Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a relaxing holiday season and we are excited to welcome your students back for Spring semester. As a reminder, all residential students are permitted to move back into the residence halls on Sunday, January 19 starting at noon.

January brings with it two major developments: First, on Tuesday, January 28, Wheelock will celebrate its 8th annual Half-Year Program, an educational event in which the Wheelock community comes together to explore a certain topic. This year's event, entitled "Deconstructing The Modern Family", focuses on adoption, foster care, and related topics. We are very excited that the event will culminate with a percussive dance performance by Step Afrika! For more information about Half-Year 2014, please click here.

Second, Wheelock students now have the opportunity to teach and learn in Greece! Wheelock College and the American Community Schools of Athens are pleased to announce an exciting opportunity for Wheelock students and recent alumni to gain valuable teaching experience and earn a master's degree while having an adventure in the seat of learning: Athens, Greece. For more information, please visit www.wheelock.edu/athens

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)

Wheelock Students Trotting the Globe in Spring and Summer 2014

Wheelock undergraduate, graduate students, and alumni can be found this semester in Northern Ireland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, South Africa, Belize, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, Germany, and Barbados participating in various service learning, study abroad, and internship programs. Several summer opportunities are available as well, including exciting internships in West Africa. The application deadline for summer travel is March 15, 2014. If your student is interested in international opportunities, the Center for International Programs and Partnerships is here to help them find the program that best fits their interests, finances, and academics. Please have him or her contact Britney Rugman, Student Opportunities and Social Media Coordinator, at brugman@wheelock.edu to learn more about the international opportunities that are available!

The Office of Academic Advising is looking forward to kicking off a month-long series of events for first-year students this February titled, “Wildcats get R.E.A.L. about Majors! (Reflect. Engage. Ask. Learn).” In order to expose new students to the many different majors that are offered here at Wheelock, our office has created a series of programs to help students learn more about the majors that are available to them. This three-part series will allow students to attend a self-reflection and assessment workshop, a conference-style event in which students will be able to attend presentations from four different majors, and a major exploration fair for students to learn more about majors from faculty and students in the various departments. The fair will include raffle prizes, food, and will serve as a celebratory event for new students. Our office looks forward to working with new students as they learn more about Wheelock’s majors and areas of study. Check out our website for general information regarding advising, the professional advisors, and our Student Advisor team!

Government Relations and External Affairs updates

Just a few of the ways that members of the Wheelock community have been advocating for change

- On Thursday, December 19, the Mattahunt Community Center, managed by Wheelock College, celebrated the holidays with families from the greater Mattapan community. With a free healthy dinner, music, educational activities and recreation offered, over 80 parents and children were in attendance at the Holiday Family Fun Night. Wheelock College students, faculty and staff generously provided 175 books to distribute during the event. A special thank you goes to Sodexo for providing a healthy and incredibly delicious meal.

- President Jenkins-Scott blogged for the Huffington Post on her visit to Village Health Works in the East Africa country of Burundi. Click here to read “Out of Genocide Comes Hope: New Year’s Eve in Burundi.”

- Who Represents Wheelock? New elected officials have taken office for the first time in city and town councils and state governments across the nation, including here in Boston where city government has experienced a sea of change not seen for over 20 years. Click here to find the officials who represent Wheelock.

- 2013 was a remarkable year for Wheelock. Did you see President Jenkins-Scott’s Holiday Greeting video message reflecting on a few of the many joint accomplishments? Click here to view.

The Jumpstart Corps members have individually completed over 100 hours of service!

What an accomplishment and what a great way to give an end to the fall semester! The students have demonstrated great devotion to their serving communities by successfully having implemented 6 to 7 session plans, all with the overall goal of increasing children's literacy skill.

Jumpstart’s culminating fall semester event, the Mid-Year Reflection, took place on December 17. During this time, Corps members reflected on their service thus far by thinking about ways in which they have or want to improve their community. They also took time to think about and create action steps, to be implemented after winter break, for any classroom challenges they are currently
Team leaders and Corps members celebrated each other by exchanging gifts of appreciation and writing individual positive notes about each other on large paper stars. Corps members also received Jumpstart long-sleeve shirts as token of appreciation.

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

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**First-Year student athletes making an impact on the court**

Youth is definitely the prevailing theme for the 2013-14 Wheelock College men’s and women’s basketball teams. Both teams routinely start five newcomers and with good reason – the players are really good!

Freshman center Michelle Woods (Wilmington, MA) has already been named the New England Collegiate Conference Rookie of the Week three times. No player in school history had earned the honor multiple times before Woods. She currently ranks third among NECC leaders in scoring and fourth in rebounding. She’s not the only rookie making an impact for the Wildcats either. Freshman guard Jaime Grzych (Columbia, CT) tied the school record with nine assists vs. Anna Maria College on December 10 and is tied with backcourt mate, freshman Amber Tudor (Bronx, NY) for fourth on the league leader board with 2.9 assists per game. Freshman forward Shannon Garvey (Clarksburg, MA) has netted 16 or more points three times and is averaging 9.5 points per game as the team’s second-leading scorer.

Freshman forward Anthony Williams (White Plains, NY) became just the second player in school annals to receive Rookie of the Week accolades twice and the first since the 2008-09 campaign. The post player leads all NECC rookies with 15.2 points per game and is eighth overall in the league in scoring. Williams also places second with a 82.1% (32-39) free throw percentage. He’s already netted 19 or more points on four occasions, including a career-high of 28 vs. Emerson College on January 6 for the eighth-highest scoring total in program history. Freshman guard Derek Fournier (Johnston, RI) is also providing a scoring punch as one of the best outside shooters in the region. The shooting guard has drained 48.4% (31-64) of his attempts from three-point range to lead the NECC and is averaging 11.3 points per game. Freshman point guard Nicholas Fenton (East Hartford, CT) has caught the attention of the region and the nation, averaging 6.3 assists per game to stand 12 in all of NCAA Division III. The first-year man has handed out 10 assists twice this year and posted a pair of double-doubles as well. Senior Paul Coucci (Dartmouth, MA) has been solid as well, averaging 9.2 points per game, while moving into fourth on the school’s career list for made three-pointers with 70.

The women’s soccer season ended at the conclusion of October for the Wildcats, but the team has received a pair of honors from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America in the past month. The team earned a Team Academic Award from the national organization, while also being selected as one of just 26 intercollegiate teams to receive the Gold Team Ethics award from the NSCAA. The honor is given to teams that completed the season without being issued a yellow or red card for misconduct on the field of play.

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**IMPORTANT DATES**
Monday, January 20: **Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday (no classes)**  
Tuesday, January 21: **First day of classes**  
Tuesday, January 28: **8th annual Half-Year Program**  
Wednesday, January 29: **Last day to add full-semester undergraduate classes**  
Wednesday, February 5: **Last day to drop full-semester undergraduate classes**  
Monday, February 17: **Presidents' Day (no classes)**

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

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