

July, 2015

Prefname LastName

Addr line 1

City, State, Zip

Dear Prefname,

Greetings! I hope your summer is going well and that you are finding time to rest and recharge for another productive year at Illinois Wesleyan. We are expecting about 500 new students on campus August 18 for Turning gitan Orientation. Faculty and staff are working together to arrange class schedules and housing for the newest members of the IWU community, in addition to preparing for your return and the first day of classes on August 24.

As your second year begins, you may want to consider the following:

- **Major and Minor Exploration:** Your second year is a great year to explore your major, and/or think about adding a minor, if you haven't finalized your choice. Whether you are in the process of deciding or already have a clear degree plan, there are several great resources on campus: your advisor, the Heart Career Center and the Academic Advising Center. The Hart Career Center offers interest inventories and career advising as well as access to a network of alumni to help you explore. Visit the website at www.iwu.edu/ccenter for more information about the services or contact the office anytime [309-556-3071](tel:309-556-3071). The Academic Advising Center can assist you n course selection and creating an educational plan; contact advising@iwu.edu or 309-556-3231 for an appointment.
- **Transition to your departmental advisor:** Over the summer you will be shifted from your First-Year Advisor to an academic advisor in your major department. When you return to campus, log into MyIWU to see who your assigned advisor will be. If you are double majoring, only your primary advisor will be listed. Questions? Contact the Academic Advising Center at 309-556-3231 for advising@iwu.edu.
- **Study Abroad:** Many students choose to go abroad for part or all of their third year, so this year is an excellent time to apply for a study abroad program. The International Office sponsors a Study Abroad Fair during the first few weeks of each semester, and these fairs are great places to learn more about semester, yearlong, and summer programs. In October, the May Term Office holds it annual Travel Fair, where you can learn about short-term programs available for May, 2016. At any time, you can explore the International office website (www.iwu.edu/studyabroad/) to learn more about the world of student abroad. Questions? Contact the International Office at abroad@iwu.edu or **309-556-2770**.
- **IWU Community Read:** *An Unlikely Disciple* by Kevin Roose is the summer reading selection for new students and the campus community. In addition, the author will be on campus on September 9 for the President's Convocation, 11am. This book embodies IWU's 2015-16 intellectual theme Nation(s) Divided? As it unpacks the simplistic assumption that American is experiencing a two0sided culture war between forces of inclusion and exclusion. For more information, visit: <http://www.iwu.edu/advising/reading/>.

When you return to campus, you will notice a few new things.

Campus Diversity: This past year was an exciting year for our commitment to educating for diversity. Over 70 programs were sponsored throughout the year to help all students prepare to live and work in a diverse global society. If you missed 3D Thursday, the International Film series ReligiousiTEA, the Human Rights workshop or other opportunities, I encourage you to make this part of your education a priority this year. Please do all you can to develop global friendships, be inclusive in your class work and student organization leadership, and learn to lead in a global society.

Intellectual Theme: The campus intellectual theme for this year is *Nation(s) Divided?* <https://www.iwu.edu/nations-divided/> Within the world, global conversations are taking place around: immigration and emigration, environment and human impact threats and risks to global health, economic and political instability, freedom of expression as it intersects with faith and religion, and constructions of human identity and self-understanding, just to name a few. These

conversations have the potential to unite or to divide us as nations and as individuals, but we have an opportunity to achieve mutual and holistic understanding through nuanced, thoughtful exploration in the best tradition of the liberal arts.

Hart Career Center: As the economy continues to improve, we consistently monitor career trends to ensure that we are able to assist you in meeting your career goals. The Hart Career Center embraces a service-delivery model that emphasizes career development, career engagement/experiences, and career technologies. Our staff are also developing career field specialties to maximize our network of alumni to your benefit. Please visit Warren Kistner, Laurie Diekoff, or our new Assistant Director of Career Development, Abby Reel, this fall to help you plan your net career steps.

Campus grounds and facilities projects:

- **Shirk Center Addition:** Construction began this Spring on a two-story addition to the Shirk center that will double the size of our fitness facilities, provide multipurpose rooms for fitness classes and team use, and add team locker room space. Thanks to the Shirk family and other supporters this \$6.5 million project will be funded entirely with private funds.
- **Egbers Quad:** The North Quad area behind State Farm Hall was officially dedicated as the Egbers Quad thanks to a generous donation by the Egbers family. The Egbers Quad features a new water sculpture named “Aspiration”. This contemporary sculpture was designed by Giles Raynor, leading international water designer and sculptor.
- **Inter-faith prayer space:** Thanks to the Merwin family, on August 27, we will celebrate our commitment to faith development and inclusion by dedicating a renovated Inter-faith prayer space in the Memorial Center. Please plan to join us for the dedication and think about how you might make greater use of this reflective, meditative, prayerful space.
- **Residence halls:** Dodds will get a new roof this summer. ITS is installing additional wireless equipment in several residence halls to increase wireless coverage as a result of student feedback.

Technology updates: ITS Help Desk will move to Ames third floor. In-person support or service for personal equipment can be received at the Help Desk in the Thorpe Center (Ames 300). Phone support at (309)556-3900, and online support at <http://help.iwu.edu>, is available as always. ITS is implementing a new authentication system to improve security and simplify signing-on to multiple systems. Part of the project requires everyone to change their password used to access IWU services. You will receive details on when to change and improve your password security this summer.

Presidential Search: As you know, President Wilson announced his retirement in December, 2014 and agreed to stay with us through this Fall. The Presidential Search committee continues their work in selecting our next president. For more information, www.iwu.edu/presidentalsearch/.

Nuts and Bolts:

- *Vehicle Registration/Parking permit:* Please complete the form and stop by Security to pick up your decal.
- *Health Insurance:* In June, you received a reminder about the mandatory health insurance and the process for waiving the insurance. Please make sure you either verify existing coverage no later than August 28 or be prepared to have the \$1584 bill added to your IWU account.

Two items for your calendar: First, Titan Carnival, Saturday, August 22 will kick-off some fun “welcome week” programming. Welcome Week will include the RSO Fair, Epic Rap Battles and an Improv Comedy group. And . . . before you forget it, ask your parents, brothers, sisters, and other family members to mark September 18-20 on their calendars and make plans to visit you at Illinois Wesleyan for **Family Weekend**. We are planning fun activities for everyone. For more details, visit <http://www.iwu.edu/activities/FamilyWeekend.html>.

Sincerely,

Karla C. Carney-Hall, PhD
Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students

PS: This letter was sent based on your entry year to IWU, not by your credit hour class status (unless you were a transfer student). If you are ahead in credits and would like to see the letter to see the letter sent to juniors, you can find other cohort letters at www.iwu.edu/studentaffairs/dean/