Welcome from Paul Reilly, Director of Academic Advising

As Thanksgiving and a well-deserved break approach, students are nearly halfway through B-Term. First year students are declaring majors; many sophomores will attend workshops on leadership skills and personal values at the Sophomore TLC conference on November 17; juniors are returning or preparing for IQPs; and seniors are working diligently on their MQPs and may be applying to graduate school or looking forward to securing employment.

Please know that the Office of Academic Advising is here to support your student. First year students are supported by their Insight Advisors, and sophomores, juniors, and seniors have an advisor in the Office of Academic Advising. If you or your student have any questions, please contact us at 508-831-5381 or academicadvising@wpi.edu.

Inaugurating WPI’s 16th President

This past Saturday, Laurie Leshin was inaugurated as WPI’s 16th President.

Academic Schedule

12/18: Last day of classes, B-Term
1/15: First day of classes, C-Term
1/15-1/22: Add/Drop for C-Term (no fee)
1/23-1/29: Add/Drop for C-Term (fee for adds)

Events Calendar

11/20-22: Masque presents An Enemy of the People
11/30: Vocal Performance Lab at the WAM
12/4: WPI Orchestra Holiday Concert, Alden Hall, 7:30
12/13: Mass Symphony Pops Concert
12/13: Alpha Psi Omega’s 12th Annual Show in 24 Hours

GPS Poster Presentations
Laurie Leshin was installed as the 16th president of WPI. As the first female president of the university, she remarked in her speech, “today I join two societies—the society of presidents and the society of women pioneers at WPI.” Her vision for WPI is to create a premier global polytechnic that adds impact to theory and practice as our third tower. Read more...

Resources at the Career Development Center

FIRST YEAR STUDENTS: Major Selection
First year students must select a major in December. Students who need assistance can speak with a CDC Staff member and take Discovering Majors and Careers, a 1/12 credit course that helps students explore areas of interest. Spots are open for C-Term.

SOPHOMORES: Interview Preparation
Sophomores have turned in applications for their desired IQP off-campus sites, and interviews will be conducted in B-Term. The CDC offers appointments for Interview Skills and Mock Interviews to help students prepare for IQP interviews as well as interviews for summer internships.

JUNIORS/SENIORS: Graduate School
Juniors and seniors who are thinking about attending graduate school should consider making a “Graduate School Planning” appointment with a CDC Staff Member. They should also check out our graduate school resources.

Student Housing

The Office of Residential Services believes that living on campus provides students with a supportive environment for academic success by allowing them to spend more time focusing on their work. Research shows that the most successful students reside in college-owned housing. Students living at WPI enjoy comforts such as included utilities, furnished units, security, and convenience to classes.

It’s important to plan for the future and discuss housing options with your student. This year we are making it easier than ever for students to enter the housing lottery, as we are launching an online housing selection process that will take

See impressive project work by first year students at the Great Problems Seminar poster presentation on December 15. The students have worked very hard to identify solutions to some of the world’s biggest problems. The event takes place from 10am to noon in the Campus Center.

Native American Heritage Month

During the month of November, the Office of Multicultural Affairs is partnering with departments across campus to host events, celebrate, and provide awareness of Native American history and heritage. Tell your students to keep an eye out for event notices throughout the month.

International Streetfest

On October 9, Chartwells Dining Services presented the International StreetFest, where over 950 students, faculty, and staff sampled ethnic food from tents adorned with traditional landmarks of Europe, Asia, North and South America, the Middle East, and Africa. We received positive remarks from everyone!

Find out about our upcoming events by connecting with us on Facebook.
place during the 3rd week of February. More information will be available on our website.

**Spring Bills**

Spring bills will be emailed at the beginning of December and will be due in early January.

The 1098-T tax forms for eligible students will be sent at the end of January. We encourage students to “opt-in” to receive the form electronically. An email was sent recently with instructions, and more information can be found at wpi.edu/+bill. Please note: WPI reports on total charges and not payments on the 1098-T; additionally the 1098-T’s are required to be reported by calendar year not semester.

All students can create “authorized” users who can view eBill statements and make payments. As a reminder, we offer direct deposit refunds as well. Please be sure to review information regarding credit conversion and overload fees.

**Graduation Preparation**

If your student is planning to graduate in February or May 2015, they should have completed the online graduation form. This form allows us to track all graduating seniors and clear them for graduation. To date, the Registrar’s Office has sent three emails requesting students to file for graduation.

Degree audits for May 2015 candidates will be sent to Program Review Chairs by the end of November. They will send the reviews back to the Registrar’s Office in early December, and students will receive a copy in January. If students have questions, they should contact their Program Review Chair. They can also speak with Christine Love or Jennifer McCarthy in the Registrar’s Office for concerns regarding degree clearance.

**Financial Aid Reminders**

Parents of returning students for 2015–16, please be aware that by the second week of December we will email your student the WPI Upper Class Application for financial aid for 2015–16. These forms are due back by March 20, 2015, and both parent and student signatures are required.

There are still several students whose verification has not been completed. If your student was selected, our associate director Chelsea Adams has been reaching out to students and parents to gather needed documents. Please respond as soon as possible.

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**Athletics Updates**

We are proud to unveil our redesigned website! In addition to a revamped design, the website is now easier than ever to access with a new URL at athletics.wpi.edu/.

In other news, the WPI Athletic Department, Poly Club, and Hall of Fame Selection Committee inducted five members to the Class of 2014, on October 10 as part of Homecoming Weekend.

**Goat Bucks**

Did you know that Goat Bucks, a popular currency for on-campus transactions, are also accepted at many off-campus vendors? Make sure your student knows that they can also use Goat Bucks at these locations:

- Acoustic Java
- Big Y Supermarket
- Bushel N Peck
- CVS, West Boylston St.
- Domino’s Pizza
- Lucky’s Café
- New England Roast Beef
- Subway