



September, 2006 Volume 3, Issue 1

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WELCOME TO OUR FERRUM FAMILY!

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to our Ferrum College Family! We're glad you and your students have joined us!

There are many exciting things happening on campus right now, from continued construction to new programs and initiatives geared toward helping our students be as successful as they can be. One of the best things for all of us is the increase in enrollment this year--we've welcomed the largest freshman class since 1988 to our campus. This means new energy and ideas as freshmen and upperclassmen interact and work to make the campus and their college experiences everything they want them to be.

This is the first in a series of newsletters that you'll be receiving this year. In each newsletter we will share campus information, articles of interest, and deadlines or processes and procedures that we want to share with you. This is so that you can help your student learn to work within our system and not miss anything important. In this way, we as educators partner with you, parents, to enhance our students' experiences and teach them to grow as adults and take responsibility.

I encourage you to use this information as well as the information included in the Gateway Notebooks you received at PAWS to learn about the college. Contact information for key areas of campus was included in the Notebooks and will also be included in this newsletter. If you or your student have questions about anything, this information will enable you to contact the appropriate office on campus.

If there are any specific topics you would like to learn more about in a future newsletter, please let me know. I can be reached at 540-365-4456 or azuschin@ferrum.edu.

Sincerely,
Dr. Andrea P. Zuschin
Dean of Student Affairs

Administrative Council To Dine with Freshmen

One of the advantages of attending a smaller college is the opportunity to get to know not only other students, but the faculty and staff who as well.

At Ferrum College, students are often encouraged to drop by an office to say hello. Of course, with work schedules being what they are, it's not always possible for a spontaneous chat to take place at the exact moment a student drops in.

A new initiative is being started this semester to make it easier for our new students to meet the people on campus who have some of the busiest schedules, Ferrum College President, Dr. Jennifer Braaten, and her Administrative Council, Mr. Bobby Thompson, Sen-

ior Vice President for Business Affairs, Dr. Leslie Lambert, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College, Dr. Lee King, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Mr. Doug Clark, Vice President for Enrollment Management, and Dr. Andrea Zuschin, Dean of Student Affairs.

Throughout the fall semester, each freshman will receive a personalized invitation inviting them to lunch in the Magnolia Room in Franklin Hall to dine with a member of the Administrative Council and several other freshmen. This will be a time to get to know each other, ask questions, and share a meal in a very informal and casual setting.

This is a wonderful opportunity, so please encourage your student to keep checking his or her campus mailbox throughout the semester and to attend the lunch on the scheduled date.

The Ferrum Community Health Center

An exciting new change on campus is the creation of the Ferrum Community Health Center. Ferrum College has partnered with the Laurel Fork Health Commission to create the Ferrum Community Health Center, which will serve faculty, staff and students just as our previous health facility did. In November the service will move to its new facility in the lower level of Vaughn Chapel and will begin offering medical services to community members as well. This new facility will offer increased medical services, including a lab for testing, x-rays, and a pharmacy. Counseling services will

still be offered by Family Service of Roanoke through the Health Center.

A big part of what made the Ferrum College Health Center so great was the staff. We are happy to announce that Sheri Sigmon, RN, Martha Puckett, Secretary, and Theresa Spencer, RN, are still on campus and working with our students. We also welcome our new addition, Susan Jones, Nurse Practitioner, who has moved to Ferrum from Emporia, VA, to work at the Ferrum Community Health Center.

Students will be able to visit the Health Center as always and should be prepared for their visit to be similar to visiting their own doctor's office at home. They'll need to present their insurance

card, complete personal and demographic information on forms, and be prepared to pay the co-pay required by their own insurance company. The health insurance purchased from the College, through Commercial Travelers, is accepted at the Health Center.

We are glad that the Ferrum Community Health Center has become a part of our campus!

What to Expect...

So you've sent your son or daughter away to college--now what? Do you know what to expect in terms of how they'll change? In terms of how you'll change? In terms of how your family will change?

Here are some thoughts on what you might expect and how to respond.

The Student Mindset

Every year Beloit College publishes the "mindset list" that helps professionals at colleges better understand our students' perspectives. Our incoming freshmen were born, for the most part, in 1988. For our students:

- ◆ Reality shows have always been on television.
- ◆ There has always only been one Germany.
- ◆ Google has always been a verb.
- ◆ Smoking has never been permitted on U.S. airlines.
- ◆ They've only known two presidents.
- ◆ Bar codes have always been on everything.

For a complete list, you can visit the website at

<http://www.beloit.edu/~pubaff/mindset/>

Generationally speaking

This generation of students is referred to as the Millennials. As a generation, they tend to be optimistic, intelligent, team players, civic-minded, family-oriented, and high achievers who were sheltered

as they grew up (this is the generation that grew up in mini-vans with "baby on board" signs and the first group to really wear bicycle helmets).

This generation of parents is known as... no kidding... helicopter parents (if you don't believe me, just google it!) because of their tendency to "hover" over their children now that they're in college.

What you'll hear from your student:

- ◆ I'm homesick.
- ◆ I'm bored.
- ◆ There's nothing to do.
- ◆ I'm afraid.
- ◆ This is different from being at home.
- ◆ Classes are harder than I thought.
- ◆ I've gained weight.
- ◆ This is not what I expected.
- ◆ How will I fit in?

What to expect to feel yourself:

- ◆ It's quiet at home.
- ◆ A change in family dynamics.
- ◆ A change in your relationship with your child.
- ◆ How do you support your child now?

What you can do:

Don't over-react to those first phone calls. They will be anxious and that's normal. Listen to their concerns and be patient with them.

Encourage them to stay here the first few weekends of school and not come home. There are weekend activities and they'll meet

more students who have similar interests if they stay around campus at first.

Help guide them in solving their own problems. They'll need to begin doing this themselves sometime, and college is a good place to begin learning.

Encourage them to talk to someone--a professor, a CA, or another staff member--about any problems they may have.

Be aware of our campus resources such as tutoring, counseling, health services, student clubs and organizations, and residence life staff.

Accept your own feelings, they're normal. Explore new activities now that you may have some free time. Also be aware of other family members, such as younger siblings, who may also miss your son or daughter.

3-Step Problem Solving

In order to help you help your student learn to solve problems, we offer this advice in three steps:

1. Encourage your student to talk directly with the person with whom there is a conflict (e.g., roommate, professor).
2. Encourage your student to speak with a staff member about problems or concerns.
3. If you are still not satisfied with the result, call the appropriate office on campus.

I hope this helps you and your student make the transition to college. Again, we're glad they're with us at Ferrum!

College Calendar

Fall Semester 2006

Classes Begin - 9/4

Last Day to Add a Class - 9/8

Last Day to Drop a Class

Without Penalty - 9/29

Mid-Term Grades Due - 10/18

Fall Break - 10/19 - 10/22

Residence Halls Open - 10/22, 1 p.m.

Classes Resume - 10/23

Blue Ridge Folklife Festival - 10/28

Last Day to Drop (WP/WF) - 11/8

Pre-Registration - 11/13 - 11/17

Thanksgiving Break - 11/18 – 11/26

(begins after last class on 11/17)

Residence Halls Open - 11/26, 1 p.m.

Classes Resume - 11/27

Last Day of Classes - 12/12

Exam Period - 12/13 – 12/18

(Only the English 101 exam would be Wednesday; some exams would be given on Saturday)

Grades Due - 12/20

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**EMERGENCIES AFTER HOURS
OR ON WEEKENDS -
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DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

FERRUM COLLEGE

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