Dear Parents,

Next to the students themselves, parents are the most important constituents of higher education. Most often, you are the ones who pay tuition and encourage the commitment of your student. You are FDU’s most capable evaluators, directly observing the transformation of your student while receiving their feedback about the University as an institution. In addition, many of you support the University through your generous contributions to the Fund for FDU.

I remember clearly how my own son matured and grew after his freshman year. So when I learned Fairleigh Dickinson had a Parents Council, I was especially pleased to be invited to the November meeting. It was an important moment in my orientation to Fairleigh Dickinson, and I was impressed by the spirit of involvement and range of issues brought forth by members of the council.

I was especially gratified with our discussions of academic advising, course schedules and offerings, honors programs and student research day — all issues which helped me clarify some academic goals for the new year. I will have specific responses to several of those issues for the council directly.

I hope you find this edition of the Parents Newsletter both enjoyable and informative. Inside you’ll find valuable information about the practical side of applying to Wroxton College from Brian Swanzey, director of Wroxton College.

You’ll also read about Gregory Olsen, BS’66, BS’68, MS’68, an alumnus and Board of Trustee member who has truly reached new heights by becoming only the third private citizen to make the journey to the International Space Station. Olsen is a member of the University’s Board of Trustees and only the third private citizen to visit the ISS. Olsen said upon his return, “The experience was more fulfilling than I could have ever imagined.”

Olsen completed more than 900 hours of training in Star City, Russia, in preparation for his mission. While aboard the ISS, he participated in a research program prepared by the European Space Agency that studied the human body’s response to the microgravity environment.

Olsen was able to connect with more than 30 high school students in New Jersey and New York via HAM radio signal to discuss his experiences while in orbit.

On October 4, during his first of three solo broadcasts from the ISS, Olsen credited professors at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, New Jersey — where he earned a master’s degree in physics — for fanning his interest in space.

Olsen earned dual bachelor degrees in electrical engineering and physics, his master’s in physics at Fairleigh Dickinson and then his PhD in materials science from the University of Virginia. He worked at RCA Laboratories and started his first company, EPITAXX, Inc., in 1984. He founded Sensors Unlimited, Inc. in 1992 and later sold it.

Willard Gingerich, PhD
University Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Students Get Involved Beyond the Classroom

“Getting involved beyond the classroom is an excellent choice because you have to get involved with other people. I would tell parents to encourage their students to get involved, but not to force them. Students have to find a place on their own where they feel most comfortable. I started in the Florham Scholars program and enjoyed that living experience. When it ended, I wanted another group experience with friends that I’ll have forever, a group that I can call my family on campus. My sorority sisters are hardworking and dedicated like me. We want to make a difference through our philanthropy efforts for cystic fibrosis, the Delta Phi Epsilon Scholarship Fund and anorexia nervosa.”

Blake Gorka, College at Florham ’10, President of Delta Phi Epsilon Sorority

“I got involved in campus activities because I wanted to be an asset to the campus community. More importantly, I wanted to make a difference and what a better way to do it. FDU has a small student body compared to other schools. This is great because you are taken very seriously. Getting involved is a great way to better your communication and organizational skills. Secondly, you get to make great friends. And most importantly, you get to know about activities, programs and scholarships. Over all, being involved at FDU has taught me that it’s the courage to continue that matters the most. Always be persistent and never take no for an answer.”

Derek Stover, Metropolitan Campus ’09, Student Government Association Academic Affairs Senator

“I definitely didn’t know anyone when I was coming here as a freshman. I knew that by joining the football team I would make good friends who I would have throughout the four years and maybe for life. I strongly suggest that parents tell their student to join at least one club or team to make friends. I’m not talkative in class, so it’s hard to meet friends and show them your true personality there. If parents know their student’s interests and what clubs and teams the University offers, parents might suggest a group to their student that matches those interests.”

Keven Martin, College at Florham ’08, Wide Receiver, Football Team

“When I came to FDU, I looked for at least one organization that combined some aspects of my major (electronic filmmaking and graphic design) and some of my other interests, like writing. The Metro student newspaper seemed like a good fit. It was a chance to try something new as well, because even though I was pretty involved in high school activities, I’d never worked on a newspaper. This is my second year as editor-in-chief, and although it’s a massive amount of work, it’s well worth it to see people read each issue after its release.

I also became an admissions tour guide in my freshman year, thinking that at the very least, it would force me to learn my way around campus better. I’m a little shy, so some of my roommates joined with me, making it even more fun. Involvement in both of these activities has given me a chance to meet so many people in and around the FDU community, something that has contributed to my growth since coming here. It also helps me improve my time-management skills and develop responsibility for my career after I graduate.”

Angela Barrett, College at Florham ’07, The Metro Editor-in-Chief

“The inherent value that lies in becoming a student leader is the lessons which cannot be taught in the classroom such as teamwork, compassion and open-mindedness. Learning from others and applying such lessons in everyday life is the greatest teacher in developing into an individual that is suited for leadership. Such enlightenment can be acquired from exposure to different cultures and individuals of all walks of life.

During my high school years, I was relatively shy and reluctant to join student organizations. However, freshman year at Fairleigh Dickinson University, I realized the wide and diverse array of student organizations which exist. Joining student organizations is a great way to make friends, build your résumé and enjoy your four years as a college student. When entering college, you begin with a clean slate. Students can build themselves into well-rounded individuals, prepared for pursuing their goals after college is done.”

Adam English, Metropolitan Campus ’07, Student Government Association President

“When coming to FDU I was worried I would get lost in the mix but I stepped up to become involved in the Student Government Association. You should never just limit yourself to experiencing required classes. My experience has been rewarding as well as challenging. I have met so many close friends. I have become more familiar with faculty members, which enables me to have a great support system. You just naturally begin to understand how to navigate the university better and get more out of life at FDU. I have definitely learned things in all my leadership roles that make me feel more confident.

What better way to make a better place than by pitching in yourself. Also when I motivate other people to get in-

(continued on page 3)

Special Parents Night
Sunday, April 9 at 2:30 p.m. “Cabaret,” student theater production, Dreyfuss Theater, Dreyfuss Building, College at Florham (students $5, parents $10), call 973-443-8635 for more information.
We don't learn everything in University, from advancing our students, meeting the growing needs of faculty and providing modern facilities that most talented professors to providing the ability to attract and retain the most talented professors to providing modern facilities that meet the growing needs of faculty and students.

Thanks to your generosity, we are constantly making improvements on both campuses that add value to your student’s living and learning experiences at FDU. Over the last year we have updated classrooms and lecture halls with new technology, renovated laboratories and installed a new basketball court in the Rothman Center. Our academics are stronger than ever, with the addition of three new graduate degree programs.

Your partnership with us provides the best education possible for your student. Through the Fund for FDU, you directly support and participate in the University’s mission of preparing your student for success through global education.

It’s a legacy that I’m proud to share. And it’s a legacy that continues with parents after their students graduate from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Yet student needs remain the same, programs expand, technology changes, funding sources shift and students sometimes need financial help to make their dreams a reality. So we must always be looking ahead.

That’s why we’d like to take a few minutes now to thank those parents that have so generously answered our call to support the 2005–2006 Fund for FDU. For those that have not yet received our call, let us tell you why your participation is so very important this year.

Your contribution to the Fund for FDU impacts every aspect of your student’s life here at the University, from advancing our ability to attract and retain the most talented professors to providing modern facilities that meet the growing needs of faculty and students.

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We are confident that the tradition of parent giving will continue to grow as more parents participate in the life of the University through the Parents Council and other volunteer opportunities and keep in touch with each other through this newsletter.

If you’d like additional information about making a gift or to learn more about the Parents Council and ways to get involved, please contact me:

Karen Lewis, Assistant Vice President for Alumni Relations
Phone: 201-692-7152
E-mail: klewis@fdu.edu

Parents Council Meetings
All parents and guardians are encouraged to attend Parents Council meetings. There is no cost involved in joining the council. Meetings will be held March 4 at the Metropolitan Campus and May 6 at the College at Florham. All meetings are held on Saturdays at 10 a.m., and include parents from both campuses.

Contact ParentsCouncil@fdu.edu or Parents Council Officers Louise Lindenmeier (Metro) at llindenmeir@bayada.com, Janice Weiman (CAF) at jmweiman@att.com or call 201-692-7017 for more information.

Students Get Involved, continued from page 2

Students at the College at Florham participate in Family Weekend and Homecoming 2005.

“We feel that FDU is headed in the right direction, and is doing right by our son. We believe in education, and it is important for us to be able to support the institution our son attends.”

Linda and Anthony Ventola, Parents of Anthony Ventola, sophomore, Metropolitan Campus

“I basically got involved to get more experience. We don’t learn everything in the classroom. Being part of a club helped me learn how to handle responsibility and how to be effective in an organization.”

Chetarth Sharma, Metropolitan Campus ‘10, Member, International Student Association and Mechanical Contractors Association

The Global Challenge program, for example, enables students to gain international perspectives by interacting online with scholars, professionals and students from around the world.

Your support of the Fund for FDU provides the driving force behind many of the University’s achievements. But the need for resources is always there, and we have much more to do.

If you have already made your gift this academic year, we thank you for your support. If not, your gift of $500, $250, $100, $50 or your own generous contribution will be much appreciated. Please join us so that our successes today can become tomorrow’s stepping stones toward new horizons.

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Q & A with Brian Swanzey, Director of Wroxton College

As director of Wroxton College over the past four years I’ve answered many questions pertaining to this amazing program. Here is a representation of some of the most important questions asked about Wroxton and their answers.

What is Wroxton College and who studies there?
Since 1965, thousands of students have spent a semester or more abroad at Fairleigh Dickinson University’s campus in England, Wroxton College. Students are required to be at least a second semester sophomore matriculated in an institution in the United States and have a minimum cumulative grade point ratio (GPR) of 2.75. With appropriate academic planning almost all majors can fit in a semester abroad at Wroxton.

Where will I study?
Wroxton College is located in the village of Wroxton in the very heart of England. It is located three miles from Banbury, England’s largest town; 40 miles from the city of Birmingham; and 75 miles northwest of London. It is easily accessible by road and rail. Wroxton Abbey, the nucleus of the college, is located on 56 acres of lawns, lakes and woodlands. This 17th-century Jacobean mansion, parts of which date back to 1215, and its surrounding properties were purchased by FDU in 1963. The building was carefully restored and modernized and was opened to students in 1965.

How are classes taught?
At Wroxton, students are taught by a highly-qualified, all-British faculty. Classes are taught by lectures, seminars and the tutorial method employed in British universities. The tutorials provide an intimate atmosphere in which the exchange of ideas is valued more than the mere transmission of information. The cornerstone to Wroxton’s educational experience is the close student-faculty relationship that results from this system of instruction.

What can I study?
The college offers a variety of courses in literature, history, political science, fine arts, economics, business, sociology and education. With rare exception, all courses listed for a semester will run, no matter the number of students enrolled. Similarly, the timetable is arranged in a way that enables you to take any combination of classes. It is very important for students to meet with their academic advisers early in their academic careers to plan for a semester at Wroxton College.

What else can I do at Wroxton?
The focus of the Wroxton program is academic; nonetheless, what takes place outside of the classroom is an integral part of the Wroxton experience. For this reason, the college provides a wide array of optional cultural and social events. These activities include weekend sightseeing tours, theater experiences, barbecues, dinners, disco nights, a medieval banquet, trips to London, etc. The cost of most trips and activities is included in the fees you have paid.

Who should apply? When should I apply? How do I apply?
If you are looking for a study-abroad experience that will allow you to explore your full potential as an individual and as a student, Wroxton is the place for you. During the academic year Wroxton College offers two regular semesters, which coincide with FDU’s fall and spring semesters. Applications are processed on rolling bases, and it’s strongly advised that you apply early in the semester before your expected departure semester. Fifty students is the enrollment maximum per semester. You must be at least a second semester sophomore to attend Wroxton. Applications can be picked up in the Wroxton College Office — at the Metropolitan Campus in Teaneck in the Core/Honors Office, Robison Hall, and at the College at Florham in Madison in the Wroxton College Office, located in the Academic Advising Office in the Mansion.

What about costs and what will happen to my financial aid if I go to Wroxton?
The tuition rates are the same, while the room and board is comparable with FDU’s campuses. Because you will remain a full-time FDU student while you’re at Wroxton your entire financial aid package will remain in place as if you never left New Jersey.

Who can I contact with questions about Wroxton College and studying abroad?
You can contact the Director of Wroxton College and Study Abroad Brian Swanzey at 973-443-8086, Brian_Swanzey@fdu.edu or visit www.fdu.edu/wroxton. In addition to Wroxton College, many other study-abroad opportunities exist. Recently, our students have studied in Australia, Norway, Italy, Egypt and China. For more information, contact Brian Swanzey. Deadline for fall 2006 for study in countries other than the United Kingdom is early March.
Students: Current FDU students return to campus and encourage others to go to Wroxton.

The study-abroad experience really appealed to me since I heard about the program in my freshman seminar class. While Brian [Swanzey, director] was talking to the class about the Abbey, the people and basically everything about Wroxton, I could see myself walking through the great hall and sitting in on one of Dr. Baldwin’s lectures. The explanation did not do justice to the actual experience — it was out of this world.

There are not enough words to describe how amazing my experience was. The people, places, food and everything I acquired really helped me grow as a person. I do not see things the same way I used to. The experience helped me mature and be more dependent on myself rather than my parents. It helped me see that I am capable of doing anything.

Erika J. Hernandez, College at Florham ’06

My experience was very fulfilling. I made some great friends and learned so much. My best memories of Wroxton include decorating the Christmas tree (especially when Dr. Baldwin climbed all over the walls to get the top of the tree). We also had a bonfire at the beginning of the semester to break the ice with the students and professors.

The teachers were very helpful and really got the students involved in their studies. There is no possible way to not benefit from the Wroxton experience. I would say to students that the opportunity for something like this comes only once. Yes, it’s different, but just do it and you’ll love it.

Dominick Carbone, Metropolitan Campus ’07

I was amazed at everything I was able to take in and see during the semester. I don’t know any other program that actually encourages you to go out and see sights and experience various parts of the country on your own. I never thought I’d do well going to Europe virtually on my own, but I traveled through Prague and Barcelona with my friend, Nick Cerami. We had a great time.

I would tell a student who was thinking of going to Wroxton to go for it. If you’ve never been outside of the U.S., it’s an experience that will open your eyes and you’ll get so much more out of the experience with the professors, staff and community there as friends and guides.

Jason Fliegge, College at Florham ’07

I can’t put into words what I experienced at Wroxton. I have found that I have changed as an individual. Studying abroad gave me a chance to look at myself and decide what I want, who I was and how far I could stretch myself.

I loved being able to explore and see everything I had only seen in pictures. It will be the hardest semester of a student’s college career. It’s challenging but worth it. There is nothing like it.

Erin Pach, College at Florham ’07

It is simply too hard to put my experience at Wroxton into words. More than an opportunity to study abroad, it was one of the best chances in my life to add to my learning experiences. I grew as a person. It showed me that life goes beyond our noses and that there is a lot to do in the real world.

Natalia Galindo, College at Florham ’06

Parents: Some parents share their perspective on Wroxton College’s study-abroad program.

There have been many defining moments in my daughter’s life, but none were as monumental as her semester abroad at Wroxton College.

I was able to share in my daughter’s experience in a few ways. My daughter e-mailed me and her other family and friends once a week with updates about where she was going and what she was doing. We spoke on the phone fairly often as well. And I went to visit her over Thanksgiving with her sister. We spent time together in London, Oxford and Wales. I saw these places through her eyes in her e-mails and through our conversations and then when I went to visit her for a few days, I got to experience them with her.

The daughter that got onto the airplane to England was not the same daughter that returned three months later. She had grown, matured and seen Europe with her peers and friends. This would not have happened if she had not gone to Wroxton. Wroxton gave my daughter the opportunity to test herself academically as well as personally and I knew when she got back that it was one of the most incredible experiences she had ever had.

Julie Friedman

My son, Craig Pintado, met his wife, Joanne, at Wroxton College. They both attended FDU but had never met before.

In our family, however, this wasn’t the first time that a Wroxton romance led to marriage. I met my husband, John Bennett, while I was attending Wroxton College in 1998.

I know that Craig was thrilled at the many opportunities to experience the history of England and the chance to do so many things that aren’t available to most people. For me, I’ll always remember walking with John in the beautiful surroundings of the Wroxton Abbey.

Wroxton College gave me, Craig and Joanne the skills we needed to succeed and made all of our dreams come true.

Mercedes Gregor-Bennett, Metropolitan Campus ’99, ’03

Though I was sad to see Nicholas go, I was excited that my son had the opportunity to study in England. There’s no place like home, but Wroxton is a fine substitute. I believe Wroxton offered Nicholas not only a challenging academic environment, but the many weekend trips taught him lessons of independence and tolerance for other cultures.

I would tell other parents that they would be depriving their child of a great experience if they did not encourage and support the decision to study abroad.

Patricia Cerami

“The courses were very challenging and rigorous, but they prepared us for the road ahead.”

Joanne Pintado, Wroxton Alumna ’02, ’03
Other Information

NJ Transit Discount Pass
Full-time students are eligible for an online monthly NJ Transit Pass (for bus, rail or light rail) at a 25 percent discount. To apply, access www.fdu.edu, click on students, then on the NJ Transit link at the left and follow the instructions given.

How Come No One Contacted Me?
The education records of students who are 18 years of age or older are protected by federal regulation (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act or FERPA). Students may sign a FERPA Consent Form in the Dean of Students Office, specifying to whom the University may release protected information, such as grades or bills. This will permit the University staff to share information about your student’s education record with you. It does not mean that the University will contact you if your student is experiencing academic difficulty.

The University makes students aware through Orientation, the Student Handbook, Freshmen Seminar, the Web site and other means of the many academic support services available to them. As young adults, students are expected to avail themselves of these resources as needed. If you are uncertain or concerned about your student’s academic progress, you should contact the Dean of Students Office for assistance.

Recognition of Outstanding Students
Students apply for scholarships awarded in recognition of academic achievement, campus leadership and/or campus and community service via the Dean of Students Office. Each campus holds a spring awards ceremony which parents and guardians are welcome to attend: Honors Convocation at the Metropolitan Campus (April 2, 2 p.m.) and Senior Academic and Leadership Program at the College at Florham (May 7, 2 p.m.). Contact the Dean of Students Office for further details.

Graduation Salute and Required Declaration of Candidacy
“One-stop shopping” is available for graduating students. The Dean of Students Office on each campus hosts Graduation Salute enabling students to pick up their academic regalia, make a video greeting to be shown at the arena, order class rings, have a senior portrait taken, join the Alumni Association and take advantage of other opportunities for graduates all on one day in one place. Students unable to attend the salute on their campus (April 11, Student Center Mall, College at Florham; April 12, Fitness Center, Metropolitan Campus; 11 a.m.–7 p.m. on each campus) may obtain their regalia from their campus bookstores, from April 13 to May 12 during normal business hours. Regalia is not available at the arena on the day of Commencement. Contact the Dean of Students Office for further information.

The 63rd Commencement is on Tuesday, May 16, 2006 at 10 a.m. in Continental Airlines Arena, East Rutherford, N.J. Students planning to take part in Commencement Ceremonies must complete a Declaration of Candidacy form with the Enrollment Services Office promptly. Students also should verify that the address the University has on file is correct, so that they will receive the Commencement mailing.

Priority Course Registration
Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of Priority Registration (April 10–28) for the summer and fall 2006 semesters, so they may select the courses they want with their preferred professors and at their desired times. To be eligible for priority registration, students must have satisfied all past-due balances, meet with their academic advisers and register on the dates indicated on the postcard they will receive.