Dear Wesleyan Families:

We're writing to update about recent and ongoing safety initiatives. While we regularly email our campus community and post information on the web, we wanted you to hear directly from us about campus safety. Much of the information included here can be found in greater detail on our website and we will provide those links for you.

At the opening of the school year Public Safety and Residential Life worked together on a number of initiatives to increase awareness and highlight available resources. Wesleyan's Public Safety Advisory Committee, which includes 3 students and Director of Public Safety David A. Meyer, meets regularly to work on how to better communicate with students and how to gather their input. One of our best resources for improving safety is the cooperation of our students.

A few years ago Wesleyan developed a plan to bring student housing closer to the center of campus. We've built new residences and started selling properties at the edges of campus. We believe that bringing students to the core of the campus will improve safety as well as strengthen our sense of community, an integral component of our learning environment.

Wesleyan is an open campus where students have access to all facilities during most hours of the day. Libraries stay open until 2 a.m., and computer labs are open 24 hours a day to accommodate the various schedules and study habits of our students. These are certainly among the reasons your student chose Wesleyan.

The safety of our students is on our agenda every day and is a part of every area of Wesleyan planning and we strive to anticipate and minimize potential problems. Our goal is always to improve safety, reduce incidents and make the best use of our resources. That includes the cooperation of our students. Wesleyan is committed to a safe learning environment in the classroom, a safe living environment in the residential areas, and a safe community in Middletown.

Sincerely,

Maria Cruz-Saco  
Dean of the College

Peter Patton  
Vice President and Secretary of the University

PUBLIC SAFETY GOES DOOR TO DOOR

Public Safety went to residence halls in early September to register computers, bicycles, etc. During orientation students are asked to add the Public Safety phone number to their cell phones. Public Safety and Residential Life staff also went door to door in non-traditional residences to provide safety information.

LOCKS AND FIRE SAFETY

Over the past year we have converted all of our traditional residence halls to electronic card access and added security screens to all first-floor rooms. If an outside door is left open, Public Safety is alerted and responds. Last summer we added fire sprinklers; 100% of our residence hall beds are protected by sprinklers and all have fire alarms reporting to the Middletown Fire Department or an outside alarm monitoring company. With the exception of 128 Pearl Street (24 beds), which is scheduled for sale, our apartment beds are protected by sprinklers. All have fire alarms reporting to the Middletown Fire Department, located next door to the Freeman Athletic Center.

www.wesleyan.edu/publicsafety/bldgsec.htm.

THE MIDDLETOWN COMMUNITY

As you know, Wesleyan is an active and vibrant community whose campus merges into the Middletown community. Many local residents—particularly middle school and high school age residents—are drawn to the Wesleyan campus because of the level of activity here and because of the positive presence our students have cultivated in the Middletown community. Within this group, some see the campus as an opportunity for theft. Most of these thefts are considered “crimes of opportunity” and involve individuals stealing unsecured property or entering student residences through unlocked doors and windows or by “tailgating,” following students into a building. Public safety officers routinely find keys left in doors and outside doors left unlocked, making entry easy and unnoticeable. A small percentage of these incidents involve forced entry.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Public safety officers regularly go door to door in residential areas to talk with students about crime prevention. Public Safety continually realigns shifts to prioritize patrols, and supplements their patrols during more active times by hiring Middletown Police Department officers to work shifts as part of “directed patrols.” The Middletown Police Department, located approximately three blocks from the center of campus, has an officer and a detective assigned to work directly with Public Safety to follow up on Wesleyan-related cases. Several members of the patrol division also assist in crime presentations. Wesleyan Public Safety Captain Mike Kishimoto works with Middletown’s School Resource Police Officer to identify youths that spend time around campus to determine if any of those youths are responsible for campus incidents. We are also working with city IMPACT team, a team of four Middletown Police Department officers who are working to reduce crime in the Pearl Street area. President Benner meets bi-monthly with Middletown’s mayor, and safety issues are always on the agenda.

Wesleyan Web Site: www.wesleyan.edu
SAFETY DURING BREAKS

As breaks approach, Residential Life and Public Safety send emails all students and post signs in the halls reminding students of important safety precautions. In addition, Residential Life student staff and area coordinators continue to be on duty throughout breaks.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

In the area of pedestrian safety, we have installed crosswalk signs on two busy roads, Church Street and Cross Street, which alert drivers that they must stop for pedestrians. There is anecdotal evidence that drivers are responding to the signs and stopping to let pedestrians cross. You can read more at www.wesleyan.edu/newsletter/campus/0306safety.html.

A new crosswalk signal was installed on Washington Street and lighting is being addressed at all crosswalks across campus.

Public Safety's on-going dialogue with the city to investigate areas for crosswalk improvement has yielded a plan for further improvements that will add traffic calming measures by moving curbs, removing on-street parking in some areas, adjusting crosswalk locations to fit pedestrian traffic patterns, installing raised crosswalks and improving signs both on the sides of the road and painted on the roadway. High Street is included in this plan which is pending approval and funding by the city.

We are confident that these measures will help, but we still need students to use the crosswalks or wait for lights to change.

THE WESLEYAN RIDE

The Wesleyan RIDE Campus Shuttle Program is open to all members of the campus community. Service was expanded in the past year to insure safe and convenient transportation for students during evening hours. RIDE vans are available every evening during the regular academic year from 7 p.m. until 4 a.m. Please encourage your student to make use of this service.

Public Safety provides safety escorts from 4 a.m. to dawn throughout the spring and fall semesters. They will also provide escorts during times when the RIDE Program isn’t running such as winter and summer break periods.

Through the RIDE program, the University is able to provide rides for students to the New Haven train station ($50 per trip) and the train station in Meriden ($25 per trip). The cost is per trip and can be shared among students traveling together. Students may pay with the Middletown Cash Program on their WesCards, checks, or cash. Notice is required 3 days in advance in order to schedule the vehicle, arrange for a driver, etc.

www.wesleyan.edu/parents/resources/shuttle.html
www.wesleyan.edu/auxiliaryservices/ride/index.htm

BLUE LIGHT PHONES AND CAMPUS LIGHTING

Public Safety leads campus-wide lighting tours which each year result in suggestions and actions. There are 63 Blue light stations located all across campus.

www.wesleyan.edu/publicsafety/bluelites.htm

Office of Public Safety
www.wesleyan.edu/publicsafety
208 High Street
860-685-2345 (non-emergency)
860-685-3333 (emergency)
Director of Public Safety: David A. Meyer

The Parents Council and the Office of Parent Programs

The Parents Council was instituted in 1994 to help parents communicate with the University and among themselves, and to assist Wesleyan in providing the best education and experiences for its students. All Wesleyan parents are automatically members of the Parents Council.

Office of Parent Programs
Meg Zocco, Director
Camille Dolansky, Associate Director

Questions, comments, or suggestions should be sent to:
ParentLine, Wesleyan University, Horgan House–77 Pearl Street, Middletown, CT 06459, 860/685-3756, parents@wesleyan.edu

For more information visit: www.wesleyan.edu/parents