FINALS MANIA IS AROUND THE CORNER: WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

Houston, Nov. 19, 2012 – Heidi Kennedy can’t imagine not volunteering at Finals Mania.

“It feels good to be part of a group that is encouraging our students by feeding their spirit with carbs,” said Kennedy, the director of Academic Program Management at the University of Houston. “It’s also fun to interact with the students outside of our office roles.”

So when Finals Mania once again comes to the Rockwell Pavilion in M.D. Anderson Library on Monday, Dec. 10, Kennedy will be there doing what she can to make the event a success. She invites other staff and faculty members to do the same.

“It’s a fun, easy and worthwhile time. If you’re not showing up you must have some priorities preventing you from being there or you just don’t know about it – but now you do,” she said.

Finals Mania, which is held at the end of the fall and spring semesters, provides a break for students as they prepare for final exams. From 9 to 11 p.m., pancakes will be served to the approximately 1,500 students expected to show up. In addition, they can also have turkey sausage, coffee, orange juice and a variety of snacks.

Besides the food, students can play board games, get a free five-minute chair massage and spend time talking with friends and having fun.
Billy Garner, the marketing coordinator for Auxiliary Services, said the popularity of the event means a large number of volunteers are needed to make it a success.

“We need people to do everything from greeting people as they come through the door all the way up to serving the toppings on their pancakes and then everything in between,” Garner said.

Volunteers are also needed to help direct the lines of students waiting to be served and to make sure everything remains orderly. Beverage stations need to be manned and meal tickets have to be handed out.

During the last Finals Mania in the spring, Patrick Daniel greeted students and served pancakes.

“I love putting a smile on the faces of students,” said Daniel, the executive director for Learning and Assessment Services. “At the same time, I’m having fun, too.”

Sally Rowland-Ketley, director of Printing and Postal Services, volunteered at Finals Mania in the spring and handed out drinks to students at the beverage station. The upcoming event will be the third time she has pitched in.

“It makes a difference to be involved in these types of events instead of sitting on the sidelines and reading about them,” she said. “It is only a few hours of your time and it will make you feel good at the end of the night.”

Faculty and staff who are interested in volunteering should contact Garner by email at wdgarner@central.uh.edu or by calling him at 832-842-9141.

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