Purple Knight Family:

Spring is upon us and after this unusually warm winter we begin looking forward to summer. We hope your student will take the opportunity to expand his or her horizons this summer through an academic or professional experience. The time between academic years is a great opportunity for students to grow personally and to add life experiences that will translate to their resumes and future careers. The University of Bridgeport offers summer courses and assists students in finding summer internship or employment opportunities.

As midterms approach, we would appreciate your support through checking in with your student regarding their level of stress. Students may be in a variety of places in terms of how they are doing academically. From doing well across all courses to struggling in a few or all, it’s important that students realize the campus has a variety of resources to support them. It is never too late for students to visit their professor during office hours, work with their peers to form study groups, identify ideal study spaces in Wahlstrom Library, or visit the Academic Resource Center (ARC) website for academic support resources. As always, the staff of the Office of the Dean of Students is here to help your student succeed and may be reached at 203-576-4273 or deanofstudents@bridgeport.edu. I wish you an excellent Spring Break and hope you find opportunities to connect with your daughter or son. We look forward to seeing you in the future.

Sincerely,

Craig Lennon
Assistant Dean of Students
John “Doc Rock” Nicholas has been a professor at the University of Bridgeport since 1971. With 45 years of experience, his knowledge about midterms week is not something to be overlooked. Recently he received the Purple Knight Shield of Merit Award at the 2015 Athletics Hall of Fame banquet. Doc Rock says that receiving this honor felt “fantastic,” going on to say it was “one of the best recognitions of anything he has ever done.” The award was given to him for helping with the athletic program in the role of the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR). The function of this position is to form an alliance between the athletic and academic programs. Specific functions involve giving exams to coaches to continue recruiting, giving surveys to athletes ranging from academics, alcohol, cheating, and drugs. If there were any problems between coaches and students, which has been very few and far in his years of experience, he would be the one to step in. Doc Rock has proven to be an asset to not only the athletic program, but also in the world of academia. In his 45 years of service to the University of Bridgeport, he has impacted the lives of many and continues to be an esteemed educator in the UB Community.

What resources are available on campus to help students prepare for midterms?
Many take advantage of the extended library hours. I personally don’t require students to do anything outside of class but many take advantage of the Academic Resource Center in the library for a little extra help before midterms.

With your experience here at UB, is there anything special you do for your students during midterms week?
Midterms week is an interesting time because many students are heavily interested in their grade. Throughout the semester I prepare my students for midterms by giving frequent quizzes and exams at least once a week. Taking these quizzes week to week forces the student not to fall behind in the course and gives them a much better idea of what’s going on. From my personal experience, taking a quiz every week during the semester motivated and forced me to excel in my courses.

How can parents and families help prepare students for midterms?
Show an interest. Even though as a parent or friend you may not understand the subject material it is always a good idea to encourage study habits by simply asking how they are doing, and stress that studying can be the difference between a B and an A. Just be there for them by encouraging study habits and by learning what’s going on in their collegiate lives.

What is the experience like for students during midterms week?
Obviously the most stressful. With grades in mind, students seem to come alive between their interest level and attendance. It’s a cycle. Prior to the midterm there is an increase in interest, then after there is a drop off, then about a month before the end of the semester, the motivation and drive comes back into play, with students accepting nothing but the best grade they can get in the course. Crunch time seems to bring out the best in students.

What can students do to help one another during midterms week?
Study sessions. Coming together in groups and memorizing/working on the material really seems to help.

With your teaching experience is there any advice you can give to students heading into midterms?
I had a student athlete in my class many years ago. Throughout the semester he had a low grade, and didn’t say much. About a month before midterms week he approached me after he handed in a quiz and said, “Is there anything I can do to improve my grade?” I looked at him and said, “Study.” After the next quiz a week later he received the highest grade he had received all semester and said to me, “Studying really helped!” Students find different incentives to study between the threat of losing a scholarship, push from a coach, or achievement of the highest grade possible. This short story can show that all students have potential, and will see progress after they study. Find motivation to study, and achieve your full potential come midterms week.
The University of Bridgeport is excited for our newest residence hall — UNIVERSITY HALL — to open in the Fall 2016 semester!

Designed to embrace the context of the local architecture, stylized by the many private homes on campus which were part of a beautiful seaside community built during the industrial era of late 19th and early 20th centuries, UB’s new residence hall is suggestive of a resort hotel similar to those of Bar Harbor, Maine.

Steeply-pitched hip roofs with wide overhangs shelter a facade comprised of forest green board, batten siding, and wood shakes above a terra-cotta masonry base. The façade is punctuated by a curved bay window with a front porch that welcomes students home to an entrance lobby decorated in a theme that extends Victorian flair to the exterior design.

This modern, sustainably-designed, 60,000 square foot four-story facility will house 220 students in a variety of residence configurations, including suites and traditional bedrooms along with many social amenity rooms and support services.

Construction by KBE Construction Company of New Britain, Connecticut began in May of 2015 and will be completed by June of 2016, with the hall opening for the Fall 2016 semester. The design was completed by Antinozzi Associates of Bridgeport.

For more information, go to: http://www.bridgeport.edu/life/residence-life/university-hall-new-residence-hall/
March 29  Business Etiquette Dinner, 5pm, Tower Room
Presenter Karen Hinds, CEO of Workplace Success navigates guests through a four course dinner while preparing for potential interviews and meetings. Students can RSVP via their UBjobnet account.

April 4-8  International Festival Week
Students are invited to events throughout the week that explore the various dimensions of culture around the world.

April 9  International Festival, 7pm, Mertens Theater
All are welcome to celebrate the cultures and talents of the Bridgeport Community in this long standing UB tradition.

April 24  Annual Spring Carnival, 3pm, Pedestrian Mall
Join us for food and fun to celebrate the end of the Spring semester!

April 28  Toast to Graduation, 4pm, Knight’s End
Graduating students are invited to celebrate their accomplishments and make a toast with their fellow classmates as they transition from student to alumni.

April 29  Wisteria Ball
Students are invited to celebrate the Class of 2016 with dinner, drinks and dancing at UB’s longest running tradition!

May 7  Commencement

October 14-16  Homecoming Weekend: Family and Alumni Welcome