Inspiring a world of good is never easy. That’s particularly true at this time of year, with its colder temperatures, midterm and final exams, project deadlines, and the planning that is already happening for next semester, including deciding on courses and field placements. Yet what makes the Wheelock community so special is how often you’ll hear people discussing what they are thankful for, rather than the challenges they are facing. While our collective work is never done, it is nice to have a break like Thanksgiving to reflect and take sustenance (emotional and edible!) from our families. We hope that yours was enjoyable and restful.

Before getting to the articles, we would like to take a moment to highlight a major announcement: Spring semester t-pass order forms are now available online for the first time ever! Students are eligible to purchase a t-pass at an 11% discount. With one payment your student will be covered for unlimited use of the MBTA for the entire semester. You can download the form by following this link. Simply send in the form and your payment, and we will do the rest. The deadline is January 2. (Check or money order are the only forms of payment accepted). This is not only a great chance to encourage your student to explore the city more, but also a great last-minute gift idea for the holiday season!

As always, we value your feedback and want this newsletter to be as accessible as possible. We also want to encourage open dialogue with you and work as partners toward your student's success. If there are any topics you would like to see in future issues of this newsletter or if you have any specific questions, do not hesitate to send in suggestions or inquiries to family@wheelock.edu.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Lewis, Director of Student Engagement (Office of Student Success)
Bryan McGrath, Assistant Dean of Students (Office of Student Life)

Commencement 2014 keynotes have been chosen

President Jackie Jenkins-Scott has officially announced the Honorary Degree Recipients and Keynotes for Wheelock's 2014 Commencement undergraduate and graduate ceremonies. These individuals have spent their lives inspiring a world a good and we are honored to have them join us:

- **Howard K. Koh**, Assistant Secretary for Health for the United States Department of Health and Human Services, will receive an Honorary Degree and give the Undergraduate Commencement address.
- **David C. Banks**, the President and CEO of the Eagle Academy Foundation, will receive an Honorary Degree and give the Graduate Commencement address.
- **Mary Tiseo**, Executive Director of South Africa Partners (a non-profit organization facilitating mutually beneficial partnerships between U.S. and South Africa in the areas of health and education), will also be receiving an Honorary Degree.

Dr. Howard K. Koh
For more details, visit Wheelock's Commencement webpage.

Passion for Action Leadership Award Dinner
Honoring those who prove they are “Tough Enough” to inspire a world of good.

On Wednesday, November 6, 2013, Wheelock College hosted its fourth biennial Passion for Action Leadership Award Dinner at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. The event brought together more than 350 civic leaders, corporate executives, and philanthropists to demonstrate how Wheelock educates and inspires a community of students eager to lead as agents of change.

Keynote speaker Anuradha Koirala, the Founder and Executive Director of Maiti Nepal, who CNN recognized in 2010 as one of the TOP 10 Heroes of the world, spoke on the vital need for each of us to do whatever we can to address injustice and inequality where we find it. Year Up and its founder, Gerald Chertavian, were presented with the 2013 Passion for Action Leadership Award to honor their work in closing the Opportunity Divide for thousands of young adults across the United States.

Funds raised through the event support the Passion for Action Scholarship Program for incoming Wheelock students from Greater Boston. These four-year scholarships are given to students who have demonstrated a strong commitment to community service and involvement. The scholarship is paired with a unique academic program that will develop these students’ leadership and community service skills. The first Passion for Action Scholars graduated from Wheelock in May 2012, and there are currently 16 Passion Scholars enrolled, with an additional five scholarships awarded to each incoming class.

Government Relations and External Affairs updates
Just a few of the ways that members of the Wheelock community have been advocating for change this month

President Jackie Jenkins-Scott’s Huffington Post Blog
President Jackie Jenkins-Scott continued as a blogger for the Huffington Post, with the release of a new entry: Assessing the Value of a College Degree?

“...from the White House to the average citizen, policy discussions on how best to measure the value of a college degree are overlooking the importance of the helping professions. The value of these historically underpaid fields, such as teaching, social work, and other advocacy roles is great, but these jobs often do not lead to generating a very high income.”
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jackie-jenkinsscott/assessing-the-value-of-a_b_4071811.html

The Policy Connection Examines Immigration Reform
Immigration is a complex and multifaceted issue. The Policy Connection’s latest blog piece “Immigration Reform: Passing Legislation or Passing on the Opportunity for Change” looks at where the immigration reform stand in Congress and how immigration reform can take the United States in a positive direction over the long term.
http://www.wheelock.edu/policy-connection/spotlight

Wheelock attends a Conversation with the Boston Mayoral Candidates
Wheelock had a strong presence at the “Conversation with the Boston Mayoral Candidates – Early Childhood and
Wheelock students contribute 5,865 hours to pre-school education

Congratulations to the 69 Wheelock Jumpstart Corps Members for completing so far an average of 85 hours of service per student! This is a tremendous amount of time the students have completed in order to give back to the community. Because of their hard work and dedication, the children are learning the skills needed to enter Kindergarten! We are all very proud of the Corps members for the positive impact they are having on the children and their families. Keep up the great work!

Jumpstart welcomes an additional Site Manager, Thomas McGee. Tom is a Connecticut native and was a Jumpstart Corps member his freshman year at the University of Connecticut. He graduated with a B.A in Communication Disorders from UCONN. This past year, Tom was completing a fellowship in a charter school in southern Boston working with English Language Learners.

Jumpstart wishes you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season!

Sincerely,

Laura Valdez, Jumpstart Site Manager, 617.879.2337
lvaldez@wheelock.edu

Once again, Wheelock Wildcats prove they are Tough Enough

Senior goalie Michelle Greene (Mansfield, MA) finished the field hockey campaign and her career as the school's all-time leader in saves (548) and minutes played (3,582:13), while also shattering the season mark for stops with 261. Greene finished the season ranked third in the nation with 17.40 saves per game. She wasn’t the only player recognized among the nation’s leaders as sophomore defender Jen Ryan (Bellingham, MA) finished the year standing eighth among all NCAA Division III players with 12 defensive saves, which was just one shy of the program standard. Ryan also led the Wildcats in points and goals for the season.

The women’s soccer team earned the New England Collegiate Conference Team Sportsmanship Award after completing the season without receiving a yellow or red card in any match. The Wildcats were led on the field by a number of its young players, including freshman forward Alison DeGloria (Chelmsford, MA), who tallied 12 points on five goals and two assists. Her point total was the sixth-highest season total in school annals. Sophomore midfielder Madeline Domingo (Newington, CT) racked up a school-record three assists in the team’s victory over Daniel Webster College on October 18 and became Wheelock’s career assist leader with nine helpers.

The men’s and women’s cross country team made history all season and capped the year with a first-ever appearance at the NCAA New England Regional Championships in Gorham, ME on November 16. Freshman Torri Plank (Sandown, NH) emerged as the women’s team’s top runner, finishing first among the Wildcats in eight of nine meets they competed in. She placed tenth at the NECC Championship with a time of 22:08 in the five kilometer course. The men’s squad placed as a team in four meets after no having ever scored as a team before. Sophomore Alexander Kriz (Northborough, MA) led the Wildcats with the team’s best time in nine of 10 races. He finished nineteenth at the NECC Championships with a personal-best time of 31:49 over eight kilometers. Senior Patrick Holland (Reading, MA) capped his career as the only Wheelock men’s runner to have competed in all three years that the program has existed and holds the distinction of running in more meets than any other male runner in school history.
Junior student-athletes, Louis Curto (Belchertown, MA) and Emma Marrs (Old Lyme, CT) along with Assistant Women’s Basketball Coach Bennie Wilkins were all chosen to represent Wheelock College at the annual NCAA Leadership Forum held in Providence, RI from November 7-10. Marrs plays field hockey and women’s lacrosse at Wheelock, while Curto competes on the men’s lacrosse squad. The NCAA hosted more than 350 student-athletes, who were identified as leaders on their campuses, and 125 athletics professionals from the northeast region of the United States. The Leadership Forum is one of the largest non-competitive gatherings of NCAA student-athletes representing their colleges and universities. The forum was designed for student-athletes to discuss key issues collectively and provide them with an opportunity to enhance personal awareness and leadership skills needed to positively impact their development at the campus and conference levels, as well as beyond the collegiate realm.

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**IMPORTANT DATES**

Monday, December 2: *Classes resume*
Monday, December 16: *Fall semester ends*
Tuesday, December 17: *Undergraduate Reading Day (no classes)*
Wednesday, December 18 and Thursday, December 19: *Undergraduate examination period*
Thursday, December 19: *Residence halls close at 5:00pm*

To view other upcoming dates and deadlines, please see Wheelock's [academic calendar](#).

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