

Utica College Traditions Project

One of the characteristics of a vital, healthy organization is that it celebrates its traditions together. As a relatively young institution, Utica College has developed a surprising array of traditions. Many of our traditions, however, appear to be relatively unknown beyond the academic department, club, or athletic team that has developed the tradition. Even some of our institution-wide traditions may not be effectively articulated to new members of our community.

The Utica College "Traditions Project" was therefore launched as an institutional history effort with significant community building as well as public relations potential. We have developed a comprehensive list of Utica College traditions (academic, social, athletic, student organization, and community) that can be widely shared to assist in orienting new students and new employees to the College community. The list can also provide ideas for potential articles in the Pioneer alumni magazine and other UC publications, the Tangerine student newspaper, pieces in the local press, and other uses. By inventorying UC's existing traditions, including even former traditions not currently celebrated, we will also be better able to identify "gaps" or potentials for the creation of new or restored traditions to round out how we celebrate ourselves as a community.

A list of 77 known Utica College traditions follows, in approximate calendar year order. What's missing?

Utica College alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of the College are encouraged to submit additional active or former traditions, in the following format, to Ken Kelly at kkelly@utica.edu.

Sample format:

<u>Name of the Tradition</u>	<u>Sponsoring Group or Office</u>	<u>Brief Description</u>
Midnight Breakfast	Inter-Greek Council	On the night before fall semester final exams begin, fraternity & sorority members cook & serve a late night breakfast for all students, in the Dining Commons, with entertainment.

I look forward to hearing from you!

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Utica College Traditions

<u>Name of Tradition</u>	<u>Sponsoring Group/Office</u>	<u>Brief Description</u>
<u>Summer:</u>		
New Student Orientation	Academic Support Center & Orientation Committee	Two-day programs for entering students in early July
Parent Orientation	Student Affairs Office & Alumni and Parent Relations Office	Two-day programs for parents of entering students in early July
<u>Fall Semester:</u>		
Move-in Day	Residence Life Office	New students move into residence halls before classes begin; related festivities
State of the College Address	President	Address presented by the President to College employees at the start of each semester
Convocation	Registrar's Office	Celebration for new students at start of their academic experience; formal event with faculty in robes; faculty process into the Clark Center flanked by the new students
Welcome Week	Programming Board	Series of evening social events for new students & others during first week of fall classes
Homecoming & Family Weekend	Alumni and Parent Relations Office & Student Activities Office	An entire fall weekend's celebration with UC alumni, family and friends, and students and their families
Pioneer Golf Tournament	Institutional Advancement Office & H. Thomas Clark, Jr.	Annual fundraiser during Homecoming that supports UC athletic facilities & programs
UC Lacrosse Reunion	Alumni & Parent Relations Office & Athletics Dept.	Reunion function during Homecoming for men's lacrosse alumni & student athletes; includes student vs. alumni game
Tailgate Party	Physical Therapy Department	Reunion function preceding the Homecoming football game

Alumni Awards	Alumni Association & Alumni and Parent Relations Office	Alumni Association recognizes distinguished alumni, faculty, students & friends of the College
Leadership Weekend	Student Affairs Office & Student Senate	Student leaders participate in a 2 ½ day interactive learning experience with staff and faculty in the Adirondacks with high ropes course
International Flag Ceremony	Student Activities Office & Social Cultural Committee	Ceremony in Strebel Lounge updating the display of international flags; a student from each country presents their flag to the College
Halloween Haunted House	Residence Life staff	Free haunted house in Clark Athletic Center basement on Wednesday before Halloween
Autumn Frost Ball	Programming Board	A semi-formal held off campus in fall
Health Fair	Career Services & Nursing, Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy students in these majors	Job and career fair for students in these majors
Scholarship Luncheon	Office of Development	Donors of scholarship awards have lunch with students receiving their sponsored award
LASU Dinner	Latin America Student Union	Month long celebration of Latin American culture, culminating in an ethnic dinner with entertainment
LASU Talent Show	Latin American Student Union	Showcase of UC talent with some invited external performers
Holiday Dinner	Student Activities Office	Special holiday meal prepared by ARAMARK where faculty/staff serve the students; tips are collected from students and given to a worthy cause
Kwanzaa	Black Student Union	A College-wide celebration of Kwanzaa; entertainment and dinner provided

Holiday Brunch	Alumni & Parent Relations Office	Informal gathering of UC alumni, family, & friends celebrating the holiday season; Santa Claus appears
Midnight Breakfast	Inter-Greek Council	On the night before fall semester final exams begin, fraternity & sorority members cook & serve a late night breakfast for all students, in the dining commons, with entertainment
Holiday Party for UC employees	President's Office	December social function
December Recognition Reception	Registrar's Office	An informal event with refreshments, acknowledging accomplishments of December graduates (degrees presented later at May commencement)
 <u>Spring Semester:</u>		
Lobby Day	Student Affairs Office & Opportunity Programs Office	A busload of students go to Albany in February to learn about the legislative process and lobby NY legislators for financial aid funding
V Day	Womyn's Resource Center	Student theatrical performance of the Vagina Monologues
Deep Freeze	Alpha Omega Phi Fraternity (started by Alpha Chi Rho)	Members set up and live in a tent behind Strebel Student Center for a week in February; donations to benefit the American Heart Association are collected from passing students, faculty & staff
Air Band	Chi Beta Sigma Sorority	All-College social event in the Clark Athletic Center where pledges and other Greek members perform; judged by College staff; fall & spring
Heart Run and Walk	Utica College & American Heart Association	Major fundraiser held in February for American Heart Association; 30K & 10, 5, & 3 mile runs, & 5 & 3 mile walks, with start & finish on UC campus; over 8,000 participants
Winterfest or Cabin Fever Days	Intramural Athletics	Variety of outdoor "snow" games planned for campus wide participation

International Dinner	International Programs Office & International Students Association	Dinner celebrating the international diversity of the College community
A.I.M. Extravaganza	Africa in Motion	Dance showcase that features A.I.M. as well as other acts
Black History Month	Black Student Union	Series of activities during the month of February highlighting the contributions of African Americans and focusing on issues of concern
Gospel Fest	Angelic Voices of Unity Gospel Choir	Christian celebration of music, drama and the arts
Crystal Ball	Residence Hall Association	A semi-formal held off campus in early spring
Women's Basketball Reunion	Alumni & Parent Relations Office & Athletics Dept.	Reunion function for women's basketball alumni & student athletes
Womyn's Herstory Month	Women's Resource Center	Series of events in March highlighting the contributions of women and focusing on issues of concern; starts with an all-College luncheon celebration
Child Life Month	Psychology-Child Life Club & Psychology Child Life Department	Educational activities about the special needs of children & families dealing with health care encounters & other challenging life events; the activities also recognize the work of child life specialists
Week of the Young Child	Psychology-Child Life Club & Psychology Child Life Department	Programs recognizing the needs of young children & their families & thanking the adults involved in their education & care
The Gangerene	The Tangerine	April Fools spoof edition of student newspaper
Greek Week	Inter Greek Council	Series of activities where Greek organizations showcase their "prowess"
Career Expo	Career Services Office	Career fair for students & alumni
Spring Fling	Programming Board	Campus wide weekend of fun and games
Spring Concert	Student Activities Office & Programming Board	Band performances in the residential quad (in Clark Center if rain)

Take Back the Night March	Womyn's Resource Center	Candlelight march around campus to raise consciousness about violence against women
Sapphire Ball	Phi Sigma Sigma Sorority	Semi-formal for sisters, alumnae & guests
Student Recognition Brunch	Student Affairs Office	Students Life Awards, Who's Who, and other awards are presented to student leaders who have enhanced the quality of life on campus; late spring
The History Project	Center for Historical Research	Annual spring conference and publication of select student research papers based on original research in local history; developed in conjunction with two courses: Historical Research Methods and Guided Research
Asa Gray Biological Society Roast	Division of Arts & Sciences	Faculty members are "roasted" by graduating seniors (late spring); off-campus dinner event
Ray Simon Institute for Public Relations Annual Recognition Ceremony	Division of Social Sciences	Ceremony & brunch held each spring to recognize outstanding work of public relations and journalism students & to honor the distinguished PR/J alumni/ae.
James Sherman Society Roast	James Sherman Society	An off-campus dinner (late spring) where Government & Politics faculty are "roasted" by graduating seniors
Occupational Therapy Banquet	Occupational Therapy Society	Dinner dance with faculty & student skits
Blue and White Banquet	Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity	Late spring dinner for fraternity alumni, students and friends
Opportunity Programs Awards Dinner	Opportunity Programs Office	Late spring dinner celebrating the accomplishments of students in the Opportunity Programs
Luau	Residence Hall Association	Celebration of spring held during dinner in Dining Commons, the last Sunday in April
TKE Party	Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity	Outdoor barbecue & party on last day of final exams

Final Senior Pub	Senior Class Council	Last senior pub for graduating seniors usually held in the Pioneer Café; alcohol and food served
Senior Ball	Senior Class Council	Formal ball for graduating seniors, with dinner, at a local restaurant
Class Gift	Senior Class Council	Gift to the College presented by graduating students
Nursing Pinning Ceremony	Nursing Department	Formal ceremony over dinner for Nursing graduates, faculty & guests
Commencement	Registrar's Office	Celebration of the accomplishments of graduates and the awarding of degrees, held at the Utica Auditorium in early May; students process in flanked by the faculty
Wearing of Stoles	Majors & Student Organizations	Many students wear the colorful stoles of their major or student organization at Commencement
The "Mace"	College Library	Carried by the faculty marshal at Commencement, and housed in the library at other times; UC's mace was designed by Dr. James Caron & first used at Commencement in 1996
Employee Recognition Party	President's Office	All-employee reception recognizing retirees, employees celebrating milestone service anniversaries, and SCT and Professional Staff Recognition Award winners

Throughout the year:

GeoTalk	Division of Arts & Sciences	Lectures by faculty and staff on a variety of travel related topics.
ASA Gray Lecture Series	ASA Gray Biological Society	Lectures on biology related topics
Scott McDonald Film @ UC Series	Social Cultural Committee	Weekday evening film series
Harry and Mary Ruth Jackson Lunch Hour Series	Social Cultural Committee & Division of Arts & Sciences	Musical performances and literary readings held during weekday lunch hours

In the Gallery	Division of Arts & Sciences	Students, faculty/staff and area community exhibitions in the Edith Barrett Art Gallery, off the Library Concourse; opening reception for each show
Open Houses	Admissions Office	Series of admissions events for prospective students and their families
Job Fairs	Career Services Office	Opportunity for students and alumni to speak with area employers about job and career opportunities
Theatre Productions	Theatre Department	Student productions and local productions that include UC students
Seasonal Athletics Dessert Celebrations	Athletic Department	Celebratory gathering with dessert and remarks from coaches and athletes, at the end of each season (3 times/year)
Faculty Forum	Vice President for Academic Affairs	Monthly Friday afternoon topical sessions for faculty socialization & edification
Faculty Seminar	The Faculty	Weekly Friday late afternoon off-campus opportunity for faculty socialization
Ampersand	Ampersand Group	A journal of arts and literature funded by Student Senate; published annually in late spring