Dear students,

Enjoy your summer. You’ve earned it! As the mid-point of the season beckons, please allow me to share some friendly advice to make your summer complete. First, be safe. Second, get the proper rest. Make sure to pace yourself. Third, for a summer that is productive, enriching and fun, be sure to carve out time for family and friends.

Now that we have covered the basics, allow me to pass along some additional advice for first-year college students who are about to begin their second year, and seeking to make the most of their time away from college.

As an undergraduate at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, Olivia Santo wrote a helpful list of things every college student should do this summer:

1. Learn a new skill to add to your resume. This can make you more marketable when you go looking for a job.
2. Get an internship. An internship is a good way to help you discover different career paths.
3. Work a summer job. Employers want to see that you have experience in the workplace.
4. Make a budget for the fall semester and set aside some money for books. Every dollar set aside counts!
5. Email your professors, just to say hello. These people become more and more important to you as time goes on. Maintaining and establishing relationships with faculty — past, present and future — is a plus for your growth as a student.

In a piece for foxbusiness.com, author Emily Driscoll encourages students to work on their online profiles. If you don’t already have an account, create a LinkedIn account over the summer. Be sure your profile is appropriate and attractive to employers. Delete any information, images or contacts that are negative or controversial. In addition, Driscoll suggests staying on top of time-sensitive deadlines for school-related administrative obligations. This could include housing contracts, meal plans, tuition charges or other important items.

Finally, as you prepare to enter your second year in college, check in with your academic advisor to ensure your fall schedule is complete and consistent with everything you achieved during spring 2016. If you have changed majors since the spring term ended, have you made the necessary changes to your schedule? Also, touch base with a financial aid advisor. You completed the FAFSA and applied for aid, right?

We in the First-Year Experience here at Medaille College wish you a safe, happy and productive summer. Get your rest, and we’ll see you soon!

Best,

James Louis Ramsey, Ph.D.

Year in Review

Dr. Ramsey would like to thank Tim Hartigan, Velma Cotton and Jennifer Harris for their support of the FYE Speaker Series.

BLUEPRINTS FOR SUCCESS

Medaille graduate Adriana Viverette-Gamble ’12, known as “Adri. V The Go Getta,” presented “Developing Your Blueprint for Success” for the First-Year Experience Speaker Series on January 25. The motivational speaker and radio personality (pictured with FYE Director Dr. James Louis Ramsey) discussed how goal-setting creates go-getting, why networking is your net worth, and diversity-diversifying your portfolio. She received her MBA from Medaille in 2012.

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

Attorney and author TheArthur Duncan, Esq., spoke to students, faculty, staff and guests on April 4 as part of the First-Year Experience Speaker Series. A convicted felon, Duncan recounted how he overcame obstacles and barriers in his life, including gangs, violence and a felony drug-dealing conviction, to graduate from University at Buffalo Law School and become assistant corporation counsel for the City of Buffalo. He challenged students to rise above the obstacles in their lives, no matter how difficult they may be.

STYLE IS THE KEY

The First-Year Experience Speakers Series partnered with the Medaille College Black Student Union to present “Style is the Key to Success” on April 20. Fashion blogger and keynote speaker Akil McLeod educated the attendees on various aspects of style, including fit, appropriate attire and other basics, such as how to tie a tie. McLeod founded the men’s fashion blog Dapper Advisor in 2012, where he provides educational content and personal style advice for his readers.

The First-Year Experience (FYE) is a holistic academic and sociocultural support program dedicated to helping first-year students become active members of the Medaille College community. Focused on high goals and expectations, members of the First-Year Experience will benefit from academic skills assessment, summer bridge programs, supportive faculty relationships, speaker series and structured study halls. In addition, the First-Year Experience will engage students’ families and support networks in the first-year experience by providing opportunities to visit campus and participate in campus-based activities, access to campus officials, and timely updates about important events during the academic year.
A Trip to the Burchfield Penney

Students in Medaille's GEN 110 and ENG 110 learning community took a field trip to the Burchfield Penney Art Center in Buffalo on April 13. The learning objective was to develop critical awareness of the purposes of art. Previously, the students read a short story by Dorothy Allison called "This Is Our World" in which the author discusses her earliest experiences of art and proposes that great art (including literature) should provoke uncertainty and raise more questions than answers.

The tour was conducted by Burchfield Penney archivist Heather Gring and gave students the opportunity to see several unique exhibitions. They were then asked to write a response paper that touched on their idea of the purpose of art, and gave their opinions on a work of art they liked and one they did not like.

NO DREAM IS IMPOSSIBLE

The First-Year Experience Speaker Series presented speaker Willie Price on October 19. The author, businessman and motivational speaker gave a presentation titled "No Dream Is Impossible." Attendees received autographed copies of his book.

Tips from Tamara McMillan

On April 25, a certified trainer and facilitator Tamara L. McMillan presented "Dab Your Way to Success" for the First-Year Experience Speaker Series. This professional coaching and training session featured interactive dialogue, group discussion, small group work and individual reflections.