Wednesday, August 9, 2017

Dear Parents and Families of the Class of 2021:

Your student has received a wide variety of information this summer from many sources, all hoping to support and engage them in a successful academic and personal college experience. They recently received an email from our Office of Institutional Research, providing access instructions for online education programs on alcohol and violence prevention. These programs, in use on hundreds of campuses around the country, are a component of our institutional and national efforts to reduce dangerous alcohol use and prevent sexual violence. All new students are expected to complete these online programs before the fall term begins.

High-risk alcohol use and sexual violence are issues that face educational institutions and communities nationwide. Research indicates that families can play an important role in prevention. As your student prepares to leave home to begin life in our campus community, please review the parent and family component of the alcohol education program, AlcoholEdu, and discuss it with them. To complete the parent portion of the program, please go to: http://www.everfi.com/alcoholeduforparents.

We thank you in advance for your support and participation. We will be in touch with your student again later this month. If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to send an email to New.Student.Orientation@dartmouth.edu. We all look forward to welcoming you and your ’21 to the Dartmouth community.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Agosto
Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs

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Elizabeth Agosto
Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs
Division of Student Affairs
Dartmouth College
Hinman Box 6003
Hanover, NH 03755
603.646.3864

Monday, August 7, 2017

Dear Class of 2021 Families,

Welcome to Dartmouth! We can't wait for your student to arrive. As you probably know, we’ve been keeping new students busy with information about the curriculum, course election, college resources, and the Shared Academic Experience.

As Dean of the College, it is my honor to be responsible for the undergraduate experience, which includes the integration of academic/intellectual and social life from pre-arrival to post-graduation. The College’s mission is to prepare your student for a lifetime of learning and responsible leadership. We will begin that process during New Student Orientation, when House Professors and affiliated senior faculty introduce your students to our liberal arts curriculum. Your student’s faculty advisor will guide their initial course elections, and our undergraduate deans and academic support resources will help them prepare for a successful transition. In the meantime, please encourage your student to review Explore, Engage, Excel, the advising guide they received from the Undergraduate Deans Office.
As family members, you play a key role in your student’s college experience. I suggest a bit of summer reading that will help you develop a deeper understanding of the importance Dartmouth faculty attach to the liberal arts. Associate Professor of History and Assistant Dean of Faculty for Pre-Major Advising Cecilia Gaposhkin noted in the Washington Post that the value in the liberal arts is “learning to think critically, to reason, to push the boundaries of received knowledge”. Computational Sciences Professor Daniel Rockmore wrote in a newly published book entitled What are the Arts and Sciences? A Guide for the Curious, that the organization of the academy into various disciplines “resembles the universe: ever expanding, replete with beautiful, dynamic, and diverse clusters of coherence, linked across time and space, whose overarching structure is born of simple forces—in this case, the urges to understand, create, and even predict.” Through serious study in the liberal arts at Dartmouth, students develop the mental flexibility, global awareness, and critical confidence necessary for them to lead in any field of endeavor.

We look forward to connecting with you as your students progress through their undergraduate careers. This month, you’ll receive a number of email messages that provide information about key resources for first-year students and reflect on the privileges and responsibilities your student assumes in becoming a member of our community. We’ll also send updates each quarter to keep you apprised of important dates, opportunities, and campus news. To ensure that you receive these messages, please ask your student to update your parent/family email address in BannerStudent. We rely on our students to maintain accurate family contact information each term.

We know that preparing to send your student to college can feel both exciting and uncertain. It represents momentous change. Your student, armed with a curious mind and many talents, is embarking on an independent journey of personal and intellectual growth that will lead to adventures and insights no one can yet foresee. This first step is a moment for families to cherish together.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Biron
Dean of the College