Dear Parents of Students in the Class of 2020:

Welcome to Wesleyan! This is the first of many letters I will be sending over the next four years in which I will share with you my perspectives on student life at Wesleyan and offer suggestions on how you can help your student negotiate the many academic opportunities and personal challenges that they may face between now and graduation.

With Arrival Day rapidly approaching, I am sure that you are eager for your student to begin making the transition to college. New Student Orientation, which takes place August 31 through September 4, will help smooth this transition by providing new students with information about the many academic, co-curricular, and community resources available at Wesleyan.

So as to make the most of the Wesleyan experience, it is especially important for every new student to make an effort to cultivate a strong relationship with three individuals in particular: the Faculty Advisor, who provides guidance regarding academic plans and who authorizes the course schedule each semester; the Academic Peer Advisor, a fellow student who is knowledgeable of academic support resources and can help new students navigate the Wesleyan "system;" and the Resident Advisor, an upperclass student who is knowledgeable of Wesleyan’s co-curricular resources and whose job is to provide new students with opportunities for personal growth and community engagement.

As Dean for the Class of 2020, my job is to provide information, advice, and support to students. While my primary concern is with student academic growth and intellectual development, this concern naturally extends to personal growth and development within the context of the residential liberal arts environment that is the essence of the Wesleyan educational experience. If you sense that your student has academic concerns or may be in need of personal advice or support, please encourage a visit to my office to meet with me. While I cannot always be of direct assistance, I can always connect a student to someone who can.

As for the questions that you as a parent may have, many answers can be found on the Parents & Families website. Another good resource is Parents' Questions for Students, which provides an overview of the kinds of academic, co-curricular, and personal challenges that students typically face during their time at Wesleyan. Also, I encourage you to subscribe to the Class of 2020 blog, which provides a student-centered perspective on day-to-day life at Wesleyan. The blog also serves as the main channel of communication through which I let students know about campus events, upcoming deadlines, internships, and career opportunities.

And please be sure to mark your calendar for Family Weekend, October 28-30, which will provide you with a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the fall foliage and get a sense of life on campus. I will be holding drop-in hours for parents during Family Weekend on Saturday, October 29 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., so please stop by and say hello if you have a chance. If you cannot make it, I look forward to meeting you on another occasion.

In the meantime, enjoy these final few days of summer before packing your son or daughter off for college. And if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Sincerely,
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