

First Year Student Newsletter

Volume 10.1

August/September 2005

Produced by
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and the Office of Undergraduate Studies**

Greetings from the Dean for First Year Students

Welcome Class of 2009!

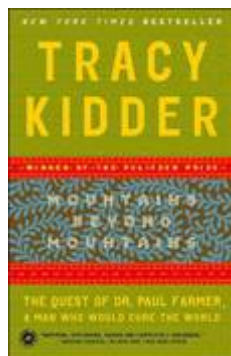
I am excited to finally see all of you on campus and am ready to kick off this exciting new year with you. This is the first in a series of newsletters that I will be sending to you throughout the year so that I can stay in touch with you and keep you informed about important events, deadlines, issues and opportunities. The topics will depend on *your* questions and concerns as well as mine. So please feel free to stop by my office in Sears 357 or at RUSS in Wade or Fribley so that we can chat. Let me know what you would like to know more about. You can also reach me at my e-mail address:

deanamon@case.edu

Open Invitation

I've written to all of you, talked on the phone with many of you, e-mailed you and met some of you. As your class dean, I am looking forward to getting to know each of you. I invite you to stop by my office in Sears 357 or at RUSS in Wade and Fribley to introduce yourself and to let me know how things are going.

The Common Reading, the Academic Community and You



Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World

The Case community will begin the discussion of this year's common reading at Thursday's Share the Vision Program when students will learn the winners of the Essay Contest, and be able to join their community members in engaging and interesting dialogue and debate about this book.

Academic Resources in the Residential Colleges

RUSS

Stop in and Get to know a New Friend in the North and South Residential Villages

The Residential Undergraduate Studies Satellite (RUSS) offices are located in Wade and Fribley. As an extension of the Office of Undergraduate Studies, you can stop by RUSS for quick advising information and academic resources. RUSS is open from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. on Monday – Wednesday. Both appointment and walk-in advising appointments are available. Generally speaking I or the soon to be hired Coordinator for First Year Student Academic Affairs will be there Monday – Wednesday, however, at times one of the other Deans might be available instead. Contact the main Office of Undergraduate Studies at 368-2928 to call about weekly appointment and walk-in availability.

Learning Assistant (LAs)

If you live on campus, you will soon meet your Learning Assistant. Learning Assistants are undergraduate students who serve as academic consultants to provide academic resources, referrals and opportunities to first year students. LAs work for a variety of offices: Undergraduate Studies, Educational Services for Students and Housing, Residence Life & Greek Life. The LAs are here to help you – please take the time to meet your LA and attend their Meet the LA program during the first week of classes!



CaseFAM: First Year Student Advising & Mentoring Program

CaseFAM Peer Advisors have been assigned to 200 first year student volunteers for the 2005 – 2006 academic year, but serve as resources to ALL first year students. These upperclass students are highly trained academic mentors to help first students learn the ropes of the Case community and achieve success. CaseFAM Peer advisors will be providing walk-in advising services at the RUSS Offices in Wade and Fribley beginning in mid-September. Watch your newsletter for additional updates on CaseFAM events for first year students.

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Explore

The possibilities

The campus

The city

The opportunities

The academic degrees, majors and minors at Case

Your values, beliefs, dreams and passions

Enrich

Yourself

Your relationships

Your community

Engage

In the classroom

Out of the classroom

Your peers, your professors, the staff, your family, your friends, your communities

Enjoy

The unknown

The differences

The freedom

The challenge

The beauty

The privilege

The limitless possibilities

Case

CONGRATULATIONS & WELCOME

Meet & Great Your SAGES First Year Advisor
Friday, August 26, 9:30 – 11:30, Veale Athletic Center

Friday morning, you will meet your SAGES First Seminar faculty member who will also serve as your first year advisor. At this event you will also meet the other members of your First Seminar and receive a copy of your fall semester schedule. You will have a chance to go over your schedule with your advisor, ask questions, and discuss any potential schedule changes. Schedule changes cannot be made until the First Year Drop/Add Day, Saturday, August 27. Additionally, you will have the first two week of classes to continue any discussions with your professor/advisor and make adjustments to your schedule.

Your First Semester Schedule

An average first year student course load is 15 - 18 hours with 5 classes, and first year students may not carry more than 18 hours (except music majors and some students with 4-credit hour science/engineering/foreign language courses who may carry more with permission of a dean). If your original course selections totaled more than 5 classes or 19 hours, a course was dropped from your schedule. As a result of course conflicts and closed courses, some student schedules might have been altered. Additionally, not all requests were not scheduled for all the courses they selected. If your schedule currently includes fewer than 14 credit hours, please add a course, unless advised not to do so by your first year advisor. You must be registered for **at least** 12 credit hours in order to be a full time student.

Your schedule should allow you to take courses that help you explore your academic interests, as well as your educational and career goals. Course registration should take into consideration placement changes resulting from earned credit through transfer credit or AP, IB or A-Level examinations. If your advisor does not have transfer credit evaluations and/or advanced examination test results, then Case has not received this information. You need to arrange that this information get to me as soon as possible so that your advisor and I can advise you appropriately with regard to degree completion. If you and your advisor feel that a change needs to be made to your fall semester schedule, please make these changes during the First Year Student Drop/Add session and/or during the subsequent Drop/Add period.

Proficiency Exams

Placement and proficiency examination details are described in your *FYI Guide* and also your Orientation Schedule. Please review these documents for important details.

Proficiency exams are completely optional and are free to students. Students who feel that they have an extensive background in a subject for which they did not previously earn credit may take a proficiency exam. Successful completion of a proficiency exam will result in the awarding of Case credit.



Making Changes, Additions, or Deletions to your First Semester Schedule

ALL SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENTS MUST BE DISCUSSED WITH YOUR FIRST YEAR ADVISOR.

First year students have a special drop/add period*:

Saturday, August 27
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

You should make simple switches electronically using SOLAR; other changes requiring special permission, such as admission into a "Permit" class or a closed class, must be made on a Drop/Add form and be processed at the Registrar's Office – Yost Hall, Room 110. I will be in the Registrar's Office for this Drop/Add Session as will representatives from Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics.

* The Drop/Add continues through the 2nd week of classes.

Course Offerings Update

Physical Education - All students must complete two full semesters of physical education activity courses for zero credit hours. You were instructed to include at least one full semester or half semester course in their fall schedules. (Music students will be registering this week for MUSC 153 and, varsity athletes should make sure that you registered for your Varsity Sport.)

However, PHED courses are fairly tight and you might not have been able to add one to your schedule. If you do not have a PHED at all, check on availability during the first week classes. If you can find something open that works with your schedule, then go ahead and add it during the drop/add period. If you cannot find a course, then make sure to include it in your spring semester schedule.

Chemistry 113* – Students wanting to try to get signed in to CHEM 113 should visit the Registrar's Office during Drop/add on Saturday. If you cannot get into CHEM 113 this fall, there will be plenty of openings in the spring semester. * Students considering a major in chemistry (especially a B.S.) should make sure that CHEM 113 is part of their fall schedule. If it is not, make sure to speak with a chemistry representative at First Year Drop/Add on Saturday.

MATH classes – Students wanting to get signed in to a closed math course or having any questions about which math course is appropriate for his/her interests should also stop by to see Chris Butler during Drop/Add on Saturday. Chris Butler can also be reached at chris@case.edu or x2881.

SAGES First Seminar – Students indicating an interest in a topical first seminar were randomly placed into one of these nine offerings. Students not placed into a topical seminar were placed into the Life of the Mind First Seminars.

NO CHANGE MAY BE MADE YOUR SAGES FIRST SEMINAR COURSE WITHOUT CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL BY DEAN AMON. Changes to your SAGES First Seminar course will only be considered in the event that your First Seminar course conflicts with another course that is absolutely required in your first semester.

Web-Based Math 120 (CRN 17897)
First Class Meeting: Tuesday, August 30, 11:35 a.m.
Strosacker Auditorium

Study math when it is convenient for you, focusing on what you want to learn. No set class times. The web never gets tired of interacting with you and giving you feedback. But there is more - if you still have a question, you can ask it, face-to-face, one-on-one, of a real human!

In the web-based MATH 120, you will be able to work at your own pace with lots of feedback and rich and flexible set of interactive course materials. MATH 120 WB includes a variety of multimedia resources, such as video lectures, animations, and audio clips, to help you improve your understanding of key concepts. These resources are accessible from an on-line version of the textbook, so you can link to learning aids directly from particular examples and exercises in their on-line text. Videos and animations are also accessible from individual on-line homework and practice exercises. Also, homework and tutorial exercises, present guided solutions and step-by-step examples to help you work through specific problems. You can individualize your learning to concentrate on your own needs.

Tutors will be available in Yost, Kelvin Smith Library, and the residence halls. The tutors will not replace the on-line material, but used properly, you can get more individualized and targeted instruction.

It is your responsibility to keep up with the material, week by week. A uniform exam schedule (tests on 9/27, 10/18, and 11/15, and a final exam) has been set up insure you keep up with the material.

There will be a MANDATORY organizational meeting on Tuesday, August 30th at 11:35 a.m. in Strosacker Auditorium. At this meeting, both general information about the course, and instructions on how to navigate the website will be presented. **All students placed into MATH 120 will have a second chance to verify their placement by taking another placement during the first week of classes.**

For additional questions, e-mail the course supervisor, Dr. Victoria Lovegren at Victoria.lovegren@case.edu.

Career Center

Welcome to Case! We are excited that you are here! As you settle into college life, know that we are here for you when you have questions or need help with all things career related! Our new consulting hours (no appt. needed) are Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and Wednesday 1:30-4:00 p.m. in Sears 206 as well as Monday evenings from 6:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m. in either Wade or Fribley (call 368-4446 to confirm). Come visit us!

Graduate School Expert to Speak at Case
September 15, 8:00 p.m., Thwing Center

While you are just beginning your undergraduate studies, we know that at least 40% of our students go directly into graduate or professional school after graduation. To assist you in preparing for your graduate school search, the Career Center invited nationally recognized author and presenter Donald Asher to campus on September 15 at 8:00 p.m. in the Thwing Center.

Donald Asher has written eight books, serves as a contributing writer for The San Francisco Chronicle and Managing Your Career Magazine. During his return visit to Case, Asher will share advice from his book Graduate Admissions Essays: What Works, What Doesn't, and Why.



Pre-Medical Students

Be sure to attend the special meeting on Pre-Medical education and pre-health opportunities at Case, with Dean Joe Pieri, one of two Case Pre-Medical Advisors, on **Wednesday, August 31, from 7:00 – 8:00 PM in Schmitt Auditorium in Millis Hall.**

Get Employed!!

Want to be a part of recruiting the next class to Case? The **Office of Undergraduate Admission** has several opportunities for students to get involved, and to make a buck or two. If you like talking to people, you're beginning to know your way around campus, and you have an uncanny ability to walk backwards, you could be the next Case tour guide! **Interviews will be conducted Sunday September 25, 2005, 2:00 – 4:00 pm and Tuesday, September 27, 2005 7:00 – 9:00 pm.** Email Judy Weiss, (judithkweiss@case.edu) ahead of time to request an appointment.

Not ready to make the commitment to being a tour guide, but still want to get involved in recruiting students to Case? Sign up to be a student ambassador! Ambassadors help the admission office with a variety of activities, including hosting prospective students overnight. Contact Dave Vitatoe (david.vitatoe@case.edu) for details!

How to Work a Career Fair
Thursday, September 16, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.,
Location TBD

In preparation for the September 22, 2005 Career Fair, the Career Center is sponsoring a workshop to help you prepare for the event. This timely workshop will outline reasons why students (including first year students!) should attend. In addition, the session will offer advice on researching organizations, gathering the appropriate documents, developing your "30 second commercial," and connecting with prospective employers.

During this event, the Career Center will release the directory of employers scheduled to attend the Career Fair. Those students in attendance will have the first glimpse of the directory!

Watch for additional programs scheduled later in the semester specifically for 1st year students: Career Center Orientations, Choosing a Major and:

Identifying Your Learning Style: Do you prefer theory-based or fact-based courses? Learn to understand and leverage your personality type in order to effectively maximize your approach to learning and studying.

October 13th, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.,
Thwing Center, 1914 Lounge



Buying Textbooks

Many students are eager to purchase textbooks as soon as they arrive on campus. However, you should wait to purchase textbooks until your fall schedule is set. Since different sections of classes often require different texts, it is essential that you know which classes in which you are enrolled. When you have finalized your schedule, take a printed copy of your schedule to the bookstore and look for your required texts. The books are arranged by school or college and then alphabetically by department. You will see cards on the shelves which tell you which books go with which courses and which sections. Read the cards carefully and make sure to ask the friendly Bookstore staff for assistance if necessary.

** However, you should keep in mind that it's OK to wait until you attend the first class meeting before purchasing your textbooks. It is often helpful to review the syllabus and ask questions of the instructor before making your purchases.

Read Your Case E-Mail

By now, you should have activated your Case email account and you should be checking it regularly. Important, official correspondence (responses to special requests and petitions, dates and deadlines, opportunities, and this newsletter) will occur over e-mail. The Office of Undergraduate Studies recognizes that you get many emails on a daily basis and therefore strictly limits all communication to essential and timely information, deadlines, and opportunities.

Second Chance at First Year ACES

**Friday, September 9, Community Hour (12:30 – 2:00 p.m.)
Sears 480**

If you missed Summer ACES after Orientation Summer Session II, you have a second chance to get tips on how to achieve academic success at Case. Educational Services for Students (ESS) is offering an abbreviated version of ACES on Friday, September 9 during Community Hour (12:30 – 2:00 p.m.) The program will be held in Sears 480. The ESS staff and upper-class students will provide tips on notetaking, time management, writing, and study strategies. Visit the ESS website, <http://ess.case.edu>, to register for this program.

ESS Provides Free Academic Success Services

If you're struggling in a course, or simply want to keep up with the material, make sure to take advantage of two free services supported by Educational Services for Students (ESS). Peer Tutoring is offered in over 70 courses and Supplemental Instruction (SI) sessions are available for a range of Biology, Chemistry, Engineering, and Physics courses. To sign up for an appointment or view the schedule visit <http://ess.case.edu>.

Class Attendance

You are expected to attend your classes regularly. Be sure to note your professors' office hours and go see them if you have questions or concerns related to course material and/or expectations. If you are ill, contact University Health Services, 2145 Adelbert Road (368-2450). If you miss classes because of illness, it is your responsibility to discuss your situation with the professor and arrange for make-up work (if allowing make-up work is consistent with the professor's course policy). If a family emergency makes it impossible for you to attend classes, please notify the Office of Undergraduate Studies, Sears 357, at 368-2928, immediately.

Syllabus 101

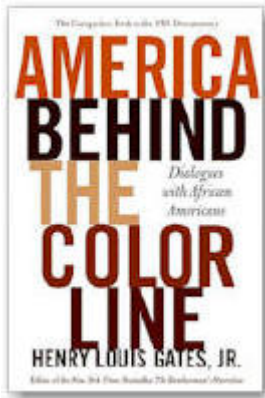
Course syllabi are among the most important university documents that you will receive each semester. Your course syllabus is viewed as a contract between you and your professor. You are responsible for knowing the information contained within the syllabus, for reviewing the syllabus on a regular basis and for noting any changes that a professor makes to his/her syllabus. It is essential that you review your syllabus after your first class to become familiar with course requirements and professor information. Read all course syllabi carefully and look especially for the following information:

- Professor Name
- Professor Email, Phone & Office Location
- Professor Office Hours
- Required Books & Materials
- Assignments & Due Dates (put the important dates in your calendar/planner during the first week of classes)
- Attendance/Absence policy
- Final Exam Schedule

Highlight any questions that you have about the information contained in the syllabus and ask for clarification at the next class meeting!

Classroom Etiquette 101

- Arrive at class on-time.
- Come to class prepared.
- Bring paper and pen to take notes.
- Be respectful of your instructor and your peers.
- Turn off cell phones and pagers...better yet, don't bring them.
- Talk to your instructors in advance if you will have to miss a class.
- Ask questions.
- Come with a passion to learn!



Henry Louis Gates – Nationally Recognized Scholar Comes to Case Western Reserve University
Thursday, September 15, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Severance Hall

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. is W.E.B. Du Bois Professor of the Humanities and Director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University. He is the author of many books, including *The Signifying Monkey: A Theory of Afro-American Literary Criticism*, winner of the American Book Award; and *Loose Canons: Notes on the Culture Wars; The African American Century: How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Century*, co-authored with Cornel West; *Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Man*, and his memoir, *Colored People*. An influential cultural critic and public intellectual, his honors include a MacArthur Fellowship, a George Polk Award for Social Commentary, a National Humanities Medal, and Time magazine's "25 Most Influential Americans" list (1997).

Your Grade Report at Case

Please note that your cumulative grade report will be available on-line from the student tab on the Case portal at <http://my.case.edu>. Like many other universities, Case does not send a "paper" grade report to you in the mail. The portal has a fully printable grade report, but if you would prefer that the university also mail a copy of your grades, there will be a way for you to make a request from the registrar's web site at <http://www.cwru.edu/provost/registrar/>. The on-line grade report is available soon after your final exams end and is updated regularly. The paper grade report is available only once per term and is mailed during the week following the last day of exams.

Out and About on the Campus...

August 27: UPB presents the annual Welcome Back Concert featuring Tullycraft with special guest Machine Go Boom!!

Leutner Lawn, Northside, 8pm. Food provided by Quizno's at University Circle! All are welcome. FREE!

UPB Concerts presents nationally-touring bands at **Spot Night each Wednesday night at 9pm**. Join us at the Spot for tasty food and great music! The series kicks off on August 31.

Invite your families to visit for **Family Weekend 2005, September 23-24!** Check out details at <http://studentaffairs.case.edu/parents/familyweekend/>. Registration is due Friday, September 9th.

Come by the Rough Rider Room for UPB coffeehouses! Live music, arts and crafts, and more will entertain you this semester! **September 1, 15, 29; October 27; November 10; December 1.**

September 15th and 16th: 18th annual **Sex, Drugs, and Rock and Roll** conference! Look for details coming soon!

Thwing Center is the heart of Case! Drop in for comfy study space, tasty treats, and more! The Thwing Programs Team welcomes you to take in Tuesday Tasters and Thursday Atrium Hours this fall!

Saturday, September 24: UPB Presents Comedy-Hypnotist Dale K! 8pm, Thwing Ballroom. FREE! This is not your typical hypnosis show! If your idea of a hypnotist is a tuxedo swinging a pocket watch, prepare to be shocked! Dale K. is pulling the art of hypnosis into the now! His wacky physical comedy and electrifying personality will make you a believer and will have you laughing out loud!

September 27: UPB Cultural Development presents Alina Fernandez. 7:30pm, Thwing Ballroom

As one of Fidel Castro's children, Alina Fernandez had a strangely mixed upbringing, a mixture of privilege and privation. This is her private story, told from her intensely personal point of view, and making it quite plain that she speaks for herself and the people of Cuba that she knew in the last forty years, rather than as an expert on Castro the ruler of Cuba. Alina escaped into exile as 'a forty year old Cinderella' from the poverty and the devastation of that tormented island, forced to leave her own daughter behind in Cuba. She now lives in Miami.





VILLAGE at 115 BLOCK PARTY!
Sunday August 28th – 4pm-8pm
East 115th St.

On August 28th from 4-8pm there will be a Block Party on 115th St. to celebrate the opening of The NEW Village at 115 Apartments! ALL students are invited and encouraged to attend! The **Block Party** will include:

- ◆ Two bands!
- ◆ Guided tours of the Village at 115 facilities
- ◆ Inflatable carnival attractions such as jousting, and sumo wrestling!
- ◆ Rock climbing wall!
- ◆ Several games with prizes!
- ◆ Great FREE food!

Just a short hop, skip, or jump from anywhere in the North Residential Village! Continuous shuttles will be running for students living in the South Residential Village!

Residential College Events

First Floor Meeting

When: **Wednesday, August 24th from 8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.**

Where: On your floor!

What is it? This is an important first meeting with people living on your floor, your Resident Advisor (RA), and your Learning Assistant (LA). You will be introduced to life in your residential college and on your floor, including community standards, resources, events, and expectations. Be sure to attend your first floor meeting!

Residential College Opening Event

When: **Saturday, August 27th from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

Where: Cedar Residential College- Meet at Alumni House

Magnolia Residential College- Meet at Taft House

Juniper Residential College- Meet at Sherman House

Mistletoe Residential College- Meet at Pierce House.

You will process to the specific Opening Event location for each college.

What is it?? Don't miss the "official" start to your experience in your residential college. This event will be a chance for you to meet your neighbors, be "officially inducted" into your residential college, and share your first meal as a "college" together. Each residential college has its own rituals and traditions that are important for you to be part of in order to get the most out of your residential college experience at Case. Mark your calendar and don't miss out!

Residential College Events cont...

First Residential College Council Meeting

When: **Saturday, August 27th from 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

Where: Cedar Residential College- Alumni 1st floor

Magnolia Residential College- Taft Lobby

Juniper Residential College- Sherman Lobby

Mistletoe Residential College- Pierce Lobby

What is it?? Your college council is one important way for you to have a voice, establish traditions, or simply get to know people within your residential college. This meeting will be a quick introduction to the structure of the college council, timeline for elections (POSITIONS ARE OPEN SO PUT YOUR HAT IN THE RING!), and some college traditions on the horizon. Come and show your residential college pride and find out how to get involved.

Annual Fall Convocation

Thursday, September 1, 2005 at 4:30 p.m.

Severance Hall

Case Western Reserve University President Edward M. Hundert will officially open the academic year and welcome the class of 2009 during the Annual Fall Convocation on Thursday, September 1, 2005 at 4:30 p.m. at Severance Hall.

Commencement is a formal academic ceremony and celebration that welcomes the new class of entering students and opens the new academic year. The University President presides over the event that also features a keynote speaker and an opportunity to celebrate and recognize excellence in student leadership.

This year's keynote speaker is **Tracy Kidder**, author of this year's common reading, *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World*.

All faculty, staff, and students are welcome to attend; however, seating is limited so visit the Commencement website TODAY to be sure that you are able to participate in this annual tradition.

<http://www.case.edu/convocation/>

Welcome to Case!
Have a Wonderful First Semester!