Dear Parents of Students in the Class of 2018:

Recently, several students in the class of 2018 have expressed a sense of disbelief about the speed at which they are approaching the end of their junior year and that they are about to be college seniors. With the lengthening daylight hours and warmer temperatures, many students are looking forward to rest and renewal that the mid-semester recess (March 10-26) affords, and some students are exploring career and volunteer opportunities for their final summer before graduation.

Before they know it, it will be time for students to preregister for Fall 2017 courses. The planning phase for course pre-registration (April 4-17) provides an opportunity for students to design strategic course plans to complete major requirements that they should review with their faculty advisors to address any issues that might interfere with completing degree requirements. From April 18-25, the enrollment system will allow students to review their courses, make adjustments to their schedules, and secure their advisors’ approval of their plan of study. April 28 is the deadline for juniors to submit applications for Honors in General Scholarship. Classes end on May 10, followed by final exams (May 16-19). University housing closes at 12:00 noon on Saturday, May 20, and Wesleyan’s 185th ceremony will take place on Sunday, May 28.

Most juniors are still completing the requirements for their majors and earning the 32 credits required for graduation. Although they are encouraged to follow a broad program of study, all students must be aware of oversubscription, which can result from pursuing a program that is too narrow. Fortunately, students have access to a set of useful tools through their e-portfolios that allows them to track their credit distribution as well as review their progress in their majors, minors, and General Education Expectations. It is important that juniors schedule opportunities to meet with their faculty advisors to review these reports to ensure that they are making adequate progress towards the degree. The fall and spring semesters of the senior year will move at a rapid speed, so it is wise to take proactive steps as juniors.

Now that your student will be entering the final year at Wesleyan, you are likely already familiar with the process we call General Room Selection, also known as the housing lottery. The process brings great excitement on campus as juniors begin to experience the advantages of senior status in accessing the premium housing stock. The range of housing options is a hallmark of Wesleyan culture as we help students to move into increasingly independent (adult) living situations.

Along with preparation for independent living after college is the reality of employment or advanced study. Please encourage your student to discuss any interests with professors, faculty advisors, and career center professionals. This will
allow juniors to benefit from their suggestions and referrals and to make early requests for letters of recommendation. By now, they also should have activated their Handshake accounts through the Gordon Career Center. They may use their account to schedule a meeting with a career peer advisor or staff member to review resumes, cover letters, and interview tips.

Last, in my efforts to get to know as many students in the class as possible and to facilitate their interaction with each other and faculty, I have coordinated several events this semester, including a faculty/student dinner with Professor Yamil Velez of the Government Department. Also the Class of 2018 Class Council coordinated a mid-term Study Break and there will be a Thesis and Honor Essay Information Session on April 4 to answer any questions students have about honors capstone projects.

Please encourage your student to stay in contact with me. I hope you too will not hesitate to get in touch with me, if you have any questions or are in need of additional information.

Best wishes,

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