Welcome to the first addition of *The Family Corner*. We will use this newsletter as a vehicle to keep you informed on information specific to the student’s first year experience. We feel the more you know about the upcoming year the greater your opportunity to have meaningful conversations with your son or daughter about their experiences.

Let us begin by promoting an upcoming series of parent sessions delivered via live-stream technology on the web. We may not win an Oscar for our performances; however, we hope that the content will be of value to you. Please join us for our online sessions every other week where we will discuss topics of interest based on your feedback during the summer orientation program. The first session is scheduled for Thursday, September 9th, at 6:00 p.m. To participate all you need to do is go to the parents’ web page at [http://www.wilkes.edu/parents](http://www.wilkes.edu/parents) on the 9th at 6:00 p.m. and click on the link. No special software is required. The topic for the first session is tips for being academically successful in the first year.

We would also like to mention Family Day which will take place on October 30th this year. This is later than we usually have Family Day, but we try our best to accommodate the home athletic schedule so families have the opportunity to enjoy a game or two. There will also be a variety of other activities on campus for you to enjoy. A mailing will go out in early September with a complete schedule but, it’s not too late to make hotel reservations now if you are coming from a considerable distance.

In closing, let us congratulate you on your role in getting your son or daughter this far. You’ve given them a great opportunity for continuing their education. Although each student may be at slightly different stages of development upon entering college each will soon drift into being independent. Until that happens you will continue to be there as a source of support and stability. Hopefully the information we provide will better prepare you to help our new students get fully acclimated to the University and find success in achieving all of their academic goals.

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**University College—“The Center for Student Success!”**

Located in Conyngham Hall, University College is a department that supports all students in their academic endeavors. We directly advise the Undeclared students and provide a variety of supports to students.

**Important things happening in The Center for Student Success:**

**Study Skills Workshops**

University College will be presenting a series of study skills workshops throughout the first six weeks of the semester (dates/location TBA). These interactive workshops are designed to teach students how to better manage academic demands and become a stronger student. The topics that will be covered include an introduction to academic success, strategic time/task management, goal setting and motivation, note-taking, preparing for and taking exams, and relaxation and test anxiety.

In addition to the group workshops, students can make an individual appointment with Katy Betnar (katy.betnar@wilkes.edu), learning specialist, to identify and develop appropriate strategies to improve their learning.

**Disability Support Services**

If your son or daughter has a documented disability and is in need of academic accommodations, please have him/her contact Sandra Rendina (sandra.rendina@wilkes.edu), coordinator of Disability Support Services (DSS). The DSS office is located in Conyngham Hall, Room 311. The documentation guidelines and related information can be found at [http://www.wilkes.edu/pages/2222.asp](http://www.wilkes.edu/pages/2222.asp).

**Tutoring**

If you want your student to get ahead in a class, have them take advantage of our peer tutoring. They can sign up directly for a tutor at [http://tutortrac.wilkes.edu/TutorTrac/Default.html](http://tutortrac.wilkes.edu/TutorTrac/Default.html) for many classes. For more information on tutoring, contact Albie Prado (alberto.prado@wilkes.edu).

**Major/Minor Fair**

If your student is not sure about their major or are reconsidering the one they chose? They should check out the Major/Minor Fair on October 19th from 11-1 in the Ballroom. Every department on campus will be available so your students can find out more about a particular major or minor!

**Early Alert**

Faculty has the opportunity to share with your student any concerns they have about how they are performing in their class starting the third week of classes. This comes in the form of an “Early Alert” message. Your student will receive an email with the professor’s concerns, and a copy will also be sent to your advisor and University College.

**Your Student’s Advisor**

Your student met their advisor at Orientation, but it is important that they visit his or her office in the first few weeks of school. It helps establish a positive relationship with their Advisor, who in turn will guide them through their college curriculum. What should they talk about? Have your student fill them in on how their classes are going, if they are having any difficulties or have them ask questions about their major that they did not ask at Orientation!
Student Services News: Your Main Stop for Account Questions

The Student Services Center at Wilkes University is here to help manage all aspects of your student’s account. We manage Financial Aid, assist with Registrar functions, and handle all Cashiering for our students. Students can access all information regarding their account on line through the Wilkes portal, 24/7. Periodically they may need to drop off a payment in person such as a scholarship check, drop off a form, or have a question about their financial aid. For these things and more, they will be able to visit the Student Services Center, located on the first floor of the University Center on Main (UCOM). Our offices are open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (eastern time). Additional hours may be available by appointment.

Important Reminders:
- The due date for fall bills is August 16th
- Financial aid will be posted to the students’ accounts as soon as the funds arrive for upper classmen; and 30 days after the beginning of the term for Freshmen
- Students may add or drop classes without penalty any time prior to September 9th
- Federal student loan funds will not be received until both the Master Promissory Note and Entrance Counseling are completed
- All tracking requirements must be provided and reviewed before financial aid can be posted to the student’s account
- FERPA prohibits university staff and faculty from disclosing certain information to anyone other than the student

Additional parent information can be found at www.wilkes.edu/parents. Recently, Student Services FAQs for Parents were added at http://wilkes.edu/Include/admissions/StudentServicesCenterFAQsforParents2010.pdf. We will continue to provide updates in this newsletter to help you help your student manage his or her account during their time at Wilkes University.

Parents Can Support Career Success

Lacted in Conyngham Hall, 2nd floor, Phone: 570-408-4060 or careers@wilkes.edu

Wilkes University Career Services knows that parents are natural career development mentors who can support students’ efforts to explore professions and enhance their career decision-making skills. When asked by parents how students may attain the career goals they desire, we consistently share the fact that potential employers and graduate schools seek candidates who are independent thinkers, capable decision makers and strong communicators, offering relevant career experiences and professional skills gained throughout their undergraduate careers.

What can parents do to support their Wilkes student’s career development?
- Encourage students to research careers related to varied majors and employment trends.
- Be aware that many students change majors and finding the right major is a learning experience, encourage them to use Career Services guidance resources.
- Help students realize that matching their values, interests, and skills with an appropriate career will lead to their ultimate satisfaction; earning potential should not be the sole determinant of a career.
- Network with your friends and colleagues on your child’s behalf, but have them make the follow-up calls and send thank you notes.
- Never conduct your child’s internship or job search; never call potential employers when your child should be doing so.
- Encourage writing and continual additions to a resume throughout their time at Wilkes. Know that leadership roles, varied co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, and evidence of a work ethic, both academically and in the workforce, are what employers and graduate schools want to see on a resume.
- Support career building activities like volunteering, extracurricular clubs & leadership opportunities, study abroad, internships and cooperative education. Employers expect related undergraduate career experience.
- Suggest enrolling in our one credit Life Career Planning courses: CAR 101 for first and second year students deciding upon a major; or CAR 198 for juniors and seniors, to assist them in enhancing their professional development and job search skills.
- Make clear that your student is primarily responsible for his or her own career development. Encourage them to attend our educational programs, found on www.wilkes.edu/career and by following us on our Facebook page!

Health & Wellness Services

We are located across from the Marts Gym, in Passan Hall, 267 S. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre our telephone number is 570-408-4730 or 1800 WILKES U ext. 4740. Our hours of operation are Monday – Thursday 8:30a.m.-7:00p.m., and Friday 8:30a.m.-4:00p.m.

Our Staff:
Includes a nurse practitioner and a registered nurse, our physician hours are Monday 1:00p.m.-4:00p.m. and Wednesday 8:30a.m.-12:00p.m. Most services are free to the student and no appointment is necessary. Students can get over the counter medications such as Motrin and Tylenol, etc., free of charge and can purchase antibiotics for a fee of $10.00. We also have two full-time counselors that staff the same hours as mentioned above. Appointments are RECOMMENDED for utilizing the counseling services. All services are strictly confidential.
- We have a full laboratory service associated with Pennant Laboratory. If a student needs blood work it can be done right in our office and sent to the above lab. It will be billed by the lab to the students insurance. Bills are the responsibility of the student.
- All students must have some form of health insurance, a copy of the card should be in the students chart along with a completed and signed health form by the beginning of the semester (prior to move in for the residential students). All forms can be downloaded from the Wilkes portal.
- After hours, students can utilize Geisinger Urgent Care. For emergency situations Wilkes-Barre General Hospital or Geisinger Medical Center are available.
- It is important to encourage your son or daughter to take extra precautions when living in a community setting. Germs and viruses are spread rapidly when sharing drinks, cigarettes, etc., which most students tend to do. Reinforce good hand washing, covering their mouth when sneezing or coughing and do not share personal items. Sanitizers are placed at various locations throughout campus for students to utilize. Also, encourage students to get the influenza vaccine in the fall at the Health & Wellness Services Center. Availability of the vaccine will be made known on the Wilkes portal for students, faculty, and staff at the cost is $15.00.