



Dear Parents,

Midterm is a good time to take a step back and reflect on the first critical semester. Classes, roommates, parking, new routines, time management, balancing school work, part-time jobs, social life and expectations of self, parents and peers. This is an exciting and often challenging time for new college students.

When I think of coping with all the possibilities, one of my favorite quotes comes to mind: *"If you don't know where you are going, any road will take you there."* This simple statement by Lewis Carroll hits the mark for many new students. Bellarmine has the perfect road map for developing one's greatest self through an innovative co-curricular transcript program called EDGE (Exploring and Documenting Great Experiences).

The EDGE program takes a holistic approach that encourages self-reflection, provides a link between theory and practice, and prepares students for effective citizenship and leadership. It highlights four developmental areas: Personal Development and Leadership, Community Service, Multicultural Awareness and Education, and Career and Professional Preparation. Each of these areas is developed throughout the year with a series of speakers, lectures, workshops, activities and information sessions that enhance and support the academic programs on campus. Students are asked to complete five programs in each of the four developmental areas. Over 40 programs are offered each semester. Students are also required to record sixty hours of service during their four years.

EDGE is an optional program. Documenting out of the classroom experiences can assist as students prepare for graduate or professional school and can showcase students' holistic developmental education in their search for that great first job. This program also makes a difference as our students leave Bellarmine to become effective citizens and leaders in our world.

For more information about the EDGE Program, contact Patrick Englert, Assistant Dean for Student Engagement at 452-8323 or visit the [website](#) for a listing of EDGE events.

Fred Rhodes, Ed.D.

Vice President for Academic & Student Life

Family Weekend Countdown!

The glitz and glamour of Hollywood is coming to Bellarmine! We hope to see you all at KNIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION: FAMILY WEEKEND 2008, October 24 – 26. If you and your family haven't registered yet, it's not too late. Just enter your information at www.bellarmino.edu/familyweekend before the director yells "ACTION!"

Online Registration for Undergraduates

For the first time, all Bellarmine undergraduates will register themselves for spring classes online this November, beginning November 3 with Seniors. Freshman online registration will open November 11, and all online registration, including drop/add, will continue for all students through the first week of the spring term. In order to gain access to the computer system, students must first meet with an advisor who gives them this electronic permission to register.

Their advisors will also receive a copy of their schedules and a notification of any changes students make to that schedule before the beginning of next semester.

If students encounter any difficulties in registering, the Academic Resource Center and the Registrar are prepared to help them, but they must first have an advising form signed by an advisor.

We pledge to students that they will get the classes they need for their major -- but we can't promise their admission to the exact sections of that class -- so we ask for flexibility regarding class meeting times. The appropriate signature forms for petitions to enter a closed class can be obtained online or from the Registrar. Please urge your son or daughter to voice any questions and concerns about his or her spring schedule. Advisors in the departments and the Academic Resource Center will work to help each student achieve the best possible schedule.

Athletics at Bellarmine: Off and Running!

Bellarmine athletics are off and running! Fall competitions have begun in men's and women's cross country, men's and women's soccer, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's golf, and volleyball and field hockey. Bellarmine is a proud member of the NCAA Division II and Great Lakes Valley Conference for all sports except women's field hockey, which competes as NCAA Division II Independent and men's lacrosse, which is Division I, Great Western Lacrosse League. Please log on to www.bellarmine.edu/athletics to get updates on all of the latest scores and team information

Bellarmine takes pride in preparing our student-athletes for life's challenges. The dedicated 403 young men and women involved in the Department of Athletics once again celebrated their academic achievements by having 47 student-athletes recognized by the Division II Athletic Directors Association. This award is given to student-athletes who have earned a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better.

The golf and tennis teams shine in the classroom, and on the courts and course! Women's golf team members Ashley Current and Sarah DuPlessis were named to the National Golf Coaches Association DII All-American Scholar Athletes. The 2008 International Tennis Association All-Academic Teams and Scholar Athletes recognized the women's tennis team for a team GPA of 3.54.

The Great Lakes Valley Conference recognized 10 scholar athletes in the spring of 2008. Men's golf team member Brooks Herrick and women's track team member Katie Hickey were recognized for exemplifying life in the balance, displaying great accomplishments both academically and athletically.

From the Academic Resource Center: Midterm Grades

Professors of 100- and 200-level courses report on students' performance in the form of midterm grades. Primarily designed for freshmen, this process allows students to gain a sense of their overall progress in their academic coursework. Since the grades represent approximately the first third of required assignments, there is still significant time remaining in the semester for students to make improvements by changing study habits. Freshman advisors will review midterm grades on an individual basis with their advisees, making recommendations and offering encouragement. As you discuss your child's midterm grades with him/her, keep in mind the following thoughts regarding several midterm grade "profiles."

Mostly A's and B's. Congratulations are in order, for your student is transitioning well and is on the path to a successful first semester. Even though she's doing well so far in classes, has she also made an effort to stretch herself in other areas? Has he found an organization on campus to participate in, and if so, could he seek out a leadership or committee role? Has she begun to think about internship or study abroad opportunities? Perhaps it could be time to start exercising more, to volunteer, or to join an intramurals team.

Mix of A's-C's. While C's are certainly passing grades, it's time for students with these midterm grades to fine-tune their approach. Many freshmen are in the process of figuring out just how much study time is required; some may need to cut back slightly on work hours, or to seek a better-paying job. Students should consider their study methods

as well, including how often notes are reviewed (weekly is better than cramming before the test), test prep methods (reviewing with friends or in a study group offered by the ARC can be helpful), and time per week allotted for studying. Often, an honest look at time spent socializing online, playing video games, or partying might reveal time that could be devoted to studies. If personal issues or disability accommodations are a concern, talking to someone in the Counseling Center can help.

2 or more D's or F's . A serious evaluation of a student's overall approach to college-level coursework and what can be improved is in order, but the good news is that there's time to chart a different course. Students struggle with academics in the first semester for a wide variety of reasons, including: weak study habits, serious personal and/or family issues, and competing demands on time. If a student hasn't done so already, he should be encouraged to talk with a professor, focus advisor, counselor, or an advisor in the ARC *immediately* for suggestions. Our hope is that a student will not avoid the situation, thinking that by ignoring it, grades will somehow improve. If dropping a course is determined to be the solution, the university's final withdrawal date is **Wednesday, October 29th** .

Jennifer Schum, M.Ed
Developmental Advisor, ARC

FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP

Faithful Citizenship is the title of a document on political responsibility issued by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops which is intended to assist Catholics in their decisions about the upcoming election, indeed any election. It is a serious responsibility to vote, yet no party represents the full Catholic set of ideals. It is a serious responsibility to vote, yet no candidate is truly in line with all of the teachings. So, what are we to do? On Thursday, October 30, we will host a forum for students during Free Period to review the document and the key issues in the national election. In the meantime, we are asking all students to think seriously about the Three Principles for Voting- 1) Inform Your Conscience about the teaching of your faith tradition and the candidates' positions; 2) Apply Prudence and decide how to apply these values when voting; and, 3) Vote for the Common Good, with a special focus on the poor and vulnerable.

Obviously, these three principles are intended to be the beginning of a process of self-education, serious prayer and discernment, and seeking wise counsel. As steps in such a process, they do not outline an easy path with pithy slogans or political rhetoric. They require study and research. They require serious investment of time. But, the very difficulty of voting responsibly tells us how very important voting is. And, the common good goes beyond the Catholic vote to the responsibility of all, as indicated in the first three words of the Constitution, "We the people. " In 1989, the late Pope John Paul II urged us to be determined in our commitment to the common good, "...that is to say to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all."

Melanie-Prejean Sullivan, DMin
Director of Campus Ministry and Service

Completion of New Residence Hall Nears!

Exciting times await the Bellarmine University community as our faculty, staff and students watch the construction of Phase II of the Siena Project, Siena Secondo. A sister building to Siena Primo, Secondo will house 145 students and will open for occupancy in January 2009. Community is the cornerstone to living on campus and perhaps the most central element to the residential component of Vision 2020 and the Department of Residence Life philosophy. The design of the Siena complex will be optimal for students' desires for a unique, functional, and technologically advanced living-learning community. With community in mind, the amenities in Siena Secondo will foster opportunities for establishing student engagement and enhancing the BU student experience. For example, the expansive hallways and community spaces provide an atmosphere conducive to students' out of class experiences. Providing opportunities for student engagement meets the new Vision 2020 and is symbolic of Bellarmine University's high standards for residential living and learning.

Housing selection for Siena Secondo will be in November with priority selection to Lenihan Hall students and students living in overflow housing assignments. As we move forward with Vision 2020, we have a very aggressive timeline for

completing all four phases of the Siena Project by fall 2012 and we are on the right course for meeting our goals. We will begin construction on Siena Quattro, Phase III of the project, in the spring of 2009.

If you have any questions about our building projects, please contact Leslie Maxie-Ashford, Associate Dean of Residence Life, at 502-473-3000 or by email at lmaxie-ashford@bellarmine.edu.