

Russell Sage College

WOMEN OF INFLUENCE



Parent & Family Newsletter

Fall 2018

Dear Family Members:

Hello from Russell Sage College! We hope you enjoyed our first official snow storm of the year and the Thanksgiving holiday. 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.

- **December 7: Last Class Day**
- **December 10: Spring 2019 Bills Due**
- **December 11-14: Final Exams**
- **December 15: All residence halls will close by 11AM**

Additionally, students who plan to return to Sage this spring should be registered full time (for at least 12 credits) for their spring 2019 classes by now. You may have heard from your student that they are on a waitlist for a course, or still trying to select one last elective. As long as they are in contact with their faculty advisor or the advising office, they should be just fine. But, if you hear that your student is not registered for classes at all or if they are confused about how to proceed, please encourage them to connect with resources on campus right away. 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 (usually related to an outstanding balance from the fall semester). They can also access this information through their SageAdvisor accounts. When in doubt, remind students to check their Sage email accounts, as they should have ample reminders and information in their inboxes that can point them in the right direction.

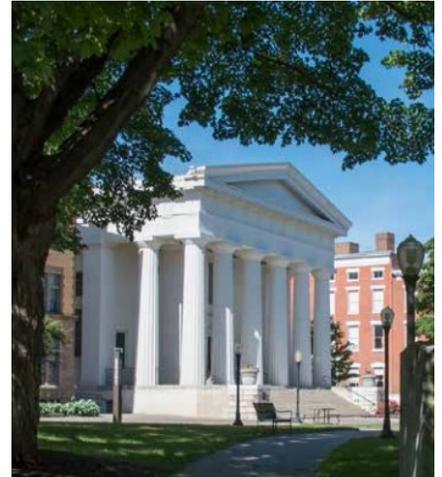
As the semester continues, we're showing no signs of slowing down. We know that anxiety can run high in the last few weeks of the semester, so the Student Life Office has planned several "Stress Free" events for the month of December to give students a healthy break from writing papers and studying for exams (checkout the complete list on page 2). We even have some alumnae who were kind enough to spare some time to engage in some stress-relieving crafts with our students in the Student Center at the end of November! And, we always enjoy staying up late with students before Finals Week begins in the 11th Hour Pancake celebration where we bring in a DJ and serve pancakes in the dining hall from 11PM to 1AM. We hope to see your student there on December 9th!

As this fall semester comes to an end, we want to remind you of how much we value your students and that we want to do everything we can to support their success. Please encourage them to reach out for help and we hope to see them at some of these exciting upcoming events!

With warm regards,

Deb Lawrence
Undergraduate Dean
518-244-2466
lawred@sage.edu

Stacy Gonzalez
RSC Dean of Students
518-244-2207
gonzas@sage.edu



Bush Memorial during sunnier days

Upcoming Events

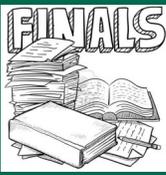
* * *

Be Well @ Sage
Fall Health & Wellness Fair
November 28

The Snow Queen
Schacht Fine Arts Center
November 30 —
December 13

Spring 2019 Classes
Begin
January 14 **

** Note that this is one week BEFORE Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Residence Halls reopen on Sunday, January 13th. **



FINAL EXAMS WEEK: DECEMBER 11-14

Final Exams are scheduled according to class meeting times. The complete [Final Exam Schedule](#) is online. Encourage your student to check the schedule carefully so they can plan accordingly!

Sage Announces a New Strategic Plan

In early November, President Chris Ames and Board Chair Patty Sparrell '78 provided an update to the entire Sage community regarding the extensive work of the Strategic Planning Committee that began in January 2018. In the letter that was sent to all students, Ames and Sparrell highlighted what we have learned to date through the process, including:

- Sage's strength is providing excellent professional education with a liberal arts foundation in a small and supportive environment.
- Sage has a long history of helping our students find a voice, develop confidence, and acquire leadership skills.
- Our focus on women's experience has continued relevance in light of current events.
- Sage does not always have a clear identity or the name recognition it deserves.
- Our current structure presents unnecessary obstacles to students and is confusing to prospective students.

The strategic planning process was also informed by research into current and future student desires and societal needs, challenges facing small, private colleges and women's colleges in particular in today's environment, as well as a careful analysis of Sage's student profile and its enrollment and financial history.

The Strategic Planning Committee and the Board of Trustees have concluded that the time has come for The Sage Colleges to make bold moves to secure our long-term future.

THE SAGE OF THE FUTURE WILL:

- Continue to provide excellent professional preparation across the disciplines in a small college environment strongly supportive of student learning and emphasizing student wellness and well-being.
- Recruit the students we succeed best with: racially and economically diverse students from our region seeking opportunity and rewarding careers.
- Unify its identity as a single coeducational college with two campuses, while honoring the spirit and legacy of Russell Sage College's century-long commitment to women's education, by creating an Institute (as yet to be named) that offers a living/learning environment for students built around a fresh understanding of the relevance of women's empowerment, leadership, and gender inclusivity, including an all-women residential option. The Institute will engage with the gender issues prominent in contemporary society, promote greater public awareness of Sage's historic strengths through compelling community outreach and programming, and seek to become a national thought leader on women's issues.

We recognize that you will want to know more about this plan and, just as importantly, we want to encourage your feedback and input as we continue to develop the details that will be presented to the Board for approval in the first quarter of 2019.

We have set up a [website](#) to provide more information on the strategic plan, its implications, the rationale for making this bold change, and the process moving forward. We encourage all those who are interested in finding out more about the College's Strategic Plan or offering feedback to join the conversation at sp.sage.edu.

As ever, we remain steadfast in our commitment to providing students with the opportunity to BE, KNOW, and DO more so that all may thrive in Sage's second century.

Student Activities

Free Commuter Lunch in the Dining Hall

November 29

Secret Sophomore Event

November 30

Commuter Holiday Breakfast

December 3

Therapy Dogs International

December 4

Stress-Free Event: Free Reiki

December 4

Letter Art Event

December 4

Senior Holiday Movie & Hot Cocoa (Open to All)

December 5

Free Chair Massages

December 6

Lip Sync Battle

December 6

11th Hour Pancakes

Served by the Deans

December 9

THE SAGE MISSION

Sage is a community of scholars committed to empowering students:

TO BE

To provide the individual student with the opportunity and means to develop and advance personally and professionally, and thus to be successful in achieving life goals;

TO KNOW

To contribute to the larger society a group of diverse, thoughtful and competent citizen-leaders who continue to be engaged in the pursuit of lifelong learning; and

TO DO

To translate learning into action and application, recognizing the obligation of educated persons to lead and to serve their communities.