Dear Parents, Guardians, and Families,

Greetings from Hanover, where we are enjoying the beautiful New England autumn. It is our mission at Student Affairs to help your student flourish during their four years here, and we welcome your help in supporting their success. While we encourage students to take increasing responsibility for their Dartmouth experience, we know that students benefit from the continued support of their parents and guardians. We prioritize our partnerships with families and we welcome communication by letter, phone, or email.

To that end, we are pleased to present the inaugural issue of Gateway, a quarterly newsletter where my colleagues within the Division of Student Affairs will provide information about upcoming opportunities and resources that may be of interest to your student, as well as keep you informed of other campus updates. Although at times we will include information directed towards particular class years, we recommend you take a look at everything in this newsletter. Advice tailored for first-year students may be equally helpful for your sophomore or junior.

With the last day of the term and final exams approaching, please do remind your students that resources are available if they need assistance. The Undergraduate Deans and the rest of our Student Affairs staff are ready to help.

Warm Regards,

Inge-Lise Ameer
Vice Provost for Student Affairs
FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

As we come to the end of fall term, your student now has some experience with Dartmouth’s academic life, and a better understanding of how learning at college is different from high school. The winter break is a great time to do some reflection about their successes and challenges during their first term, and discuss possible adjustments for winter term.

Your student’s D-Plan is due early in the spring term, and they will actually need to make decisions soon about whether or not they plan to participate in off-campus programs during their sophomore year. Please encourage your student to access their Undergraduate Dean for support.

The Undergraduate Deans Office annual guide, *Explore, Engage, Excel: An Introduction to Academics at Dartmouth College* is a great resource for information about the first-year academic experience and beyond. We hope you will spend some time reviewing this resource with your student.

SOPHOMORES

This is a pivotal year for your student, as they will develop their academic plans for the remainder of their Dartmouth career and prepare to declare a major during their fifth term in residence. We want to be sure you have the information you need to help support them in that process.

Please take a moment to review *The Sophomore Year*, which summarizes the academic opportunities and advising resources available to your student.

The Undergraduate Deans Office, together with other colleagues from our Student Academic Support Services team, are conducting a total of sixteen major advising workshops this month, and will be continuing them into the winter term. If your student hasn’t already done so, please encourage them to take advantage of these opportunities, which are promoted in the undergraduate deans’ weekly messages to the sophomore class.

NOTE FROM THE UNDERGRADUATE DEANS OFFICE

Please make sure to access Parent, Family, and Guardian Connections online, which is part of the Undergraduate Deans Office website.

We wish you well, and enjoy getting to know your student and working with them in support of their success. Thanks and take care!
JUNIORS

Junior year provides your student with a space to focus more purposefully on their major, develop a plan to complete graduation requirements, cultivate strategies to pursue professional as well as post graduate opportunities, and choose how they will leave their mark through their Dartmouth College experience. Your student may be thinking about:

- Taking full advantage of the D-Plan by participating in FSPs or LSAs.
- Continuing their exploration and confirming their major choice
- Preparing for senior year fellowships and scholarships for graduate study
- Becoming acquainted with faculty, particularly those outside their major
- Out-of-classroom contact with professors
- An honors thesis
- Upcoming deadlines – completing language and PE requirements, editing major cards, etc.

SENIORS

Your senior may have many conflicted feelings as they approach graduation and prepare to move onto the next phase of their lives. It is important to acknowledge that beginnings and endings can be stressful and are a normal part of growing. We hope that you can use this time to open up many fruitful conversations with your student about their personal values and lifestyle in relation to future planning, and remind them of their abilities, skills, interests, and successes. Reflection is a critical part of student development, especially in this important time of transition.

Dartmouth College has a network of effective resources to assist every senior, whether your student plans to graduate in June or is postponing graduation until a later date. These resources provide support as your student pursues academic and personal success while at Dartmouth, and can help them prepare for graduation and life after Dartmouth as well. These include the Center for Professional Development and the Undergraduate Deans Office. Please encourage your student to reach out to these resources.

OTHER ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Did you know that over 400 Dartmouth students work as peer tutors, study group leaders, or resident experts each term?

Not only are they helping other students achieve their goals, they are also enhancing their own understanding of the material, becoming better communicators, and, if applicable, fulfilling work-study employment.

For more information, visit the Academic Skills Center website.

To teach is to learn twice.  

-- Joseph Joubert

COMMENCEMENT UPDATES

The Commencement website is up to date with all of the 2016 events (http://www.dartmouth.edu/~commence/). Conferences and Events sent a tentative schedule to students in early November. Information to parents, guardians, and families with schedules and housing options will be sent in late winter. To ensure these arrive, please encourage your student to verify that your mailing address is correct in Banner. Thanks and we look forward to seeing you in June!
The Dartmouth Bystander Initiative (DBI) aims to empower all of us, as a community, to understand our role in preventing violence. DBI programs and workshops help individuals build a skillset to take action when facing potential moments of harm and allow opportunities to create proactive moments of actions. Program participants will connect with their role as a bystander, learn to recognize concerning behaviors, identify personal and social barriers that make it difficult to intervene, work with others to form intervention strategies that accommodate various scenarios and individual strengths, and walk away with proactive ways to build a safer community.

All first-year students were introduced to DBI at Orientation and then had follow-up discussions during a floor meeting with their Undergraduate Advisor (UGA). Check us out at www.dartmouth.edu/dbi/.

The Student Wellness Center
Empowering Our Community to Thrive!

This fall marks the launch of the new Student Wellness Center (SWC)! The staff at the SWC work to empower students to maximize their potential by preparing individuals and groups to take meaningful action to increase positive, health-promoting behaviors. At the core of the SWC are evidence-based preventative programs, innovative approaches, and holistic wellness practices. We provide opportunities for reflection, connection, intention, and mobilization across the seven different dimensions of wellness (intellectual, physical, emotional, financial, social, and spiritual) in close collaboration with our partners across the Division of Student Affairs.

For more information, visit the Student Wellness Center website.

LiveSafe Security App for Dartmouth

A new LiveSafe security app tailored specifically for Dartmouth students, faculty, and staff is now available as a free download for smartphones. This Dartmouth-specific safety smartphone app allows members of the Dartmouth community to easily and immediately seek assistance if they ever feel threatened. We presented the new app to first-year students and undergraduate advisors (UGAs) during Orientation, and have already seen a great response. To download LiveSafe, your student can find it on the Apple App Store or Google Play. (Enable location services and push notifications when prompted.) They can sign up with their Dartmouth email address and search for “Dartmouth College”.

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The annual Homecoming Bonfire was a success despite the rainy weather. The Class of 2019 built the Bonfire and walked in the “sweep”, a walk across campus to the Green, where they joined the tradition of running around the Bonfire.

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Families,

Hello! I’m pleased to take this opportunity to introduce myself in my role as the Dean of the College, the senior officer responsible for undergraduate academic life at Dartmouth. I began working in this position in July after having been at Dartmouth for 9 years as a professor of Spanish and Comparative Literature specializing in Latin American literary and cultural studies, literary theory, gender studies, and Mexican cultural criticism.

One of my primary projects this year is to collaborate with Student Affairs officers and the new House Professors to develop the new house system. My long-term goal is to better integrate faculty and academic engagement into the full range of student experiences, from pre-matriculation to post-graduation.

This is an exciting time at Dartmouth, and I look forward to partnering with students, staff, faculty, alumni, and families to further enrich academic life at the College. I will be sharing more about these initiatives as the year unfolds. We will be looking to you and your student to help make these efforts successful.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Rebecca Biron
First-Year Family Weekend

We are excited to welcome first-year families during the weekend of **May 6-8, 2016** for First-Year Family Weekend. Please be on the lookout for registration information in the spring, which will be mailed home in March.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**FALL 2015**

- November 13-17: Winter term course change period
- November 17: Fall term classes end
- November 18-19: Pre-Examination Break
- November 20-25: Final exams
- November 25: Residence halls close at noon

**WINTER 2016**

- January 2: Residence halls open
- January 4: Classes begin
- January 7: Deadline to complete check-in without a $50 late registration fee
- January 18: Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No Classes)
- February 9: Spring term housing applications due
- February 15: Date for submission of degree applications by prospective winter and spring graduates
- February 15: Final day for students to change their enrollment pattern for spring term from an R (for Residence) without incurring a charge of one hundred dollars ($100) and to be eligible for on-time College housing assignment
- March 8: Winter term classes end
- March 9-10: Pre-Examination Break
- March 11-15: Final exams
- March 16: Residence halls close at noon

**106th Annual Winter Carnival**

February 11-14, 2016

Since 1911, Dartmouth’s Winter Carnival has celebrated the beauty of the winter season in the Upper Valley and the achievements of Dartmouth’s many winter sports teams. From humble beginnings as a weekend of winter sporting, Carnival has evolved into a three-day festival of events across campus. Organized each year by students on the Winter Carnival Council in partnership with the Collis Center for Student Involvement, Winter Carnival offers something for everyone!

**DARTMOUTH RESIDENTIAL LIFE**

**IMPORTANT HOUSING DATES**

**FALL TERM CLOSING**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH AT 12PM**

**WINTER TERM OPENING**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 2ND, 9AM-9PM**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 3RD, 9AM-9PM**

ANYONE WHO NEEDS HOUSING BETWEEN THESE DATES SHOULD APPLY FOR INTERIM HOUSING ON BANNER STUDENT HOUSING STARPORTAL

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS CALL 603-646-3093

EMAIL RESIDENTIAL.LIFE@DARTMOUTH.EDU

**Controlled Storage**

End of Fall Term 2015

- Saturday, Nov. 21, 11am-3pm
- Sunday, Nov. 22, 11am-3pm
- Monday, Nov. 23, 10am-1pm & 1:30pm-4:30pm
- Tuesday, Nov. 24, 10am-1pm & 1:30pm-4:30pm
- Wednesday, Nov. 25, 9am-1pm & 1:30pm-3pm

Controlled Storage will not be available from Nov. 26-Nov. 28.

Opening of Winter Term 2016

- Saturday, Jan. 2, 10am-1pm & 1:30pm-6pm
- Sunday, Jan. 3, 10am-1pm & 1:30pm-6pm
- Monday, Jan. 4, 10am-1pm & 1:30pm-4:30pm
- Tuesday, Jan. 5, 10am-1pm & 1:30pm-4:30pm

Controlled Storage is not open on weekends, except where noted above. Appointments must be made one business day in advance for times other than the listed open times.

For questions please call 603-646-1203 or email residential.operations@dartmouth.edu
College can at times be very challenging, but the good news is that there are many remarkable people and resources waiting to support your student. Encourage your student to take advantage of these resources early and often. The sooner they do, the sooner our colleagues can begin to connect and support your student.

The Academic Skills Center has helped thousands of Dartmouth students excel academically. The ASC offers many services, including individual academic coaching sessions, dozens of useful handouts on study skills and time management, termly workshops on subjects such as speed reading and learning enhancement, and, of course, the fall term only Learning at Dartmouth course that gives students all the tools they need to succeed (plus a PE credit!).

http://www.dartmouth.edu/~acskills/

The Tutor Clearinghouse offers individual peer tutors and study groups for most introductory courses. These services are either free or reduced cost for financial aid students. Students who use this service report greatly improved results in courses and a deeper understanding of the material, as well as the opportunity to meet and bond with other students.

http://www.dartmouth.edu/~acskills/tutors/index.html

The Center for Reading, Writing, and Information Technology (RWIT) is a fantastic (and free) resource for students who are writing papers and doing research. RWIT’s specially trained peer tutors can help students in any stage of the paper writing process.

http://www.dartmouth.edu/~rwit/

Pre-Health Advising is an invaluable resource for any student inclined towards medicine. The Pre-Health advisors are available to discuss any aspect of the pre-health journey, academic or extra-curricular, during walk-in hours and scheduled appointments. The Pre-Health advisors very strongly recommend that any interested students should meet with them as early as possible.

http://www.dartmouth.edu/~nss/

The Undergraduate Deans Office supports students from New Student Orientation to Graduation. Undergraduate Deans are general advisors for academic, personal, and social issues. Your student should definitely talk to them about their key academic decisions (e.g. D-Plan, course election, graduation requirements, majors). The Undergraduate Deans can also help connect your student to appropriate college resources, interpret policies, and give tips on improving academic performance. Your student can schedule one-on-one appointments with their Undergraduate Dean, or visit open hours in the Student Academic Support Services Center for quick questions.

http://www.dartmouth.edu/~upperde/

The DOCSs (Deans Office Student Consultants) are a group of specially trained seniors who help students with any questions they might have about academics. Your student can find a list of the current DOCSs online and email them at anytime with questions.

http://www.dartmouth.edu/~upperde/consultants/index.html

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The Office of Pluralism and Leadership (OPAL) provides many opportunities to support students’ academic success, leadership development, cultural enrichment, and community engagement on issues such as gender, race, sexuality, and socio-economic status. If your student is interested in learning more about these issues or getting involved in these communities, they can visit the OPAL office in the Student Academic Support Services Center. http://www.dartmouth.edu/~opal/

Student Accessibility Services works with students, faculty, and staff to ensure that the services, programs, and activities at Dartmouth are accessible and usable by students with disabilities. Your student can make individual appointments with Student Accessibility Services for screening services or to make arrangements for accommodations. http://www.dartmouth.edu/~accessibility/

The Center for Professional Development is a valuable place to start exploring future career options. At CPD, students can explore thousands of leave-term internship options, learn how to write a resume and cover letter, or learn about applying to grad school. CPD offers many workshops, individualized appointments, and walk-in hours, even for first-year students. http://www.dartmouth.edu/~care/

Case Management coordinates resource delivery with the ultimate goal of assisting students in their academic and personal success at Dartmouth. We are an added student resource for complicated, emergency, or systemic student concerns. 603-646-2980

The Office of Student Life is the go-to resource for many student organizations, including the Collis Center for Student Involvement, Greek Letter Organizations and Societies (GLOS), Outdoor Programs Office, Programming Board, class programming (like the bonfire and the snow sculpture), Student Assembly, and other student governance opportunities. http://www.dartmouth.edu/stulife/

The Tucker Center is the hub for religious and spiritual life; they support students looking for a sense of meaning and purpose through their spirituality or moral values. The Dartmouth Center for Service can be a great resource for students interested in direct service opportunities, social entrepreneurship, philanthropy, and social activism. http://www.dartmouth.edu/~tucker/

The Undergraduate Advisor (UGA) and Community Director (CD) in your student's residence hall can be an obvious first place to turn for advice and support.

Counseling and Human Development can help when things get tough; they have many counselors that are trained to handle almost any issue. Short term counseling services are available for free, and all visits are strictly confidential. So if your student has any concerns, Counseling and Human Development is there to help (although they may need to schedule an appointment early!). http://www.dartmouth.edu/~chd/

ON CALL SERVICES FOR YOUR STUDENT

Please tell your student that in the event that they need support during the evening or weekend hours, they should know the on-call resources for emergencies, which are available every day, 365 days a year. There is always a Dean-On-Call, a Counselor-On-Call, and a Community Director-On-Call.

To contact one of the resources, your student should contact the Department of Safety & Security (DOSS) at 603-646-3333 and ask to be connected with the on-call resource. DOSS will help your student determine what care they need and how and where to get it. If further intervention is appropriate, the on-call resource will help. In some cases, for instance, the on-call resource will help your student formulate a plan, including resources for support, to get through the night or weekend.

Student Wellness Center works with students to develop holistic wellness, including physical, emotional, and spiritual wellness. If your student has a concern, the Wellness Center could be a great place to start! They offer walk-in appointments and resources such as:

- Sexual Health Peer Advisors (Sexperts) provide advice on issues of healthy relationships, pleasure-based sexuality, STIs and contraception.
- Sexual Assault Peer Advocates (SAPAs) work with victims, survivors, and secondary survivors (e.g., UGAs, friends, family, or partners) and educate the Dartmouth community about sexual assault and intimate partner violence.
- Dartmouth on Purpose (DOP), a student organization that promotes self-care and mindfulness.
- Movement Against Violence (MAV), a student-run organization that seeks to educate peers on sexual violence prevention through facilitated discussions.

For more information about resources at Dartmouth, please visit the Student Affairs website.

For general questions, you can call the Student Affairs office, Monday through Friday between 8 AM and 4:30 PM: (603) 646 – 3113