August 12, 2014

Dear Gettysburg Student,

Welcome to Gettysburg College! Gettysburg prides itself on a strong sense of community. We expect students will act with respect towards one another to insure an inclusive and satisfying environment. This is now your home and your opportunity to embrace the rich history, scholarship, and resources that Gettysburg provides. We will be here to support you in your pursuit to become “Gettysburg Great.”

Please review the information below so that you are aware of our resources available to you and the expectations and the policies in place to support your well-being.

**Alcohol Use on Campus:** No single issue impacts students and the community more negatively than the abuse of alcohol. The [Alcohol and Drug Policy Point System](http://www.gettysburg.edu/about/offices/college_life/srr/alcohol-and-other-drug-use-information/) is designed to help our students make informed decisions and to avoid the potentially damaging consequences of alcohol or drug abuse. It is important to note that when a student reaches 10 points, he or she will be required to leave campus for a semester or more.

Research indicates that first-year students are particularly vulnerable during the first six weeks to excessive drinking and alcohol-related consequences. Our primary goal is to give students the opportunity to attend programs and other events hosted on campus without alcohol being present. Therefore, Gettysburg College will not permit student social events with alcohol as follows:

- No events with alcohol on campus, including fraternities and College houses, during the time prior to the first day of classes and through the conclusion of Greek recruitment (August 15 through September 12, 2014).
- First year students are restricted from any events with alcohol until September 19, 2014.
- Additional points and fines will apply for students in violation of these restrictions.

We hope you all will take part in Late Night Gettysburg activities as well just hang out in spaces such as the Junction, Bullet Hole, Jaeger Center, and Majestic Theater.

**Alcohol and Drug Information and Support:** Our [Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities](http://www.gettysburg.edu/about/offices/college_life/srr/alcohol-and-other-drug-use-information/) contains information regarding alcohol and drug policy and support, including:

- Alcohol and drug policy information including the Alcohol and Drug Policy Points System.
- Health effects of alcohol and other drug use.
- Counseling, assessment, intervention and treatment resources available to our students.
- Applicable local, state and federal laws.

This information is also available online: [http://www.gettysburg.edu/about/offices/college_life/srr/alcohol-and-other-drug-use-information/](http://www.gettysburg.edu/about/offices/college_life/srr/alcohol-and-other-drug-use-information/).

**Sexual Misconduct and Relationship Violence Policy:** Sexual assault, sexual violence, and relationship violence is prohibited at Gettysburg College. All students need to understand our policy, how to intervene to prevent sexual assault, how to report an incident, and how to support those affected. Gettysburg College has a new Sexual Misconduct and Relationship Violence policy. Please be sure to read the new [policy](http://www.gettysburg.edu/about/offices/college_life/srr/alcohol-and-other-drug-use-information/), check out the updated [Sexual Misconduct Resource Site](http://www.gettysburg.edu/about/offices/college_life/srr/alcohol-and-other-drug-use-information/), and [report](http://www.gettysburg.edu/about/offices/college_life/srr/alcohol-and-other-drug-use-information/) any inappropriate behaviors that you may witness or experience on campus. Additionally, get to know [Anna Krause](http://www.gettysburg.edu/about/offices/college_life/srr/alcohol-and-other-drug-use-information/) in Residential and First-Year Programs, who has been designated to work on sexual and relationship violence prevention education in the first-year areas.

**Sexual Assault Education & Awareness and Title IX Information:** All Gettysburg College students take part in sexual assault education programming. You are required to take a course called [Haven](http://www.gettysburg.edu/about/offices/college_life/srr/alcohol-and-other-drug-use-information/), designed to help students understand consent, incapacitation, bystander intervention techniques, and other
helpful information on preventing sexual assaults. The College has designated Jane North, Executive Vice President as the institutional Title IX Coordinator. She is located in Penn Hall, 3rd floor and can be reached at (717)337-6011.

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:** We are pleased to welcome Dr. Jeanne Arnold to the position of Chief Diversity Officer. Dr. Arnold’s office is located in Penn Hall. Information about Dr. Arnold is available on the College’s [website](#). Erin Duran has been promoted to Director of LGBTQ Advocacy and Education. Erin will be providing support and education for the entire community, including those who identify as LGBTQ. Visit the [LGBTQA Advocacy & Education](#) website for additional information.

**Bias and Harassment policies:** To instill a safer and more inclusive campus community, Gettysburg College has a Bias-Related Conduct policy and a Harassment policy. Please review the policies and report any inappropriate behaviors that you may witness on campus.

**CARE group:** I want you to be aware of the College’s [CARE group](#). If you have concerns about a fellow student, particularly if you have observed disturbing behaviors, we encourage you to use the [Community Concern Form](#) to report concerning behaviors or contact Senior Associate Dean Jeff Foster at (717) 337-6900 or jfoster@gettysburg.edu.

**Fighting and Weapons:** We expect students to treat others with respect at all times. We require students to avoid situations which could result in violence and to contact Public Safety (717-337-6911) for assistance: [Assault and fighting (Article III, Section 2B)](#). Weapons of any kind are not permitted on campus including firearms, knives over 3” in length, BB guns, Airsoft Guns, fireworks and other devices capable of inflicting wounds. [Weapons policy (Article III, Section 2K)](#). Any student engaging in physical assault or in possession of weapons can expect suspension or possible expulsion from the College.

**Conduct Decision:** You may recall a letter that was sent to you about a drug ring investigation by the Montgomery County, PA, District Attorney’s office. Gettysburg College initiated an internal investigation in April which has resulted in twenty-seven Gettysburg College students being found responsible for violating College policy. The sanctions include expulsions, suspensions, and *persona non grata* status (no longer welcome on our campus) for a specified period of time for students who have already graduated. Additionally, Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity has been derecognized on our campus for no less than five years. As these sanctions indicate, drug distribution and abuse has serious consequences.

**Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in West Africa:** Gettysburg College routinely monitors world health issues that could pose a threat to campus health. According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), the EVD, which has been in the news recently, poses little risk to the U.S. general population at this time. Currently, we know of no students or faculty who have been living or traveling in the affected areas. If you have recently travelled or are planning to travel to or from West Africa, please notify Health Services at 717-337-6970. The College will continue to monitor events closely and follow guidance from CDC and the World Health Organization.

For more information on our policies the most up to date version of the Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities and the Points System can be found online at [www.gettysburg.edu/studenthandbook](http://www.gettysburg.edu/studenthandbook). Please take some time to review this information before you come to campus. Upon arrival, you will receive a printed copy of the Handbook.

We look forward to seeing you in a few weeks!

Julie L. Ramsey, Ed.D.
Vice President for College Life and Dean of Students

*Alcohol and Drug Information provided in accordance with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act.*