Dear Parents and Families of Students in the Class of 2024:

As the days get shorter and the nights become colder, our students are getting busier as they prepare for the end of the semester. After Thanksgiving, students will start working on final papers and projects, and preparing study notes for final exams. Classes will end on Friday, December 10, followed by a week of reading days and final exams ending on Saturday, December 18. Housing will close at 12:00 noon on Sunday, December 19, and reopen on Monday, January 17. Winter Session will run from January 4-19 and will offer both online and in-person courses and the spring semester will begin on Thursday, January 20.

The big thing on the mind of most sophomores is the question of declaring a major. Declaring a major means deciding on an academic home. While some students have known what they were going to major in before setting foot on the Wesleyan campus, other students seem to change their major with every passing semester. If you sense that your student could use some help deciding upon a major, please encourage a visit to meet with me, with their faculty, or with the Gordon Career Center to explore their options.

Students who plan to study abroad next fall should be aware that the application process begins in early spring. Wesleyan strongly encourages every student, regardless of major, to participate in study abroad. Immersion in a foreign culture is a transformative personal experience that can transform a student’s understanding of their place in the world in profound and unexpected ways. While some study abroad programs require proficiency in a foreign language, English is sufficient for many others. If your student is contemplating study abroad, encourage a visit to the Office of Study Abroad in the Fries Center for Global Studies as soon as possible.

In addition, it is always a good idea to encourage your student to schedule an appointment with the Gordon Career Center for tips on how to touch up their resume or to get advice on how to find a summer job or internship.

Finally, please be aware that we are busy planning a winter festival for the sophomore class that will take place in January on the day before spring classes begin. We still have many details to work out, but our plan is to create an event with and for students that will provide sophomores with a fun way to connect with one another before the semester is underway.
I will be writing to you again in the early spring. In the meantime, please feel free to call or email if you have any questions or concerns.

Best wishes,
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