalf of students.



The Sage Colleges' Chamber Singers (above) and RSC's Sagettes (below) brought music to the ceremony.



In his inaugural address, Ames remarked, "I bring with me a sense of urgency that I believe is shared by the community I serve. That urgency reflects an openness to change and a pride in the distinctiveness of Sage and its history."



The stage party was comprised of individuals who provided "greetings" on behalf of their varied constituencies, including: immediate past Sage president, Dr. Susan Scrimshaw, both the Albany and Troy Alumni Association presidents, chair of the Sage Colleges Faculty, Dr. Frank Vozzo, Mayor Kathy Sheehan of Albany, Mayor Patrick Madden of Troy, and three student leaders, Emily Taylor (RSC), Donald Edwards (SCA) and Katie Giarratano (SGS).

Student leaders showed their Sage pride marching in the inaugural procession in Sage or green attire along with faculty, who wore their academic regalia.



Photos courtesy of Tamara Hansen, The Sage Colleges