

and special programming during the summer to support their academic success as they take classes. They will then be eligible to appeal for Fall semester housing if they demonstrate through their summer grades that they are committed to improving their academic performance. In addition, students admitted into the AEP Scholars Group during the summer will be tracked throughout the academic year, receiving specific academic support.

### **LIVING LEARNING HOUSING INITIATIVE**

Beginning next year, Morgan State University will provide learning environments that will be tailored to students seeking a themed-environment specific to their major, lifestyle or academic classification. These “gliving learning” environments will provide programming specific to the goals of the students housed in these areas. The pilot, tentatively slated to begin in Fall 2008, will be specific to academic majors. For academic-based living learning communities, such programming will include faculty visits, themed study halls, networking opportunities and other academic-based student supports and opportunities. Students who opt to live in a learning living environment agree to guidelines that include participating in specific programs, as well as attending meetings.

### **FINANCIAL AID IS THE KEY!**

Since approximately 95 % of all students enrolled at MSU receive some type of financial aid, understanding the financial aid process is critical to academic success. Most Morgan students will have to understand how to obtain and maintain their financial resources from matriculation to graduation. Failure to follow directions and meet deadlines can result in students being denied funding for a semester or

more. Consequently, we include up-to-date information about the process in each issue of the Parents’ 411 newsletter.

### **The keys to success can be summed up in three words, “EARLY! EARLY! EARLY!”**

Many of the seemingly overwhelming problems and long lines at the Financial Aid Office are caused by students submitting their applications at the latest possible date for award, submitting incomplete information, or even submitting their application during the registration period or after.

**What can you do? First**, parents should be aware of the deadlines for submitting the “Free Application for Federal Student Aid” (FAFSA) and work with the student to ensure that the application and required documentation are submitted as early as possible. Most student financial aid is determined from FAFSA. Applying is a rather simple process that can be done on-line. **Secondly**, provide any documentation needed from you, such as copies of income tax returns, as quickly as possible. File your income taxes early. (Many students’ applications are not processed in a timely manner, even though they were submitted early, because required documents are missing.) And, **foremost**, follow up with your student! Better yet, complete the FAFSA together. Much of the information students need to complete the process must be provided by you.

Your daughter or son bears the responsibility for keeping the aid once it is awarded. Regardless of filing deadlines and documentation, students must maintain *satisfactory academic progress (SAP)* to continue receiving aid and to persist to graduation. **They must pay attention to meeting financial aid deadlines and providing accurate documentation every year, not just the first year.**

**You can file FAFSA as early as January 2, 2008.** The FAFSA can be completed and submitted on-line by going to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Again, remember, if your child’s application is filed **early** with the required, accurate documentation, it will be processed more quickly. And, the award letter indicating all of the aid for which the student qualifies will be received **early**. This affords time for the family to make arrangements to tap other resources because the aid awarded usually does not meet 100% of the student’s need.

**FAFSA should be filed by March 1 of each year, especially for Maryland students.** Filing by that date allows Maryland residents to receive Educational Assistance Grants from the Maryland Higher Education Commission for up to \$3000. Applicants filing after that date do not receive this award. So, for Maryland residents, your child’s financial aid award may be \$3000 less than it could have been if it had been filed between January 1 and March 1. **We recommend that students file their FAFSA no later than mid-February.**

**Always remember if you have questions or need additional information.....**

### **HELP IS JUST A CLICK OR CALL AWAY**

It would be impossible to tell you everything you need to know about financing your child’s college education in this newsletter. In this electronic age, however, all you would possibly want to know about the availability of financial aid at Morgan, scholarships, and funding from other sources is accessible on the Internet.

Listed below are a few sites that will provide you with useful information about financial aid and the financial aid process.

[www.morgan.edu](http://www.morgan.edu)

Our site provides detailed information about the financial aid process. Click on Financial Aid on Morgan's home page.

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

This site provides complete, detailed information about FAFSA. Students can also complete the application on this site. It is preferred for students to complete the FAFSA on-line since it only takes about 3-5 days to get to MSU. Hard copies of the FAFSA take 6-8 weeks to be processed and sent to MSU. Please be sure that Morgan's school code (002083) is included on the form.

<http://www.mhec.state.md.us/financialAid/index.asp>

This site provides information about financial aid from the State of Maryland.

**MSU WebSIS**

This site provides students access to check their financial award status and to register for courses.

Of course, you can always call the Financial Aid Office on (443) 885-3170.

### ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The Academic Development Center wants to serve your son or daughter if he/she is having any difficulties with class work. The Center provides students, non-residential and residential, with their own personal tutors in a wide range of subjects from biology to information systems. The Center is open Monday -Thursday 9AM - 7PM and Friday 9AM -5PM. Call (443) 885-3380 for additional information about obtaining a tutor.

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## IMPORTANT 2008 SPRING SEMESTER DATES!!!

**January 23**

Classes Begin

**March 1**

Deadline to file FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). FAFSA forms may be filed on-line at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Students who file FAFSA forms after March 1st may not be eligible to receive all types of financial aid.

**March 17-22**

Mid-Semester Exams

**March 24-29**

Spring Break

**March 31 - April 18**

ADVISEMENT DAYS (Students must meet with academic advisors to review progress and prepare FALL 2008 schedule)  
Early registration for Fall 2008 Semester

**April 2**

Last Day to Drop Undergraduate Classes

**April 28 - May 3**

Final Exams for Prospective May 2008 Graduates

**May 12 - June 27**

Registration for FALL 2008 semester resumes

**May 9-16**

Final Exams for Non-graduates

**MAY 18**

Commencement

**MAY 21**

SPRING 2008 SEMESTER ENDS

### PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAM

The Pre-College Program is a six-week summer program designed to ease the transition from high school to college for students whose academic profiles and SAT scores confirm the need for early intervention. Students are admitted to the Pre-College program when their SAT score or high school GPA is below the minimum criteria for admission to the university. Maryland residents attend the Pre-College program free of charge. Non-Maryland residents pay for their room and board.

Students accepted into the Pre-College Program must successfully complete the Program in order to be officially enrolled as a Morgan State University Freshman.

**Parents' 411**

**MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
RETENTION STAFF - FALL, 2007**

**PARENTS' 411 EDITOR** - Sarah D. Adams

#### CONTACT US

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