

A FRESH START NEWSLETTER

A NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS OF FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

Published by the Providence College Parent Program

Fall 2011

Greetings Parents!

The first year of college is an exciting time for most students and their families. It also can be a challenging time as first year students address the many transitions of college life. Needless to say, as a parent, you've provided the moral support, words of wisdom, and unconditional love to help your son or daughter get to this important place in life.

This "Fresh Start" Newsletter is designed to be a valuable resource as you continue to support your student's growth and development. It contains information to enhance your knowledge of the Providence College experience and will hopefully serve as a useful tool as you assist your student in adjusting to a new academic environment and all that entails.

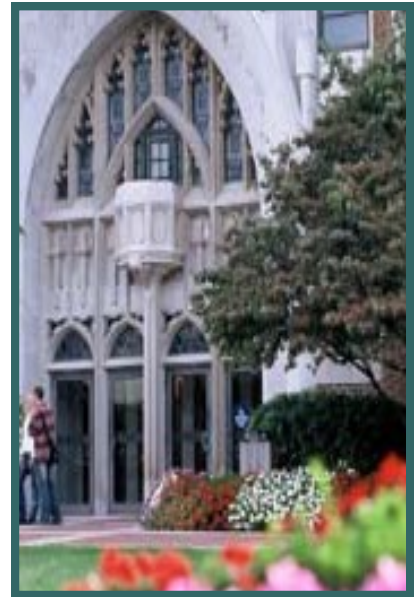
I look forward to working with you as we collaborate together in the best interest of our students. For more information about resources for parents I invite you to visit the Providence College Parent Program website at: <http://www.providence.edu/parents>.

Let the Journey Begin!

Jacqueline Kiernan MacKay

Associate Dean

Director of PC Parent Program



Timely Tips From The Freshman Dean - Dr. Wanda S. Ingram, Sr. Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies

The transition from high school to college academics is a major adjustment for most first year students. Regardless of how successful your student was in high school, he or she will have to develop new academic strategies. Suggestions for parents include:

- Remind your students to read each syllabus thoroughly for assignments, deadlines, and faculty office location/hours.
- Encourage your students to approach their faculty member if there are any problems concerning his/her office hours.
- Remind your students to develop good time management habits early on--use of free time, high energy times, etc, and help them break large tasks into smaller, achievable steps.
- Recommend that your students explore the web site for the Office of Academic Services at www.providence.edu/academic-services, paying particular attention to "Academic Help Stop"; and special services such as tutorial, disability, athletics; and the "Writing Center".
- Keep the lines of communication open, and listen – use your Parent Handbook to make good referrals.
- If you are about to intervene, stop and ask yourself if your actions are fostering dependence or independence.

Freshman Common Reading Program Introduced to New Students - Charles Haberle, Assistant V.P. for Academic Affairs

Providence College's inaugural Freshman Common Reading Program (FCRP) was launched this summer, with Jonathan Safran Foer's *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* as the selected text. The book was reviewed and recommended by a committee of faculty and students last spring, and endorsed by President Shanley and Provost Lena.

The novel, a fictional story centered on a precocious 9-year-old whose father died in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, was provided to all new students earlier this summer as part of the "Advising/Registration Days" program. New Student Orientation Leaders subsequently facilitated online discussion about the book during the month of August, with more than 800 student reflections posted to discussion forums. When all new students returned for the second part of New Student Orientation in early September, they had an opportunity to engage in facilitated face-to-face group discussions about the book, led by faculty, staff, and orientation leaders.



Faculty were impressed with the new students' willingness to engage in a lively discussion during small group meetings on September 2. As Dr. Robert Hackey, Professor of Health Policy and Management, noted, students were touched by the book and its message. "Our session was one of the best student-led discussions I've had the pleasure of participating in as a faculty member at PC. Every student in our group had something to contribute, and the students really seemed to engage in a conversation with the characters in the book." The book seemed to strike a responsive chord for the new students, who were close to Oskar's age at the time of 9/11. "As one student observed, just like Oskar carried his tambourine with him to remind himself of who he was while he searched for answers in New York, we're all bringing our memories and experiences from home as we explore life at Providence College. We're all like Oskar now."

Additional programming related to the FCRP is planned for this academic year. In particular, the College has scheduled a series of spiritual and academic programs, as well as art exhibits, to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the September 11, 2001 tragedies. Individual faculty also may choose to include the book and/or its themes in selected courses throughout the year.

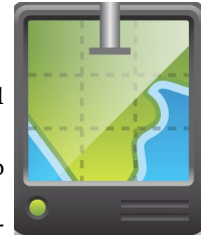
We want to help parents to help student to help themselves. An important part of this process for parents is to encourage students to learn to identify and make use of campus resources.

-Jacqueline Kiernan MacKay - Director of PC Parent Program

News from the Undeclared Advising Office - Margaret Ruggieri, Assistant Dean

As the new Director of the Undeclared Advising Program it has been a busy past few months with New Student Orientation sessions, our office move to Harkins 213, and planning for the academic year. The Undeclared Advising Program currently has two programs scheduled in the fall for undeclared freshman students.

In late September, an exciting new workshop is scheduled entitled *GPS for your GPA: College Success Navigation Tips to get your GPA headed in the Right Direction*. The program will include a panel of upperclassmen who will share their personal strategies on how to manage college life and maintain a healthy balance of academics and fun, as well as their advice on mapping a way to finding the major.



In late October, the Undeclared Advising Office and the Office of Career Services will co-sponsor the *Major/Minor Fair*. This annual event is a special program designed for freshman and sophomores students to have an opportunity to learn first hand from faculty and students about specific majors and academic programs. All students must declare a major by March of their sophomore year.

Please encourage your students to attend these programs.

The Office of Academic Services - Meghan Kiley, Ast. Director for Academic Skills

Just as a baseball player studies film of past games and spends hours in the batting cage, students should always be working to enhance their study skills in order to perform at the highest level. At the Office of Academic Services, we work to help students reach their academic goals through a variety of services. These services include both a Tutorial Center and a Writing Center. Students may also contact the OAS (401-865-2494) to set up individual consultations with one of our professional staff members

The OAS offers workshops on many topics including time management, note-taking, and test-taking. Our most popular workshop, "Surviving CIV", will now be offered twice during the fall semester. Academic strategies will be presented by tutors and a professor from the Development of Western Civilization Program to help students succeed in this challenging course.

Students are regularly sent e-mails to inform them of upcoming workshops. More information about the OAS and ongoing programming can be found at www.providence.edu/academic-services, or you can follow us on twitter @ProvCollege_OAS .

2011 IMPORTANT DATES!

October 10 Columbus Day, No classes

November 4-6 Freshman Family Weekend

November 23-27 Thanksgiving Break

December 12, DWC Final Exam

December 14-19 Final Exams

A Message from the Dean of Residence Life - Tiffany Gaffney

Living on the PC campus is an integral part of your student's educational experience. To assist in this educational endeavor, the Office of Residence Life staff is committed to providing your student with a safe, comfortable and respectful place to live while encouraging morally-responsible, independent living through educational, social and student leadership programs. We strive to provide excellent service in student housing that meets the needs and maximizes the opportunities offered to your student.

Your interest and support are critical and necessary for your student's adjustment to life away from home. While you may be tempted to continue the hands-on relationship you had with your child at home, I ask that you be mindful of the decision making independence that should be occurring at this stage in your son's or daughter's life. Crafting a meaningful, but perhaps different, type of communication pattern will serve as an exciting, though sometimes difficult challenge.

It is in our mission to create an environment that is respectful of all students and supportive of the academic, spiritual, and emotional growth of the community. We view living on campus as a privilege, not a right. At times, it is necessary to have difficult conversations with students regarding the way in which their choices are impacting the community. My hope is that you will reinforce our expectations. Please do not hesitate to review the Student Handbook for details about what those expectations are, or to contact me with questions at tgaffne1@providence.edu.

By living in on-campus housing, your student has the opportunity to learn how to live in a community environment and to accept certain responsibilities that accompany community living. In time, this experience will have equipped your student with important life skills and prepared him or her for future success. After all, commencement is only the beginning!

"Study abroad is like the Spring Training for this century"

--Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State

Information about study abroad and the Center for International Studies can be found at <http://www.providence.edu/cis>

Campus Ministry-A Great Way for Students to Get Involved!

Students are invited to participate in the numerous social, service, and spiritual activities sponsored by the Office of Campus Ministry. Whether its building a house with Habitat for Humanity, serving or singing at Mass, volunteering at a soup kitchen, or meeting friends in a faith-sharing group—Campus Ministry has something for every PC student. For more information about how to become involved, students should drop by the Campus Ministry Center, located in the lower level of St. Dominic Chapel, or contact the Chaplain's Office at: chaplain@providence.edu.

Security at PC - Major J. Leyden, Executive Director of Office of Safety and Security

Emergency Notification System:

Providence College utilizes an emergency notification system through a third party messaging provider, Blackboard Connect, also referred to on campus by students as PC Alert. This system will send emergency messages via SMS text, Email, and voice to student cell phones and PC email accounts. The system is tested once each semester. Students are automatically registered for this system when the student provides cell phone information to the Residence Life Office during check-in. For students who do not provide cell information upon check-in or need to make changes to their cell phone number, they may do so by going to the Office of Enrolment Services, Harkins Hall 310.

Safe Travel: The Office of Safety and Security oversees the College shuttle program. The shuttle runs Monday thru Thursday from 6 PM to 1 AM and Friday and Saturday until 2 AM. The shuttle follows a specific route through campus and the surrounding neighborhood. Please urge your students to utilize this resource to travel off-campus. Automated transportation information is available 24 hours a day at (401) 865-2940.

Anonymous Tips: Providence College's TipNow initiative let's students send an anonymous crime "tip" 24/7 to the Office of Safety and Security. Students can send "tips" to PC@tipnow.org or text 401.281.9933.

More specific information about the Office of Safety and Security can be found at:

<http://www.providence.edu/safety>

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

Freshman Family Weekend November 4-6, 2011



<http://www.providence.edu/news/events/Pages/ffwe.aspx>

Special Guest: Jonathon Safran Foer, author of "*Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*", PC's inaugural book for the Freshman Common Reading Program. Foer's book, which has been produced for film, is due in theatres this coming January.

REMIND YOUR STUDENT!

Major/Minor Fair

October 26, 2011 1:30pm-3:30pm '64 Hall

Recreational Sports for Fall - Chris Schmidt, Assistant Director for Intramurals

The Department of Recreational Sports is excited for the start of another action packed semester. Our goal is to satisfy the physical, social, and competitive needs of our students through various fitness, club, and intramural sport programs.

The semester kicks off with registration for Intramural Flag Football, Indoor Soccer, and Doubles Tennis. If a participant is unable to find a team or partner to play with, we do our best to match them up with Later on in the fall, kickball, field hockey, 3 on 3 basketball, dodgeball, and wallyball leagues will be available. Also, the club volleyball season is just around the corner and the dance team will be gearing up for another exciting season of performing at the Friar's home basketball games.

Since team sports are not for everyone, we also offer a variety of fitness programs to keep our students active and healthy. Students can participate in over a dozen fitness classes, including spinning, yoga, zumba, Pilates, and many more. And for those looking for some extra motivation, personal trainers are available. More information on all of the programs we offer can be found in the Recreational Sports webpage at

<http://www.providence.edu/recreation/Pages/default.aspx>

Parents for Providence Association - Promoting Parent Involvement!

All parents of first year and new students are invited to become active in the Parents for Providence Association. The Association encourages volunteerism among the parent community in the areas of career services, admissions, fundraising, events, and much more.

Last year, members of the Parents for Providence Association and Parents Leadership Council were integral in generating excitement for the largest fundraiser in the College's history – A Night in Black and White – raising over \$450,000 to support our greatest needs. Parents have also been active in attending and promoting regional career nights for current students and hosting families at summer receptions.

Would you like to be part of our vibrant community? All parents of new students will receive a packet from the Association in the coming week. A volunteer form will be enclosed, and we encourage you to return the form and donate some of your time to the Association. Opportunities to participate are also outlined on our website at www.support.providence.edu/parentsforprovidence where you can complete the volunteer form online and indicate your area of interest.

To learn more, please contact Alicia Cipriano, Assistant Director of Annual Giving, at 401.865.1296 or at mychild@providence.edu.

THE PROVIDENCE COLLEGE PARENT PROGRAM**Information. Education. Collaboration.****Feel free to contact us at:****parents@providence.edu**

"A Fresh Start" Newsletter is published twice a year by the PC Parent Program

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