

Dear Parents of Students in the Class of 2024:

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 support your student as they navigate the many academic opportunities and personal challenges they will face between now and graduation.

As [Dean for the Class of 2024](#), my job is to provide information, advice, and support to the students in my class. 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 at the heart 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 them to see me. While I cannot always be of direct assistance, I can always connect a student to someone who can assist.

As your student embarks on their Wesleyan journey, there are three individuals on campus with whom you should encourage them to develop a strong working relationship: their faculty advisor, their academic peer advisor, and their resident advisor. Faculty advisors provide guidance regarding academic planning and course selection. Peer advisors are fellow students who are knowledgeable of academic support resources who can also help navigate the Wesleyan “system.” Resident advisors are fellow students who are knowledgeable of Wesleyan’s co-curricular resources and whose job is to provide students with opportunities for personal growth and community engagement.

The past six months have been a challenge, to say the least. But in spite of all the disappointment and uncertainty that COVID has imposed upon our lives, I have been impressed by how resilient this first-year class has been in adapting to this crisis. They have been taking part in virtual orientation activities since the middle of June, and over three hundred enrolled in one of the online summer courses that took place through July and August. Indeed, I have connected with more new students and parents this summer than in any other summer in my time at Wesleyan, which gives me confidence that the Class of 2024 is prepared to meet the new challenges that will arise this fall, whether living on campus or studying remotely.

As for the questions that you as a parent may have, many answers can be found on the [Parent Programs](#) 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 2024 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 be sure to check the [Reactivating Campus website](#) regularly for public health updates, and to review recordings of any virtual town halls or webinars that you may have missed.

In the meantime, please enjoy these final few days of summer. And if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Sincerely,

David Phillips

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<http://classof2024.blogs.wesleyan.edu/>