



August 2009

Dear Gettysburg First Year Parent,

Your Gettysburg College student has the great privilege of attending one of the best liberal arts colleges in the United States today. Gettysburg College has an outstanding reputation for the quality of our faculty, our academic programs and our facilities. Equally strong are the opportunities for involvement in a wide variety of student-led organizations. Gettysburg is a dynamic community; student leadership lies at the heart of our energetic community. At Gettysburg, students have a major role in shaping policy and priorities in residence life and social life.

College offers a range of experiences that serve as preparation for success and satisfaction in a complex, global world. Your student will inevitably encounter challenges along the way. Please encourage them to engage in conversations with their faculty, advisers, coaches, RAs and college counselors as they work their way through these challenges.

There are a few specific items that I would like to bring to your attention.

1. **Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities:** The College's Handbook outlines all of the rights and responsibilities that a student has as a member of the Gettysburg community. It is important for your student to understand the policies and procedures that work to uphold our community standards. I encourage you to read more at www.gettysburg.edu/studenthandbook.
2. **Alcohol and Drug Policy Points System:** We have worked to clarify the expectations and consequences regarding alcohol and drug use. The College has an Alcohol and Drug Policy Points System in place to address violations of our alcohol and drug policies. I encourage you to read more at: www.gettysburg.edu/points.
3. **AlcoholEdu:** Prior to the start of school, your student should also be working on an on-line educational program called AlcoholEdu. Please talk with them about the program as they are completing the program in August.
4. **The Counseling Center:** I encourage you to contact Counseling Services at 717- 337-6960 if you have any questions about the support that is available at the College and in the local community. We have a number of programmatic and counseling-based opportunities for students who need support in working through a variety of issues.
5. **CARE:** CARE is Gettysburg's student concerns group that tracks and responds to students in difficulty. If you have concerns about any student's behavior or mental health, you can notify Associate Dean, Jeff Foster, Chair of the CARE group, at jfoster@gettysburg.edu or 717-337-6900. Jeff will then work with the appropriate

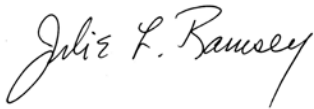
persons on campus to follow up on the concern. Additional information regarding CARE is available at www.gettysburg.edu/care.

6. **Academic Issues or Concerns:** If your student has any academic issues or concerns, their faculty adviser is the best place to start. Please suggest your student make an appointment with their adviser to raise any questions, get advice, or plan for the coming terms. If for some reason the faculty adviser is not able to assist, your student may contact Anne Lane, Associate Dean of Academic Advising at 717-337-6579 or alane@gettysburg.edu.
7. **The Emergency Text Notification System:** Parents may sign up to be notified by text message in the event of a campus emergency. Details regarding the sign-up for this service will be sent to you in the next few weeks.

Your student will have virtually unlimited opportunities for engagement and leadership when they come to campus in August. Please encourage them to take advantage of the unique opportunities at Gettysburg that will assist them in preparing to lead a life of enlightened contribution to society.

I look forward to seeing you at Orientation. Please contact me at 717- 337-6921 or ramsey@gettysburg.edu if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie L. Ramsey".

Dr. Julie L. Ramsey
Vice President for College Life and Dean of Students