

June 29, 2009

Dear Parents of New Undergraduate Students:

We are looking forward to welcoming your daughter or son to Peabody this fall. Your student is about to embark on an exciting journey. As with any journey, there will be choices to make, obstacles to overcome, and twists in the road. However, your student is not alone. The staff in the Student Affairs Office is committed to empowering undergraduate and graduate students to achieve their personal, artistic, and professional aspirations. Through collaborative partnerships, we offer services, programs, and resources that promote a student's life-long growth and development within a safe and nurturing environment. Our goal is to provide learning opportunities that embrace diversity, individual responsibility, and a sense of local and global citizenship.

In order to achieve our goals, we need to work in partnership with you. One of the most significant challenges for any college student is the need to establish personal values and reasonable expectations regarding such issues as alcohol consumption, dating, and community responsibility, among others. We will try, through various education efforts, to help your daughter or son make wise choices. However, your support and involvement are key elements to the success of our students.

Regarding alcohol issues, we have all read news reports about students who have ended up in harm's way due to excessive drinking. We have been fortunate at Peabody to have been spared the worst of such tragedies, but we are not so foolish as to think that we are immune from that possibility. The reality is that our students are faced with the opportunity to consume alcohol even though alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited in the residence hall regardless of age. We are fully aware that parents are usually the first to influence a student's perspective toward alcohol use, so as part of our educational effort, we are sending you a brochure produced by the Century Council, a non-profit organization dedicated to fighting drunk driving and underage drinking. We hope it will stimulate candid discussions with your daughter or son about alcohol use and other difficult decisions they may face at college. The intent of such discussions is to provide an explicit parental compass as a starting point for your daughter's or son's journey.

We also wish to focus on civility and how students interact with each other – especially since first year students will be living in a diverse communal environment, some of them for the first time. Further, we want to stress the importance of maintaining health and wellness during the year. On Tuesday, August 25, we will be offering a session for parents and students on accessing health services and using the Aetna Student Health Insurance plan. In addition, there is a mandatory meeting on the evening of August 25 for all students living in the residence hall where they will meet the Residence Life Staff, discuss emergency procedures, and learn about the policies which will govern their on-campus residency. On Friday, August 28, we will offer a program titled “Preventing Harassment and Discrimination.” Your student will not be permitted to register for classes unless the student attends this

program or completes its on-line equivalent.

Another important challenge that may confront your daughter or son involves issues of academic integrity and individual responsibility. Peabody's Academic Code of Conduct and Student Conduct Code which governs all non-academic behaviors are of critical importance to our community. These disciplinary policies may be found in our Student Handbook which will be available on-line at the Student Affairs website by September. We hold our students to the highest standards of ethical and responsible behavior. We have observed that some students do not realize that they hurt the entire community and devalue everyone's education when they are dishonest or act irresponsibly. Although we will address these issues repeatedly during Orientation, it would be most helpful if you would initiate a discussion of these issues as well, before your student arrives at Peabody.

On a more practical matter, while one does not schedule disasters, we try to take prudent measures in the event that the unexpected happens. To that end, we are asking all students to provide us with emergency contact information including email addresses for those designated contacts, if available. In addition, we encourage families to discuss where their students should go in the event a situation occurs where the school might close, and the students cannot return home (for example after an extreme weather event or in the event of a flu pandemic). Please work with your daughter or son to identify the friends or relatives closest to Peabody and arrange with those folks to shelter your student in the event of an emergency. For those who do not have friends or relatives in the area, we will revisit this question as students become familiar with each other and the faculty and staff at Peabody, in an effort to assist them with finding a safe haven should one become necessary.

Finally, we recognize that you, too, are facing a new experience and might welcome some type of guide to the next stage of your relationship with your college bound child. This mailing also includes a brochure regarding a book titled, *Letting Go: A Parents' Guide to Understanding the College Years*.

In conclusion, your student has received correspondence via email from me regarding important information. If you would like a copy of the letter to review, please go to the following website at www.peabody.jhu.edu/newstudentinfo.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you have any questions about the accompanying material, or the upcoming year at Peabody. I may be reached via email at kkurita1@peabody.jhu.edu. I look forward to meeting you at the Parent Orientation programs (schedule enclosed).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katsura Kurita". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'K' and 'K'.

Katsura Kurita, JD/MS
Associate Dean for Student Affairs

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Orientation 2009
(Schedule subject to change)

Parents

Tuesday – August 25

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Hourly Tours of Campus
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Introduction to Health Services and Health Insurance
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Welcome Address and Reception

Wednesday – August 26

8:15 am – 9:00 am	Parents' Continental Breakfast
9:00 am – 10:30 am	College Transition Issues: Supporting and Letting Go for Parents and Guardians