To Parents of Students in the Class of 2019:

Where has the summer gone? Now that the last few weeks are at hand, students are preparing to arrive at Wesleyan as sophomores, including the 62 new transfers who will be joining the Class of 2019. I look forward to welcoming them all and to hearing about their various summer adventures and work experiences when they come to campus. Transfer Orientation starts on Wednesday, August 31, returning students move into housing on Saturday, September 3, and classes begin on Monday, September 5. While sophomores are familiar with the college experience, the new year brings an opportunity to live in a new housing assignment, meet new hall mates and friends, take courses in new areas, and start new co-curricular activities.

There are a number of milestones that characterize the sophomore year and will frequently crop up in my correspondence with both you and the students over the next two semesters: major declaration, study abroad, and summer internships. The 2019 Class Council and I will be organizing some great events for the class so that class members will have the opportunity to talk about these milestones over dinner with staff from the Gordon Career Center and the Office of Study Abroad and with faculty members.

Sophomores declare their major in early March, so they have this fall semester to continue to explore the curriculum and take the courses that either introduce them to a subject or affirm their interest in it. As they begin their second year, you might want to ask them what areas they are considering for in-depth study. They will discuss major preferences with their faculty advisor and academic departments will host Open Houses this fall for sophomores who are interested in different majors and certificate programs.

Also on the agenda for sophomores is investigating study abroad opportunities. In addition to those offered by other schools, Wesleyan sponsors many of its own programs that require a minimum level of native language proficiency. Other programs may be more flexible and some are in English. Wesleyan offers other off-campus study opportunities, like the Twelve College Exchange or Woods Hole program. For more information about international and domestic programs, look over the following website: http://www.wesleyan.edu/cgs/osa/.

Last on the main agenda is planning for summer internships. It is never too early to begin thinking about possibilities for the summer after the sophomore year, as this can be a good time to start gaining experience in the workplace in whatever area your student might be interested in pursuing.

I know you will have plenty of opportunity to talk about these issues and many more as the semester progresses, and I hope that one of those occasions will be at Wesleyan on Family Weekend, October 28-30. This three-day event offers Weseminars, music and sports—a little something for everybody. I will have office hours from 2 - 4 p.m. on Friday, October 28, and from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 29, if you have questions or concerns, or would just like to drop by to say hello. It would be a pleasure to meet with you in person! If you cannot make it to campus then, I will look forward to visiting with you at some other time.

If you have any questions before then, please do not hesitate to contact me, and enjoy the few remaining weeks of summer. We look forward to the campus grounds being full of energy and activity with the return of the students.

Sincerely,