Howdy folks!

Whew…a lot has occurred since my last update a couple of weeks ago!

Of course, last Friday was April 20th and the entire campus community was interested in how the university’s effort to shrink and eradicate the unwanted “4/20 gathering” would turn out. Well, I’m pleased to report that from my perspective (and seemingly all others) the efforts to deal with this disruption were a tremendous success. I spent a great deal of time walking around campus before, during, and after the gathering. I would describe the campus as calm throughout the day and the actual gathering at 4:20 p.m. as miniscule compared to years past. In reality, the only people who seemed intent upon participating in the 4/20 gathering was a group of a couple hundred who marched on to campus, “demonstrated” for about 20 minutes, “lit up” promptly at 4:20 p.m., and dispersed. Here’s a link to a CUPD press release issued after the gathering: http://police.colorado.edu/announcements/news-release-minimal-disruptions-reported-april-20. Personally, I believe thanks is owed to four groups: the campus professionals who put together and executed a thoughtful and effective plan to deal with 4/20, the student government who took a stand against the gathering, the student body as a whole for their positive behavior and cooperation, and finally to you, our CU parents, for your understanding and support.

The second big event occurred Tuesday night (April 24th) when President Obama paid a visit to campus. This is the first time that a sitting President has come to the CU-Boulder campus. His speech about student loans energized an audience that weathered a long day of waiting and hot temperatures to be a part of the history-making visit. Click on the following link to view a gallery of images from the President’s historic visit: http://www.colorado.edu/news/multimedia/president-barack-obama-visits-cu-boulder.

Of course, I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the fact that we are officially in the “academic crunch time” that comes with the end of the semester. Obviously, your student is under a great deal of stress and a few encouraging words and your willingness to listen can have a very positive impact on your son or daughter. I suspect you’ll hear a lot of venting over the next week or two as well. This is normal and transitory. Good luck to your student (and you)!
For those of you with students who are graduating...CONGRATULATIONS! If you still have questions about commencement I recommend you visit http://commencement.colorado.edu. This website will have answers to virtually all of your questions. Remember, there are usually two events associated with commencement that you'll probably want to attend: the big, outdoor ceremony in the stadium Friday morning, May 11th and a school or department "recognition ceremony" (where your student's name will actually be read) that can occur either Thursday (May 10th) or Friday. The previously mentioned commencement website has info on all of the "recognition ceremonies."

Those of you with students living in the residence halls, please remember that they must vacate their room within 24 hours of completing their last final. Request for exceptions should be made to their hall director. The residence halls close for the summer at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, May 11th.

Finally, CU-Boulder has a policy requiring all students to have a health insurance plan during their time at CU. Your student must take action in selecting or waiving the university insurance by September 5, 2012, or be automatically enrolled in the Student Gold Health Insurance Plan...this will cost them $1,363 for the fall semester. Students must select or waive the university insurance through the online student portal at www.myCUinfo, beginning June 1, 2012. For instructions and more information visit www.colorado.edu/studenthealthplans. Please note: All students must select or waive the university health insurance every fall semester.

That's all for now. I'll probably send one more update before "signing off" for the summer!

All the best...Barney

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