

Dear Students,

Welcome to the November edition of “Q&A with the VP.” This email series will appear in your inbox monthly during the academic year and is designed to help increase communication between students and Administration. To submit your questions for the December 2021 newsletter, please email hfrench@fontbonne.edu. As questions submitted may not always be within my purview of responsibility, if I don’t know the answer, I will reach out to my colleagues or do some research to find out. Here goes!

Q: What is happening with the Medaille basement? I heard it is being renovated. What will happen to all the student orgs’ belongings that are in storage down there?

A: Yes, at least part of the Medaille basement is going to be renovated to serve as a locker room for our incoming Sprint Football team. It is anticipated that the basement work will be completed by the start of the fall ‘22 semester. If the renovations extend beyond “the cages” (where storage is currently located), there will be comparable storage space identified in another campus location. More information will be shared with student groups and departments that have storage space in the basement later in the spring semester.

Q: What do I do if I don’t have a place to go over the break? Can I stay in my room on campus?

A: The residence halls close for Thanksgiving break on Tuesday, November 23 at 9pm. However, if you need to stay late or remain in the halls over break, you may request to stay in the halls and your request will be reviewed by the Director of Residential Life, AJ Friedhoff. Students must [apply on line](#) by Monday, November 15 at 12pm to request a later stay. Additional charges apply. Halls reopen on Sunday, November 28.

Q: Can I still sign up for Thanksgiving dinner with staff and faculty?

A: Yes, you if you would like to request a “to-go” style meal on Thanksgiving day, or to attend Thanksgiving dinner with a staff or faculty volunteer, please complete [this interest form](#) by end of day on Monday, November 15.

Q: What is being done about student mental health on campus? The amount of stress that people are under is very significant.

A: This is such an important question. The Fontbonne Student Government presented information at the recent student town hall about student stress and pressure, highlighting the challenging academic semester, weight of the pandemic, and personal as well as socio-political stressors that students are facing. In addition to the Wellness Day that took place last Friday, November 5, a series of stress-relief events are being planned for finals week to provide students with added support. The entire schedule of events will be sent out after Thanksgiving break. Finally, student affairs will organize a student wellness summit in spring semester to bring together interested students, staff and faculty to share relevant data and have a brainstorming session about creative and innovative ways to meet the needs of our students. If you are interested in participating, please email hfrench@fontbonne.edu.

Q: I didn’t even know I had a balance on my account until I tried to register. Shouldn’t I get this information ahead of time?

A: That probably means that you either never received your statement in the mail because the address on file is outdated (in which case you may need to [update your address](#) with the University), or you missed the email from the Business Office alerting you to check your ledger. To keep up to date on your student account, please check GriffinNet at any time to see if any holds have been applied – just log in using your student credentials. If you have a financial hold, please see the Business Office to make payment arrangements. If it is a different hold, please see the corresponding office indicated to clear your hold.

Bonus Announcements:

- **There are new opportunities coming soon to Fontbonne!** Do you play an instrument and have interest in pep band? Like to sing in the car or on stage and might want to join choir? Are there other ways you would like to get involved on campus? Please complete [this survey](#) now!
- **Which way do I go?** Please pay close attention to directional signage in our campus parking lots. We have had a few near accidents from people going the wrong way or turning from no-turn lanes. Please take it slow and use caution when entering, exiting and driving through campus. Safety first!

May you all have a safe and restful Thanksgiving break. Hang in there as you make the final push this semester and prepare for final exams! In the meantime, please let me know if you have any questions, or if there is anything that we in Student Affairs can do to be of support.

Best,

Heather A. French, Ed.D.

Vice President for Student Affairs
Title IX Coordinator

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers ([What is this?](#))

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