Thank You!

Aurora Liberty-Dupuis

Many of you have possibly had the privilege to meet and associate with Aurora in the UM GEAR UP/AISS programs. Her contributions have guided many students and she will be greatly missed. We are truly grateful for her efforts in behalf of GEAR UP. As she embarks on this new chapter of her journey, we want to wish her every success. She has been an invaluable asset to the UM GEAR UP program.

BEST WISHES!

GEAR ZZLIES’ GAZETTE

UM GEAR UP NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023

What’s In This Month’s Issue?

• Spotlight-Kaitlyn Miller
• Thanks to Aurora
• Finals Schedule
• Calendar
• Resources
• Dear Monte
• Crushing College

Happy Holidays

GEAR UP Spotlight Kaitlyn Miller

We are excited to introduce this phenomenal young lady to you, Kaitlyn Miller. She was born and raised in Browning, Montana. One thing she loves about her community is how involved they are, people show up for each other. She is majoring in English Education since English is her favorite subject. One of the hardest hurdles to overcome when coming to college was not being able to see her kindergarten brother and helping him understand she wasn’t gone for good! He asked, “Can we call you?” One thing that surprised her was she thought the transition would be more difficult, but she found a fantastic support system welcoming her to campus. Her father, also the head track coach at Browning High School, is her inspiration because he pushed her to do her absolute best. Glad you’re here at UM!

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12/5 – A group crochet and knitting project will start on the library’s main floor.

12/7 – A large “paint” by numbers will go up in the Library Commons. People can use different color dry-erase markers to participate on the library’s whiteboard wall on Level 3.

12/8 – There will be group puzzles on every floor of the library.

12/8 & 12/9 (Friday and Saturday) – The library will have extended hours and will be open until 10pm both days.

12/10 & 12/11 – Coffee and treats on Sunday evening, and then on Monday at 8am and 2pm!

12/11 – 12/13 – Monday through Wednesday, the library will have therapy dogs from 10am – 2pm in the library entrance.

The library will also bring a basket of supplies and snacks to West Campus next week for their finals, which largely take place the week before finals.
Winter Break Housing

Staying for Winter Break?
You have a few options:

#1 Stay the whole break.
Dec 16 - Jan 16

#2 Stay for the beginning of break.

#3 Return early for Spring.

If you’d like to stay the whole break or just extend your stay, apply by **5 pm on Dec 8** to avoid a late fee or getting locked out.

All Residence Halls close at noon on Saturday, Dec 16.

The Winter Housing Break Application can be found in your myHousingPortal account. The application opens Nov 1.

For all types of winter stay, you must apply **3 business days** before the first day you need housing.

Due to construction, those in Craig, Duniway, or Elrod Hall should submit their request by Nov 30 so temporary accommodations can be made.

FAFSA TIP

As you know, there are changes to the 2024-25 FAFSA. Identity verification is now required BEFORE you can submit your application. Create you and your parents’ FSA ID at least 3 days prior to submitting your application.

You can see the FAFSA updates here: Launch of the 2024–25 FAFSA® Form | Federal Student Aid

Pricing

$25/ night
$125 for 3-7 nights
$350 for 8+ nights

For more info go to:
https://www.umt.edu/housing/rh/winter_break_housing/

SCHOOL STARTS JAN. 18th
**DEAR MONTE,**

I get really stressed to take tests. What can I do so I don’t bomb finals?
-Signed, Test Stressed

Hello Test Stressed,
You are not alone! So many students get test anxiety and there are a few tips that can help.

1. **Try to Keep Things in Perspective:** a single exam- or even a single class- won’t determine your future.
2. **Practice Various Stress Reduction Techniques:** Visualization-seeing yourself getting a good grade, meditation, listening to calming music, deep breathing, and exercise. Use a stress ball or fidget spinner.
3. **Prepare Thoroughly for Your Upcoming Test:** Know what type of tests you will have. Go through notes and previous tests to review, review often. Questions? Visit with professor. Become the teacher and teach material to yourself or to others through a study buddy/groups.
4. **Get good sleep.** This is a habit to create weeks prior to test.
5. **Eat healthy foods**--avoid caffeine.
6. **Reward yourself.** Have something to look forward to at the end.

**10 STUDY TIPS FOR SURVIVING FINALS WEEK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Avoid the urge to procrastinate</th>
<th>Get some sleep</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Find a space conducive to studying</td>
<td>Create a playlist to help you focus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Get rid of distracting devices</td>
<td>Mix study methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Write out practice test questions</td>
<td>Work with a study group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take breaks</td>
<td>Maintain a healthy balanced diet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Pointloma Nazarene University