Hello everyone! Spring break is finally here, and you all have earned it! It’s time to check your grades to see your progress in all your classes. It’s not too late to make sure you are using your accommodations, AIM BOOST, the writing or tutoring center, professor office hours, and other campus supports to help you be successful. Please meet regularly with your student support coordinator, check in with your professors, and let us know how you are doing in your classes. Use your break to rest, relax, recharge, and have fun!

We are looking forward to hearing about your adventures when you return! - Amanda
Meet Evan Molloy
Evan is a sophomore accounting major with a minor in cybersecurity. Evan does very well academically, with a 3.4 cumulative GPA. In addition to Evan’s stellar coursework, he participates in the Civic Orchestra on campus, playing the violin. This semester, Evan began practicing for his driver’s exam. Evan worked very diligently with his driving instructor several times a week in all types of weather and has completed his training. Evan’s driving instructor is exceptionally impressed with Evan’s progress. She is confident that Evan will pass his test next month in his home state of Ohio. Excellent work, Evan!

Important Dates

- Spring Break: March 3 - 11
- Easter Break: March 27 - April 1
- Summer 2024 & Fall 2024 Registration: Begins March 19
- Last Day to Withdraw from Spring Classes: April 19
- Spring Classes End: May 3
- Finals Week: May 6 - 9
- Graduation: May 11

Executive Director's Note

Upcoming Experiential Trip

We are happy to announce an experiential trip for AIM students to the Seattle, Washington, area from May 13-18, 2024. This trip is open to all current AIM students. It will
We are excited about some upcoming trip opportunities, first being our Career Path seniors heading to Washington D.C. next week! We have a few more events in store for the rest of the semester, so please make sure to keep an eye on your email!

Do you have a LinkedIn profile? If not, talk with your Career Path facilitator or Autism Support Coordinator about how to go about it – and make sure to follow the Brad McGarry Center for Neurodiversity and connect with me (Ryan Palm) as well. LinkedIn is an extremely valuable tool for networking, learning about an organization/industry, and free resource for many learning opportunities!

Ryan

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**PEERS**

The PEERS for Young Adults course has reached its half-way point. Students in the program have been learning new skills weekly and practicing these skills with their social coaches. Students enrolled in the program are learning how to start and maintain conversations, find common interests, find sources of friends, communicate effectively using electronics, use humor appropriately, and to use feedback from others to ascertain their interest. The AIM Program is working with 10 students each semester matched with a social coach in this 16-week social skills training program. (ISE)

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**Snow Tubing**

On Friday, February 23rd we took a group of students snow tubing at Peek'n Peak Resort in Clymer, New York, followed by dinner at a local restaurant in Clymer. We had a lot of fun and the students enjoyed tubing, some were tubing for the first time ever! (IS)
Cooking & Camaraderie

Two weeks ago, we made chicken burritos, rice, beans, and brownies. This week we made ramen noodles with chicken and veggies. For dessert we made chocolate chip cookie sundaes! (IS)

MU + OSU = Friendship

Apply for CREATE 2024 Staff
AIM students had the incredible opportunity to participate in an experiential trip and social networking experience with AIM, Mercyhurst Neurodiverse Community Alliance (MNCA), and The Society for Creative Anachronism Medieval and Renaissance Appreciation RSCO to Ohio State University last weekend. A mixture of sixteen Mercyhurst students from these three groups attended this trip. On Friday night, students from AIM and MNCA met up with the Ohio State Autistic Students Union at the TableTop Gaming Cafe for games, fellowship, and fun! This was the first time both groups reconnected since the last College Autism Summit, and many students were elated to see each other again!

Chinese Lantern Festival
Students enjoyed celebrating the Chinese New Year by decorating lanterns. (IS)

Informational Video with AIM Student Brady Esham
When AIM staff and students were in Nashville for the College Autism Network (CAN) Conference, Mercyhurst student, Brady Esham was interviewed for their informational video highlighting CAN and the conference. Brady did an excellent job speaking about connection, collaboration, and acceptance. Way to go Brady!!!
On Saturday, many of our AIM students, history majors, and members of The Society for Creative Anachronism Medieval and Renaissance Appreciation RSCO enjoyed the OSU Renaissance and gaming conference: Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

This was a great opportunity to talk about history with college professors from the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and participate in many interactive demonstrations. Students also enjoyed meeting the OSU robots, exploring the student union, and learning more about Columbus, Ohio. We also learned about traveling, staying in a Drury Hotel, and enjoying Fukuryu Ramen and Crumbl cookies.

As you can tell from the photos, everyone had much fun!

Want to Be a Laker Leader?

The Campus Involvement Center is excited to provide the Laker Leader program as an opportunity for current students to give back to the University, show their school spirit, and welcome a new class of Lakers.
They assist in implementing Summer Orientation, Welcome Week, the iMU program, and other programs sponsored by the Division of Student Life.

Applications are due March 1st.

Application Form
Student Hub Information

Trying to find something to do on campus?

Go to: mercyhurst.presence.io
Login with your Mercyhurst credentials
Download "Modern Campus Presence" on the App Store
Deadline Extended to March 11th!
Autism Initiative at Mercyhurst University | 501 E 38th Street, Erie, ERIE, PA 16546-0001

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