

Dear Bellarmine Parents,

Welcome to *First Year Focus*, the e-newsletter intended to give you all the crucial information you need to support your student through his or her first year at Bellarmine University. The newsletter provides you with practical material and information—due dates, event times, and announcements—as well as a multitude of resources (a facebook page, blog, website, and monthly youtube videos), advice, and, most importantly, a glimpse at what your student’s campus life is really like.

We had the wonderful opportunity to meet many of you at Knight U, Parent Crossroads, and Move-In Day and hope to interact with many more of you as the year goes on. We always welcome your feedback, questions, and concerns, so please feel free to contact us at parents@bellarmine.edu.

Also, please join us on the [Bellarmine University Parent Association facebook page](#) and [the Academic Resource Center blog](#), “Your Kid is Fine.” You will find any information you need on the [Parents’ website](#).

Welcome to BU!

Cassie Book
Director of Writing and Parent Communications, ARC

Patrick Englert
Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Student Engagement

Get on the Trolley: Next Stop BU



Click [the link for this month’s video](#) to explore Louisville through the perspective of its trollies— including the newest, our Bellarmine Trolley. Also, check out the “Stay or Go?: What to do Labor Day Weekend ” blurb below for details about how your student can participate in the Frankfort Avenue Trolley Hop with ResLife.



A Snapshot of BU Class of 2016

One of the largest classes in Bellarmine's history, over 600 freshmen, begins classes today, August 23, 2012! The Class of 2016 boasts an average high school GPA of 3.51 and an overall ACT score of 24.7. Thirty-nine percent are male (61% female). Thirty-three percent represent first-generation college students and 7.8% are legacy. Seventy-six percent of freshmen live on-campus. Finally, the class of 2016 comes to Bellarmine from near and far: one third from Jefferson County in Kentucky, one third from other counties in Kentucky, one third from other U.S. states. In addition, we welcome 6 students from countries outside the U.S.

News and Updates from the Bursar's Office

The Bursar's office wants to ensure parents have all the correct information about billing and payment options. [Click here](#) for information and instructions on Paperless Billing, Revised Statements of Account, and Payments/Payment Plans.

Federal Work-Study Program

Work-Study is a great way for your student to get involved on campus, meet new people and earn some much needed job experience. If your student was awarded Work-Study through his or her financial aid award letter, then it's time to start searching for a position. There are many job opportunities on campus, whether your student enjoys the typical office atmosphere, an active day with Athletics, or the open-air of the Bellarmine Farm. We also partner with several Community Service sites nearby for those students who would like to get out into the community. For more information on Work-Study, please visit the Financial Aid website at <http://www.bellarmino.edu/financialaid/workstudy.aspx>.

"What Do You Mean You Can't Tell Me His Grades?"

Dean of Students, Dr. Helen Grace Ryan, Provides Parents a Primer to FERPA

FERPA stands for Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, also known as the Buckley Amendment. A federal law, 20 U.S.C. 1232g, protects the privacy of students' educational records— including information about grades and judicial files. We fully understand parents' often difficult position when considering their student's future and academic track; however, only under special circumstances, or when a student has given written consent, is this information released. As a consistent practice, we highly encourage students to establish and maintain communication with their parent(s) so that they remain informed while helping students to become more personally responsible. For more information from the Registrar's Office, [click here](#) or visit the Department of Education's Web site, www.ed.gov, and type "FERPA" as a search term.

Reaching for the Stars: Galileo Learning Community Initiates Year

This Fall, 90 freshmen interested in nursing, exercise science, respiratory therapy, medical lab science, biology, and environmental science have chosen to participate in Bellarmine's first learning community, Galileo. The Galileo Learning Community (GLC) focuses on integrating the key academic and social components that make freshmen year so important. In the Fall, Galileo students enroll in specific courses with their GLC peers— Biology (108 or 130), English 101, and Freshman Focus (IDC. 100). In addition, Galileo students have opportunities to participate in social activities, meet professionals, and be involved in community service work. Sixty-three Galileo students live on designated floors in Newman Hall. Twenty-seven students living off campus have access to the halls and will be fully integrated into the GLC. [Click here](#) to learn more about Galileo.



The Pioneer Spirit: Pioneer Scholars Program Supports First-Generation Freshmen

Beginning its fourth year, the Pioneer Scholars program continues to succeed in providing necessary support for first-generation freshmen. Of the over 600 registered freshmen for 2012-13, about 200 are first-generation students. All first-generation students have a peer mentor (upperclassman first-generation student) that works with them throughout the year. If your student is first-generation, meaning that his/her generation is the first in your family to attend college, and he/she has not mentioned "Pioneers," have him/her contact Amy Siegel at asiegel@bellarmine.edu to sign up. [Click here](#) for more information on Pioneers.

As Time Goes By: Time Management for Freshmen

The most universal challenge freshmen face at the outset of their college career involves managing their time and scheduling. Unlike high school, where the structure of the institution carries students through the day, college requires students continuously to make decisions about how they spend their time. For more from Dr. Catherine Sutton, Dean of Academic Advising, about time management for freshmen, [click here](#).



The Involvement Fair

August 28th from 11am-1pm in the Quad students can check out all the ways they can do something and get involved on campus. Over sixty registered student organizations, academic departments, and various special events will have tables where students can meet members and sign up. If your student is interested in joining a club, an intramural sport, or a group affiliated with his or her major (like the student nurses association) this is the time and place!

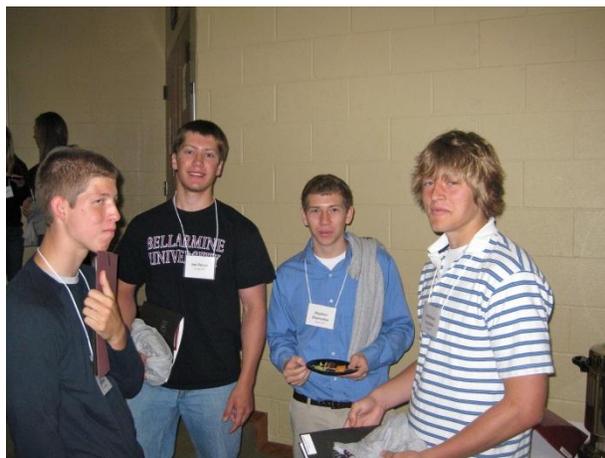
Freshmen Leadership and Involvement Opportunities in The Residence Hall Association

The Residence Hall Association strives to make the residence halls the best that they can be. In addition, The

Residence Hall Association provides early opportunities to take on leadership roles and meet others in the resident community. [Click here](#) for more information on how to get involved with the RHA.

Stay or Go?: What to do Labor Day Weekend

For first year students living on campus, the first break in the academic calendar inevitably seems to bring up the question: “Do I stay or do I go?” Since Labor Day weekend is just mere weeks from the start of school, many choose to stay on campus and take advantage of the extra time to get acquainted with living at Bellarmine and the surrounding Louisville area. Commuters should take advantage of the opportunity to spend time with new friends and show them around town. [Click here](#) for information about Labor Day in the Ville events.



Career Development Announces Self-Evaluation Resource

Evaluating one’s interests, skills, and values provides guidance toward programs and opportunities that have the best potential for academic success, career satisfaction and personal happiness. To support new and returning students, Bellarmine University has recently implemented the Kuder Journey system for those who want to make better decisions about majors, careers and graduate education. [Click here](#) to learn more about Kuder Journey and how it can be of use to freshmen.



Expand Your Horizons: Study Abroad Opportunities for Bellarmine Students

Studying abroad is a rewarding and empowering experience for college students. They grow as they learn about a foreign culture and about themselves and their culture. In today’s workplace, study abroad and international experiences are increasingly becoming more important to graduate schools and employers. [Click here](#) to learn more about programs that Bellarmine offers and what freshmen can do to prepare.

Bellarmino Vino: Celebrate the Harvest and Robert Bellarmine’s Birthday on September 14

Join us for an evening of fine Italian wine in celebration of the harvest. John Johnson, sommelier and owner of The Wine Rack (2632 Frankfort Avenue), will host and provide information on Italian wines. Go to www.bellarmine.edu/parents/bellarminovino.aspx for more information. Register at bellarminetickets.universitytickets.com.

Family Weekend: October 19-22

We invite families to campus for a full-filled weekend with their student. This year’s theme is “Under the Big Top,” which includes a carnival, magic show, and a community service event. For more information, [click here](#). Register at bellarminetickets.universitytickets.com.

Welcome and Announcements from the Center for Campus Ministry

The Center for Campus Ministry is delighted to be part of the Fall efforts to connect parents and new students to

campus. Over the summer, the campus ministry staff expanded a bit and new programs will give students even more opportunities to be involved on their journeys towards full faith maturity. [Click here](#) for a letter from Dr. Melanie Préjean Sullivan. The 2011-12 Center for Campus Ministry calendar is [here](#).

Welcome from the Alumni Office:

My name is Peter Kremer and I am the Executive Director of the Alumni Association at Bellarmine as well as being a proud Bellarmine Graduate. I wanted to take this opportunity and welcome you all to the Bellarmine Community. Just like the parents of our over 20,000 alumni did, you have entrusted Bellarmine University with the education and development of your child. As a former student and graduate, I truly believe you have made an exceptional decision. I can think of no better place for an 18-year old young adult to pursue their education and develop as a human being than at Bellarmine University. We look forward to welcoming your children into our Alumni Association in 2016!

Dr. Rhodes' Reads

In each newsletter, Dr. Fred Rhodes, Vice President for Student Affairs, will recommend a book for parents as they adjust to their students' transitions. Dr. Rhodes first recommendation is *Letting Go: A Parent's Guide to Understanding the College Years*. This is also the first book selection for the [Parent and Family Book Club](#). This easy read captures the attention of most parents by addressing key issues related to the emotional and practical aspects of letting go and helping your student transition to college life. Everything from moving out of the house to moving in to the residence halls is discussed in the text. Orientation and setting the tone for the critical first semester are important parts of the process. Balancing academic and social pressures is also addressed by the authors. This book has been around for a few years and has assisted many parents and students adjust to change when the college experience begins.



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[Get insider info—subscribe to the blog!](#)

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

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

How to find something fun to do on campus?

Elizabeth Cassady, Director of Student Activities; 502-272-8477, ecassady@bellarmine.edu

Financial Aid?

Jennifer Likes, 502-272-8134, jlikes@bellarmine.edu

Work-study?

Alie Willer, 502-272-7923, awiller@bellarmine.edu

Getting a terrific summer job or internship?

Ann Zeman, Director of Career Development and Counseling, 502-272-8154, azeman@bellarmine.edu

Todd Reale, Assistant Dean, Career Services and Experiential Learning; 502-272-8242, treale@bellarmine.edu

Joining an intramural sports team?

Chuck Vogt, Director of Intramural sports; 502-272-8348, cvogt@bellarmine.edu

What to do when sick or injured?

Alice Kimble, Director, Health Services; 502-452-8312, makimble@bellarmine.edu

Who to talk to about personal problems?

Dr. Gary Petiprin, Director of Counseling Center; 502-272-8480, gpetiprin@bellarmine.edu

Studying abroad?

Erica Ward, Study Abroad Advisor; 502-272-8479, 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

Disability Accommodations?

Ronda Purdy, Coordinator of Disability Services; 502-272-8480, rpurdy@bellarmine.edu

A more general question about life on campus?

Helen Grace Ryan, Dean of Students; 502-272-8426, hryan@bellarmine.edu