Hello to Parents of Students in the Class of 2019,

It is hard to believe that we are already nearing the end of the academic year. The cliché "time flies" has never felt more true. I remember just writing you that your son or daughter would soon have a semester of college under the proverbial belt; in less than a month now, they will have two!

The Wesleyan calendar has been packed ever since classes resumed after spring break. In addition to the demands of coursework, there have been Wesfest and Earth Week activities, identity group awareness month events, spring sports and lectures, as well as panels and workshops on a range of subjects that have filled students' days and evenings with learning and fun outside the classroom. Students are looking forward to Spring Fling on May 5, a traditional coming together on Foss Hill around music and sunshine.

Pre-registration for Fall 2016 classes took place in April. I advised first-year students to explore possible majors online and to keep an eye on introductory or gateway courses when selecting courses so as not to shut any future doors. I also asked them to think about study abroad and/or research opportunities on campus as they sketch possible academic paths for the semesters ahead. Trying to find the balance between continued exploration and preparing for a major commitment can be a challenge, especially if one has lots of interests! But that is the beauty of a liberal arts education—you can do some of everything and still gain depth of knowledge. If you have not already done so, talking with your son or daughter about your perspectives on this moment in their academic trajectory could be an instructive and interesting opportunity.

Classes end on May 4 and wrap up with projects, papers and exams, some of which will be due during finals week, May 10-13. Finals week is preceded by four reading days that begin on May 5. Since time management issues often emerge in full force during this period, you may want to ask your son or daughter how they are planning for those finals and remind them that there are academic skills meetings on exam preparation, exam taking, and time management.

University housing closes on Saturday, May 14. Hopefully, their summer plans are shaping up, if not already in place, and include not only internships, summer jobs, lab research, etc., but also the opportunity for you and your family to spend time with your now rising sophomore and talking about this past year. Self-reflection is such a critical element of growth. By listening to what your son or daughter has learned, I am hopeful that you will, like me, see the ways that they have grown and become even more of the smart and talented person you sent to Wesleyan last August.

It has been my pleasure to work with your son or daughter in the first year at Wesleyan, and I am looking forward to the second year. Have a wonderful summer and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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