Summer Scholars

Congratulations to the first class of Summer Scholars! These incoming freshmen completed a rigorous, six-week program which included math, writing and reading instruction. Many of these students took part in the mayor's summer youth internship program and were able to earn $1,000. Other students earned $500 bookstore gift certificates.

In addition, the Summer Scholars participated in soft skills workshops and took field trips to the Buffalo History Museum, the Buffalo Zoo, HarborCenter and Canalside.

On the final day of the program, the students presented research projects based on their trip to the Zoo. During this outing, the Summer Scholars were required to exhibit skills involving listening, note-taking, and data collection. Upon their return to campus, the students used their notes and worked as a team to organize the collected information and create their own fictitious animals. These made-up creatures had to be based primarily on the data collected during the Zoo visit. On August 10, the teams made five-minute PowerPoint presentations which included information about the animals' prey, predators and environmental adaptability.

Students who complete all six weeks will be entered into a grand prize drawing!

For more information, visit medaille.edu/fye.
FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE (FYE) program is designed to support students in their transition from high school to college. It offers academic and social supports to help students succeed in their college education.

At Medaille College, we believe that everyone should have the opportunity to pursue higher education. That's why we offer a range of programs and services to support students throughout their college journey.

**From the Director**

James Louis Ramsey, Ph.D.

Let me be the among the first to welcome you and wish you all the success in the world as you begin what should be one of the most exciting times in your life. Your college years will be a time of tremendous growth, opportunity and independence. It will be a time for making accomplishments, having new experiences, and developing friendships that will last a lifetime.

For those students willing to work hard and play by the rules, college remains one of the best paths to upward socioeconomic mobility. Take advantage of this golden opportunity.

You have made a wise decision to do college a try. The fast-growing segments of the labor force require some level of postsecondary education. College graduates continue to outpace non-college graduates in lifetime career earnings. A college degree can provide access to better schools for your children, better healthcare, better housing and many other benefits. For those willing to stay the course during the rough times that are sure to come as you pursue a better life, a college education makes a difference.

BE SURE TO HAVE FUN OF THE NEXT FOUR YEARS. THERE WILL BE TIME FOR PARTIES, BASKETBALL GAMES, STUDENT CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS.

GET INVOLVED IN SOMETHING ON CAMPUS. THERE'S A LOT TO CHOOSE FROM. GET TO KNOW YOUR FACULTY, ADVISOR, ACADEMIC COACH OR PEER MENTOR. KEEP YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS INFORMED ABOUT EVENTS IN YOUR LIFE — THE GOOD AND THE NOT-SO-GOOD. DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK FOR HELP.

Finally, start the semester off right! The beginning of the fall term is as exciting times in your life. Your college years will be a time of making accomplishments, having new experiences, and developing friendships that will last a lifetime.

**First-Year Students: Hit the Ground Running!**

**Get Organized This Semester**

**USE AN ASSIGNMENT NOTEBOOK OR PLANNER**

Take your assignment notebook to every class and record each assignment under the date it's due. When you are given a large assignment, use your notebook to break it down into smaller parts. Whenever you are given a syllabus, immediately copy it into your notebook or planner.

**USE THREE-RING NOTEBOOKS FOR CLASS NOTES**

Three-ring notebooks work well because you can easily insert handouts, and if you miss a class, you can copy someone else's notes and insert them where they belong.

**SAVE ALL FILES IN ORGANIZED COMPUTER FOLDERS**

Most classes require that you write papers and do projects using a computer. Keep a separate, labeled folder for each class, and save all of your work in them. Make sure that computer folders are saved to a flash drive or hard drive. Always have a back-up.

**KEEP RETURNED PAPERS, QUizzes AND TESTS**

Have a folder for each class, and in that folder, keep all of your returned papers, quizzes and tests. These can help you study for future tests, and they can also come in handy if there's a question about your grade. They can also be used to study for mid-term and final exams.

**SAVE EMAILS AND PHONE NUMBERS**

Make sure you have the email address or phone number of at least one person in each class, along with the professor's email/phone numbers. This is helpful when you have a question about an assignment or an upcoming test, or if you are going to be absent from class.

**MAINTAIN A NEAT AND ORGANIZED SPACE**

Set up a desk or study area at home. It's important to keep things organized and tidy. A clean and organized space can help you focus and be more productive.

**SIGN UP TO MEET WITH A TUTOR OR ACADEMIC COACH**

Sign up early for a tutor and try to meet every week. Tutors can help you with understanding current, readings and assignments. Sign up for an academic coach to keep you on track with your studies, including time management and test-taking techniques. See your academic advisor/counselor/mentor whenever you need help with scheduling, finances, problems or other issues. You should seek their advice regularly during the semester.

**Anticipate changes.**

It's to be expected that the student you send to Medaille College will change. We may not always understand or like it, but keep in mind that change is also growth.

**Communicate often, but don't be surprised if you don't get much information.**

Try open-ended but specific questions about life at Medaille. Do not be dismayed by the shortness of an answer, especially in an email or text message. Ask questions, but not too many!

**Have faith in your student.**

Let them solve their own problems. This is how you acquire good critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

**Be independent is challenging.**

You will be helping your student by just being there. Students often feel like no one understands their stress. Just listen, and create an atmosphere of support. The family that accepts and tries to understand the student's experience is providing support and encouragement when it is needed most.

**Take time to discuss finances.**

Many college students are still financially dependent to some degree. Communicate with your student about the family's financial situation. They need to know how much money will be available and how much of the financial responsibility is his or hers.

**College isn't perfect.**

There are ups and downs just like any other new experience. Meeting new people and adjusting to new situations takes a lot of time and concentration.

**Understand, but try not to overreact to pleas to come home.**

This will pass. Your student may be happy one day and sad the next. It's to be expected. Just being there to listen is important.

**Encourage your student to get involved in student activities, clubs, organizations, athletics and events.**

There are many opportunities to get involved. Students say getting involved is the best way to get adjusted to Medaille.

Keep your student informed of everything going on at home. Letters, care packages, text messages and emails help them feel connected while they are away.

**The Student Health Office and Counseling Services Center are available.**

If your student is ill or is having trouble coping, there are professionals trained in dealing with these problems right on campus.

**There is always someone to help: professors, advisors, counselors, RA’s, friends.**

The entire Medaille College community is dedicated to helping first-year students. Don't hesitate to ask for help. If you are afraid, call the First-Year Experience at (716) 880-2152.

**Prepare for their return.**

When the semester ends and your student returns home for breaks, plan to sit and discuss the rules of living at home. The family needs to respect the independence the student has worked hard to achieve. The student still needs to acknowledge the rules of the family household.

**Survival Tips for First-Year Families**

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