

Dear Parents,

We've compiled a special edition of *First Year Focus* targeting the specific transition questions you might have been thinking about lately. We know that the first month of college can often be a trying one for students *and* parents. Here you have three different perspectives about the current "state of affairs," so to say.

We hope you find these articles interesting and helpful. All of them remind parents about campus resources, all of which are included on the sidebar.

Cassie Book  
Director of Writing and Parent Communications, ARC

Patrick Englert  
Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Student Engagement



### **The Freshman Year "Roller Coaster"**

Dr. Catherine Sutton, Dean of Academic Advising and Director of the Academic Resource Center

Researchers who study the freshman year of college document and explain the reasons for students' success or failure. So, one can pretty well predict the usual flow of experience for freshmen throughout the first year. To give parents some insight into what your freshman might be experiencing now and throughout his or her year, [I've summarized the freshman year highs and lows.](#)

### **From the Knight's Mouth: A Parent's Perspective**

Karen Schoenfelder, Bellarmine Parent

I worried and wondered if Bellarmine would be the right fit for my daughter, Amanda, long before she stepped foot on campus in 2008. Today, I can tell you with confidence that she absolutely, without a doubt, made the right choice! I am a proud parent of a 2012 graduate who is currently in the Bellarmine Doctorate in Physical Therapy Program, [so I would like to share some of our experiences as we transitioned from high school to college and carried on at home without a very important member of our family.](#)



### **Dealing with the Emotional Transition: Some Guidelines from the Counseling Center**

Dr. Gary Petiprin, Director of the Counseling Center

You are likely to be experiencing grief as one chapter closes and a new one begins. But grief is an inseparable part of loving and transitions are essential parts of growing, both for your adult child and you. [So here are a few tips for managing this transition.](#)

**There are two upcoming opportunities to visit Bellarmine, spend some time with your son or daughter, and have some fun!**



### **Bellarmino Vino: September 14**

Join parents, staff, and faculty for an evening of fine Italian wine tastings. John Johnson, sommelier and owner of The Wine Rack (2632 Frankfort Avenue), will host and provide information on Italian wines. Go to [www.bellarmino.edu/parents/bellarminovino.aspx](http://www.bellarmino.edu/parents/bellarminovino.aspx) for more information. Register by September 12 at [bellarminotickets.universitytickets.com](http://bellarminotickets.universitytickets.com).



**Family Weekend: October 19-22**

We aren't clowning around! Okay, maybe we are, so join us for "The Big Top: Bellarmine Family Weekend 2012!" For more information, [click here](#). Register at [bellarminetickets.universitytickets.com](http://bellarminetickets.universitytickets.com).



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**Do you or your student have a question about?**

Living in the residence halls?

Leslie Maxie-Ashford, Director, Residence Life; 502-272-7273, [lmxie-ashford@bellarmine.edu](mailto:lmxie-ashford@bellarmine.edu)

Trouble with a class, an assignment, or making a change in class schedules?

Dr. Catherine Sutton, Dean of Advising and Director of Academic Resource Center; 502-272-8062, [csutton@bellarmine.edu](mailto:csutton@bellarmine.edu)

How to find something fun to do on campus?

Elizabeth Cassady, Director of Student Activities; 502-272-8477, [ecassady@bellarmine.edu](mailto:ecassady@bellarmine.edu)

Financial Aid?

Jennifer Likes, 502-272-8134, [jlikes@bellarmine.edu](mailto:jlikes@bellarmine.edu)

Work-study?

Alie Willer, 502-272-7923, [awiller@bellarmine.edu](mailto:awiller@bellarmine.edu)

Getting a terrific summer job or internship?

Ann Zeman, Director of Career Development and Counseling, 502-272-8154, [azeman@bellarmine.edu](mailto:azeman@bellarmine.edu)

Todd Reale, Assistant Dean, Career Services and Experiential Learning; 502-272-8242, [treale@bellarmine.edu](mailto:treale@bellarmine.edu)

Joining an intramural sports team?

Chuck Vogt, Director of Intramural sports; 502-272-8348, [cvogt@bellarmine.edu](mailto:cvogt@bellarmine.edu)

What to do when sick or injured?

Alice Kimble, Director, Health Services; 502-452-8312, [makimble@bellarmine.edu](mailto:makimble@bellarmine.edu)

Who to talk to about personal problems?

Dr. Gary Petiprin, Director of Counseling Center; 502-272-8480, [gpetiprin@bellarmine.edu](mailto:gpetiprin@bellarmine.edu)

Studying abroad?

Erica Ward, Study Abroad Advisor; 502-272-8479, [eward@bellarmine.edu](mailto:eward@bellarmine.edu)

Spiritual programs, service, or faith-based networks?

Dr. Melanie Prejean-Sullivan, Director of Campus Ministry and Service; 502-272-8051, [mpsullivan@bellarmine.edu](mailto:mpsullivan@bellarmine.edu)

Disability Accommodations?

Ronda Purdy, Coordinator of Disability Services; 502-272-8480, [rpurdy@bellarmine.edu](mailto:rpurdy@bellarmine.edu)

A more general question about life on campus?

Helen Grace Ryan, Dean of Students; 502-272-8426, [hryan@bellarmine.edu](mailto:hryan@bellarmine.edu)