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Dear Northwestern Parents and Family Members,

My name is Burgwell “Burgie” Howard, and I serve as the Assistant Vice President for Student Engagement here at the University. As part of the Student Affairs division, our mission is to ‘educate students, engage the community, and enrich the Northwestern experience.’

The Student Engagement (SE) area is comprised of five general areas of student life involving eight departments: New Students & Family Programs, Student Involvement (Center for Student Involvement and Fraternity & Sorority Life), Religious Life, Campus Inclusion and Community (Multicultural Student Affairs, Student Enrichment Services and Campus Inclusion & Community), and of course, the Office of Student Engagement.

Student Engagement is dedicated to the development and support of signature community events, as well as the personal growth and development of effective student leaders and citizens. Student engagement occurs when “students make a psychological investment in learning.” They take pride not simply in earning the formal indicators of success, but in understanding the material and incorporating or internalizing it in their lives. Students are engaged when they are involved in their work, persist despite challenges and obstacles, and take delight in accomplishing their goals. A goal for us is, that your student will pair their in-class learning experiences with interpersonal dialogue, collaboration, and experiential learning that will prepare them to be successful in the increasingly complex, diverse, global world they will be navigating.

The SE area represents the spectrum of your students’ Northwestern experience – from Wildcat Welcome to Dillo Day, and the 450 clubs, organizations and activities in between – where students learn, make friends, have fun and define who they are and what they believe. This Spring quarter alone we will see our students engage with speakers such as: journalist Ezra Klein, scientists Bill Nye and Neil deGrasse Tyson, and filmmaker Ava DuVernay. They will celebrate culture and identity through events such as Holi festival, Passover, Caribfest, JubilAsian, Easter and Greek Scene. Students will come together to have fun and make contributions to our community at events such the Global Engagement Summit, NU Gives Back service day, the 84th Waa-Mu musical theater production, or at concerts and festivals such as the A&O Ball and Dillo Day which will feature artists such as T-Pain and Charlie XCX (don’t worry, I barely know who these folks are either, but our students love them!)

It has been my privilege to work with the talented, curious and caring students you have entrusted to Northwestern. It is our hope, that with the help of you, their families, and our faculty we are helping your students become the person they hope to be, and have a positive impact on the Northwestern community and beyond.

The next eight weeks should be a blast!

With best regards, and of course..., Go ‘Cats!

Burgwell J. Howard, Asst. VP for Student Engagement
Thomas King’s provocative and unflinching book “The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America” will be the One Book One Northwestern selection for the coming 2015–16 academic year. In the book, King offers a funny, opinionated, unconventional account of Indian–White relations in North America. King debunks fabricated stories of Indian savagery and of Indians (and cowboys) in film and popular culture. His book wrestles with the history of Native American resistance and with King’s own experiences as a Native rights activist. He chronicles the ever-changing laws and treaties on Native peoples and lands distilling what it means to be “Indian” in North America.

Residence Hall Summer Closing Reminder

All residence halls, residential colleges, and residential communities close at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 13, 2015, for all students (except those approved for late stay extensions). Students granted late stay extensions by Residential Services will move out of current assignments by 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 20, 2015. A checklist of items residents must complete prior to checking out will be posted on each room door. After completing the checklist, students turn in all keys to the neighborhood desk. Residents may be billed for room damages that occurred over the course of the year. Residents are encouraged to carefully read emails and bulletin boards related to closing procedures, attend floor or building meetings about closing, visit the Residential Services website, or to ask their Resident Assistant or Residence Director if they have any questions.
NU HAS BEEN CELEBRATING EARTH WEEK SINCE 1970

NU is looking forward to the end of another fun and engaging Earth Week, and we hope your student will join us! Students participated in Bike2Campus April 20–24 by logging bike rides to win awesome prizes such as Chipotle gift cards, Divvy bike passes, bike locks, a bike helmet, Intelligentsia coffee, a bike pump, bike lights, and more. On Saturday, April 25, students can volunteer with the city of Evanston or Lincoln Park Conservatory to spend a couple hours outdoors planting trees and cleaning up a local pond. If they enjoy relaxing and informative walks, they can attend the Evanston campus Tree Walk to learn about NU’s natural landscape on Sunday, April 26. There’s also a shoe collection benefitting the Purple Heart Foundation going on through April 30. Encourage students to donate the shoes they no longer wear instead of lugging them back home this summer!
More than 530 student-alumni matches were made for the 2015 Northwestern Externship Program (NEXT). This year, the annual one-day job shadowing program brought students to Ogilvy & Mather, LinkedIn, The Joffrey Ballet, Google, The Walt Disney Company, American Airlines and hundreds more companies and organizations between March 23-April 24. The program is co-sponsored by Northwestern Career Advancement and the Northwestern Alumni Association.

This year’s Startup Career Fair brought more than 50 local and national startups and more than 600 Northwestern undergraduate, graduate, and MBA students to Norris on Wednesday, April 1. Avant Credit, Trunk Club, Sprout Social, Heirlume, Luxe Valet and Human Practice were just a few of the startups who attended to meet students interested in internships and full-time opportunities. The event was sponsored by: EPIC, Farley Center,
NCA SPRING PROGRAMS PREPARE WILDCATS FOR DIFFERENT CAREER FIELDS

This spring, NCA is offering a variety of programming to help prepare and educate students in various career fields, including finance, consulting, government, law, policy and more. Programming includes workshops on how to navigate the nonprofit, a government and policy job/internship search, finance career exploration roundtables, a consulting boot camp, and more. There is still time for your student to apply to:

FALL CAREER TREKS

Rising sophomores, juniors and seniors have until Monday, May 4, at noon to apply to join career treks this fall to NYC, Washington DC, LA, and SF! Students will gain an insider’s perspective on what it’s like to work at some of the top employers in Marketing, Media, Film & Television, Finance, Startups & Technology, Government, and Law & Policy while connecting with Northwestern alumni and industry professionals. The application and full details about each trek are available on the NCA website.

CONSULTING BOOT CAMP

The application process for NCA’s second annual Consulting Boot Camp (CBC) held in May and June runs from Friday, April 24, through Sunday, May 3, with selections on Thursday, May 7. Students will gain practical advice from and practice with seniors and young alumni who have successfully navigated the consulting interview process. More information is available on the NCA website.

BEYOND NORTHWESTERN: THE UNDERGRADUATE CLASS OF 2014

Learn about the career paths of the Northwestern undergraduate class of 2014 six months after graduation in the newly released first destination report from NCA. This report represents data from 80% of the undergraduate members of the class of 2014.

LIFE OFF-CAMPUS

As your student might consider moving off-campus soon or might think about moving off-campus anytime during his/her college career, Off-Campus Life has some information, resources, and tips to keep in mind.

LOCATION: Whether living on or off-campus, knowing what is near and far, and how to get there is key! The Off-Campus Life Office website has resources for transportation, links to local food and dining in downtown Evanston, and suggestions on where students can find discounts using their Wildcard!

BRINGING A BIKE OR LOOKING TO BUY ONE? The NU Police Department recommends all student and NU community members register their bike online. (NUPD also sells Kryptonite U-locks at cost!)

Looking for more tips and tricks? Check out the Off-Campus Life website or send us an email at offcampuslife@northwestern.edu.
New Student and Family Programs welcomed 209 new Peer Advisers (PA) and 28 new Family Ambassadors to our team this spring! These student leaders are excited to work with the new students and families entering the University this fall to help make their transition to Northwestern as smooth as possible. New students will hear from their PA at various points over the summer depending on their school, and families will meet our FAmbassadors during Parent and Family Orientation. We are counting the days until Wildcat Welcome 2015 and cannot wait to see all of our new students and their family members!

Catalyzer is a great way for student groups to raise funds for Northwestern-related projects, events, and organizations. This crowdfunding platform propels projects and programs to great heights, thanks in large part to contributions from generous donors. Currently, there are four projects being highlighted for our pilot phase. These include:

**NORTHEASTERN CREW**

**Northwestern Crew**, the student-managed collegiate club rowing team has launched a Catalyzer campaign to raise $15,000 for two new boats.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

Northwestern’s **International Student Association** aims to raise $4,000 for student travel and lodging costs associated with sending students to earthquake-stricken Chincha, Peru, where they will work to rebuild area schools, community centers, and homes.

**NU THREADS**

**NU Threads** provides free professional and formalwear to students who feel otherwise unprepared for a business casual, business formal, or professional event because of their attire. They are seeking $5000 to buy new suits, ties, and shirts.

**WAA-MU**

**Waa-Mu**, Northwestern’s original musical – written, performed, and presented by Northwestern students – is seeking $10,000 to be used for production costs of their 2016 show.

You can find all projects listed on the Catalyzer website. (Note: this platform works best on Chrome or Firefox)
WEARING “ONE NORRIS” ON WILDCAT DAYS

Over three Mondays in April, Northwestern University hosted accepted students and their families to experience Northwestern before arriving in the fall. Norris played a key role during Wildcat Days, hosting various welcome sessions, information meetings, and meals. To make it a more welcoming atmosphere, each employee who works in the Norris Center wore the same “Meet me at Norris” t-shirt on Monday, April 6, 13, and 20. This included all full-time and student employees with Northwestern Dining, Norris Bookstore, US Bank, Aramark custodial staff, Center for Student Involvement, Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, Event Management, Business Operations, Student Affairs Marketing, Services and Programming, Facilities, and more. It was a sight to see – hundreds of employees within Norris – all showcasing the spirit of one Norris and one Northwestern.

DANCE. DANCE. DANCE. (REPEAT 27 MORE TIMES…) Another 30 hours of dancing and $1.1 million dollars raised for charity. Norris Center was proud to once again host one of Northwestern's signature experiences, Dance Marathon.

This year Norris was asked to produce a video to inspire the dancers. This “Norris loves DM” video created by Student Affairs Marketing was shown to the hundreds of dancers inside the tent during the first dance block while full-time and student staff were recognized for hosting this 30-hour dance party on the east lawn.

Congratulations to everyone who participated in 2015 Dance Marathon!

ALternative Student Breaks

Alternative Student Breaks (ASB) is a student-run service-learning organization that sends Northwestern students on week-long trips during Winter and Spring breaks and Pre-Wildcat Welcome to locations throughout the country to do volunteer work at various service-learning organizations. ASB not only seeks to involve, educate, and heighten students' social awareness, but also strives to encourage lifelong social action. New students come to campus with increased confidence and friends, both upper- and underclassmen. Financial aid is available for participants in order to subsidize the cost. For more information, please visit the ASBNU website or email MarilynJanisch2017@u.northwestern.edu or LauraBeshilas2016@u.northwestern.edu.
Alternative Student Breaks

Alternative Student Breaks
Project Wildcat, or PWild, is a week-long backpacking trip on the Superior Hiking Trail in northern Minnesota. New students will be divided into groups of nine, which are led by two of PWild’s incredible counselors. The trips’ primary focus is to assist incoming students with their transition to college by providing them with opportunities for reflection and connecting them with a supportive group of peers with diverse backgrounds. In addition, participants gain confidence from overcoming challenges in a wilderness setting, meet on-campus mentors, and return to campus part of a warm and passionate community. Students will begin their Northwestern experience surrounded by natural beauty. The outdoors strip away the pressures of our fast-paced world and allows students to form friendships organically, without interruptions from technology or other external distractions. PWild campers learn teamwork, leadership, and basic outdoor skills – all while forming invaluable friendships with their peers and counselors. No previous backpacking experience is necessary and financial aid is available. Email projectwildcat@northwestern.edu or visit the Project Wildcat website for more information.
Wildcats Football concluded spring practice on Saturday, April 11th with a final practice at Lakeside Field. The ‘Cats open the 2015 season on September 5th against Stanford at Ryan Field.

To watch The Foundation, a behind-the-scenes look at the Wildcats as a narrative told through the eyes and words of Northwestern offensive coordinator Mick McCall and defensive coordinator Mike Hankwitz, visit the Northwestern University Sports website.
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