Dear Families,

Happy Spring!

After weeks of brutally cold weather and seemingly nonstop snow in Bridgeport, it is terrific to know that warmer weather and blooming flowers are right around the corner.

I hope you enjoy the first issue of “Knights Court,” University of Bridgeport Family Association newsletter which will be mailed to your home approximately twice per semester.

We appreciate the critical role you play in your student’s success at UB. Keeping you informed of campus events, new developments and key dates and information will contribute to the success that I know your student will find. We want to know what features, information and articles you’d appreciate seeing in this newsletter so please contact us at family@bridgeport.edu if you have something to share.

Thank you for the role you play in the UB community and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Edina R. Oestreicher
Dean of Students

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Jill Bassett has worked for the Office of Residential Life and Student Conduct for the past three years as the associate director, a role in residence life which is vital to our staff and even more so to our students. For more than 10 years, Jill has dedicated her life to the well-being and development of college students. Starting at Southern Connecticut State University, and coming to the University of Bridgeport in August 2012, Jill has made strides in the world of student affairs. Jill oversees the operations of the Resident Assistant selection which includes designing the online application process and conducting individual and group interviews. Jill even meets with candidates who want to talk about their application when they haven’t been selected. According to Jill, “it’s more of an educational conversation.” Jill’s advice to parents is that they should encourage students to do something different; this is the time for students to reinvent themselves. In Jill’s words “In high school you know what you like but in college you discover what you like.” Parents should not limit their students but encourage them as college is about discovering yourself, and trying new things.

It’s important to let our students know not to give up.

My role has many different facets including residential recruitment and promotion, staff management, facilities management, and daily operations of the office.

—Jill Bassett
Having been a student at UB for nearly four years, Crystal has taken part in the many opportunities the University has to offer. As a freshman, she volunteered at the Bridgeport Hope School. Her role there as a teacher assistant was an enjoyable experience and continued throughout her sophomore year. This positive experience encouraged her to take her goals a step further and become more involved in school clubs. During her sophomore year, she joined the National Society of Black Engineers. As a member, she raised student awareness and shared the importance of getting minorities involved in engineering. In the same year, she also joined the Cheerleading Squad.

Her other accomplishments include becoming Vice President & Outreach Coordinator of the Society of Women Engineers, holding a position as a student worker in the Dean of Students office, working in the IT department, as an Orientation Captain for senior year, and most importantly, becoming a Resident Assistant for Seeley Hall. This role has improved her leadership and problem-solving skills. The best part about working towards her degree in Computer Engineering is the excitement of working on hands-on projects and the ongoing support of her professors. She enjoys being able to work on projects that involve hardware. Crystal says, “there is always so much to learn when it comes to technology, it’s always evolving.”

Crystal’s support system for the past four years has been her family, friends, and professors. She can always count on her family to be there cheering her on. All her professors have been really supportive and have made it clear she can count on them anytime to clarify issues she may have with any assignment. Her future plan is to continue her education and earn her master’s degree, while working for Cisco Systems as a Network Engineer. She feels very fortunate to have landed a job before she finished her senior year. It is her hope to gain a wealth of knowledge and experience while working for Cisco so that she can expand her area of expertise.

Crystal’s advice to students is to “get involved in the field you want to pursue, it will get you closer to your career goal. Any opportunity that can get you closer to landing your dream job should never be ignored. Rewards come to those who are willing to work hard for it. Utilize the Career Development offices, they are an extremely valuable resource.”
It’s a GREAT time to be part of UB! Our new residence hall will be under construction this summer, our new School of Nursing will begin classes this fall and we are growing bigger and better each day. Now is the time to be connected with UB.

As a family member you are just as important to UB as your student! Stay connected to UB, learn about upcoming events on campus such as Welcome Back Weekend, our alumni and family weekend that takes places annually each fall, as well as events happening in your area. Be sure to update your mailing information with us so you can continue to receive the Knights Court Family Association Newsletter, Knightlines and other news from campus. Please use the form included to send us your current contact information or update your information anytime online at www.bridgeport.edu/families and select Sign-Up at UB!

Stay Connected to UB!