To the Parents in the Class of 2017,

I want to start this letter by thanking you for sending your daughter or son to Wesleyan. I have enjoyed working with them as their class dean over these past three years, and it is hard to believe that it has gone by as quickly as it has!

Classes end on Wednesday, May 4 with Spring Fling on May 5 and the start of the reading period, which ends on Monday, May 10. Final Exams run through Tuesday, May 11 through Friday, May 14. Housing closes at noon on Saturday, May 15. The 2017’ers are now rising seniors—one year left to go before their walk across the podium on Andrus Field to get their diplomas on May 20, 2017.

But back to finishing up this year! Course pre-registration and senior housing selection are over and with classes ending, students are looking ahead to finals week and planning out how to complete last papers and exams. Many students are also looking forward to participating in internships or research opportunities in this last summer before graduation. Others will travel to far-off places for an intensive language or cultural immersion experience, while still others will work at a job or take summer classes at Wesleyan or elsewhere—or do all of the above! Since life post-Wes is also on the horizon, encourage your son or daughter to use the resources at the Wesleyan Career Center, which is also open during the summer months.

No matter what activities this summer has in store, students should be on top of graduation requirements: 32.00 credits with no oversubscription; completion of one major, residency (six semesters for student entering first year, five if a first-semester sophomore, and four if a second-semester sophomore or junior), minimum of 16.00 Wesleyan credits, and a G.P.A. of at least 74.00. While most students know where they stand in relation to these requirements, the Credit Analysis Report, which monitors students’ progress towards graduation, and the Major Certification Form, which does the same with the major, are essential tools for the to track their progress and are located in their portfolio. Your son or daughter should be very familiar with them, but please ask him or her to come see me if there are any questions or concerns. There should be no surprises about what is needed on this front when they return in the fall.

Clearly, the 2017’ers are coming back to an exciting year, and they typically experience a range of emotions as they feel the pressure to finish up well and do everything they have always wanted to do but never had time for! The summer is a good opportunity to ask your son or daughter about what lies ahead, how they plan to meet graduation requirements, and whether some kind of capstone experience is in the works—a project, thesis, essay, performance, research or art exhibit. You also might want to discuss any feelings of excitement or trepidation as they head into the final year. Being well prepared and focused can make for a much better experience overall. The Parents’ Questions for Students may serve as a helpful guide in your discussions.

It is hard to believe that the class I welcomed on Arrival Day in August of 2013 is preparing for their last year! It has been my pleasure getting to know so many of them, and I look forward to a great final year with the Class of 2017 as they continue to learn, grow and achieve in and outside the classroom. Have a wonderful summer and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Best,

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