Dear Parents,

We are pleased to present you with the first edition of Fairleigh Dickinson University’s Parents Newsletter. Through this newsletter we hope to bring you important information about the life of the University — information that will help guide you and your sons and daughters while they are enrolled at FDU.

In this issue you can read about student privacy rights, visiting dignitaries and an array of health services available through the University. In addition, I want to take this opportunity to thank all parents who, in the last year, made generous donations to the University.

Great universities are often distinguished by philanthropy, and at Fairleigh Dickinson University our philanthropy continues to grow. In the past two years, donations to the University increased by more than 80 percent to $3.3 million. Hundreds of parents recognized that it takes more than tuition for the University to continue to be a strong, vibrant and enriching academic experience. Unrestricted donations from parents to the Annual Fund supported scholarships, helped to improve facilities and ensured that the University’s technology remains cutting-edge.

We are thrilled that your sons and daughters have chosen FDU as a vehicle for success in their lives and are equally delighted that so many parents have taken part in creating excellence through their generosity. Best wishes to you and your family during this new academic year.

Sincerely yours,

Richard P. Reiss
Senior Vice President
University Advancement

Staying Healthy While Away

Student health services is a campus resource and service center for students at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Its goal is to keep students well, help them get care and empower them to make informed decisions about their health.

In addition, student health services is a place where students can feel comfortable learning how to make medical decisions firsthand, when it comes to their health care. By educating students on how to deal with an illness or injury they are learning how to be an effective health-care consumer.

In accordance with New Jersey State Law (NJAC 8:57-6.1-6.13), every matriculating student entering into an institution of higher education and born on or after January 1, 1957, must submit official proof of being immunized against the measles, mumps and rubella (German measles). Records of immunization against these preventable diseases are required for all incoming full- and part-time, undergraduate or graduate students who are enrolled in a degree program at FDU.

In addition, a new law that was signed by Gov. James McGreevey mandates that all new college students who are enrolled in four-year institutions of higher education in New Jersey and who reside in university housing will be required to receive the meningitis vaccine as a condition of enrollment. The new law takes effect in September 2004 and impacts all new residential students at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Students who do not plan to live on campus are encouraged to consider the vaccination on a voluntary basis. Students who have received the vaccine during the past three years do not need to be revaccinated.

Medical History, Forms, Compliance

For your information, enrolled students have on file the following forms: Student Profile, Medical History, Physical Examination (within the last six months and signed by your physician), Meningitis Response and an Immunization Record, which includes applicable dates in the mm-dd-yyyy format. To generate a checklist of your students’ requirements for compliance or to download the latest forms, visit the Web site http://alpha.fdu.edu/wellness.

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resident students, housing privileges were revoked if the vaccine was not obtained prior to move-in day. (P.L. 2003, c.284, s.2)

If students were born before January 1, 1957, or are enrolled in a nondegree course, certificate program or an off-campus class, they are exempt from these requirements.

It is recommended that you keep a copy of your student’s forms for your personal record.

Insurance

New Jersey Department of Health legislation requires full-time graduate and undergraduate students at public and private educational institutions to maintain health insurance and requires those institutions to offer coverage to the student population. Student insurance is not provided by student health services. Health insurance is provided for the University by Bollinger Insurance. Claim forms and/or students’ prescription/insurance cards may be obtained at student health services. Claim forms and information may be downloaded from the Bollinger Web site http://bollingerinsurance.com/fdu/.

If the University-provided health insurance is waived, it is recommended that the parent:

Obtain an insurance card for the insured student from their health insurance company (in case of an emergency or if medication or referral etc., is needed). If possible, transfer the student’s insurance coverage to a medical provider in this area if the insured is in an HMO and/or out-of-state insurance plan.

Emergency

For emergency treatment of non-life-threatening conditions such as lacerations, sprains, wounds, allergic reactions, eye injuries, burns and other medical problems, students can visit student health services or call during business hours.

In the event of a medical emergency, students can contact the Office of Public Safety at the Metropolitan Campus at 201-692-2222, or at the College at Florham at 973-443-8888. Public safety will contact the emergency medical service, who will then transport the student to a hospital, if required. Students should ensure that they have their Student ID with them as well as their prescription card and medical insurance card.

Confidentiality

Medical records are strictly confidential and are used exclusively by student health services to provide personalized care. Immunization records are an exception and are not confidential, since a student’s immunization status must be made available to state inspectors and select University offices in order to comply with New Jersey state law.

FERPA 101

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 is a federal law designed to protect the privacy of a student’s educational record. Once students enter college, information from their student records cannot be shared with others, which includes parents, unless the student gives written permission.

The 1998 amendments to FERPA permit the University to notify a student’s parent(s) or guardian(s) of violations of the University alcohol and controlled substance policy if the student is less than 21 years of age and has been found responsible for such a code of conduct violation. In addition the University may share health and safety emergencies with parent(s) or guardian(s).

The Dean of Students Office encourages parents to discuss the FERPA Consent Form with their students. If a student is unwilling to sign a FERPA Consent Form then parents or guardians may submit their tax forms indicating that they claim their student on their taxes. Contact the Dean of Students Office for additional information concerning FERPA — College at Florham, 973-443-8935, Metropolitan Campus, 201-692-2190.
Life’s Transitions

College … It may be the first time your son/daughter is living away from home. Who will be his/her roommate? What kind of food will the cafeteria serve? Will he/she study without your guidance? Will they make friends? Will they adjust? Caring parents are asked these questions and more.

Most likely, your son/daughter is confronted with the same questions.

Guidance
Fairleigh Dickinson provides guidance in several different ways. New Student Orientation is often the first time the freshman learns about these various services. He/she will come in contact with numerous directors, deans, counselors, instructors and advisers. Students should be encouraged to make a connection with at least one of these adults. These professionals are happy to help.

Students become further acquainted with University services through their required Freshman Seminar class, where learning tools, such as time management and study skills are enhanced. For some students, high school graduation marks the beginning of adult life, when they feel they are independent and can make their own decisions. The advice students receive from you and their teachers continues to be one of the best factors in succeeding in college. Eating healthy, exercising regularly, maintaining a healthy sleep schedule, avoiding alcohol and drugs and becoming involved in student activities continue to be the most effective stress managers.

Student Counseling Services
Student counseling services has licensed counselors who are prepared to guide students with problems that can sometimes seem insurmountable to the new and continuing college student. Student counseling services provides short-term psychological counseling for problems that range from roommate differences and social and test anxiety to depression/thoughts of suicide. The services are confidential, and if the student is 18 or older, a release of confidentiality form must be signed before the counselor can legally speak to anyone other than the student.

Wellness Program
In addition, wellness programming is provided to the student community — educating them about stress management, sleep, hygiene, test anxiety and more. Wellness programming is a wonderful way to learn how to prevent stress and increase students’ chances to succeed.

Parents can help by telling their student that the student counseling service exists and by supporting the decision to call for an appointment if they find they are having difficulty adjusting to college life.

Student counseling services at the Metropolitan Campus can be reached at 201-692-2174 and at the College at Florham at 973-443-8504.

Susan Sontag

Susan Sontag, celebrated novelist and commentator on modern culture, was the featured speaker at the Gene Barnett Literary Society Lecture Series at the Metropolitan Campus. Her topic was “Regarding the Pain of Others: From Goya to 9/11 — What Do the Images of War and Terror Mean and How Are They Used?” Following a question-and-answer period, Sontag signed her book for student Lynn Pulvermuller, a member of the society.

U.N. Ambassador

Ambassador Mohammad Javad Zarif, center, permanent representative of Iran to the United Nations, shared a light moment with students Brian Overman, left, and Brandi Carnivale, right, following his presentation at the College at Florham. Zarif discussed politics in the Persian Gulf and relations between Islam and the West during the University’s U.N. Pathways Lecture Series. Carnivale is the president and Overman is the treasurer of the United Nations of Fairleigh Dickinson University student club.
You’re Invited
October 2, Family Weekend

Parents, grandparents and siblings are invited to join their Fairleigh Dickinson students at the University Family Weekend activities to be held Saturday, October 2, at the College at Florham, Madison, N.J. Come out and enjoy the free food, carnival activities and much more! Greet and meet other parents and friends of Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Families can join their students at the event or are invited to meet at the tailgate brunch at the Metropolitan Campus, Teaneck, N.J., where shuttle service to Madison will be provided for students and their guests. For further information, contact Ray Flook, assistant director of student life at the College at Florham, at 973-443-8573, or Craig Mourton, director of student life at the Metropolitan Campus, at 201-692-2231.

Orientation 2004

During an orientation session at the College at Florham this summer, from left, freshman Phillip Solomon, parent Susan Many, and freshman Jessica Many, spent some time with William Kliska, right, director of athletics, Division III, College at Florham.

Join Us

The Fairleigh Dickinson University Parents Council welcomes you to the University. A newly formed volunteer board, the council supports the mission of the University and assists Fairleigh Dickinson University in maintaining its excellence through four main areas: communication, recruitment, development and special projects. If you are interested in joining the Parents Council or would like more information, contact Karen Lewis, director of annual giving, at 201-692-7017 or at klewis@fdu.edu.