Hello parents and families! We hope that you are enjoying the dog days of August. Aside from catching up on the work that we all should have done in July, everyone here at Wheelock is diligently preparing for the beginning of the semester. Particular praise should be given to our Facilities Department who have installed new carpets and tiles in Peabody, renovated the lower level in Peabody to provide more meeting/classroom space, and updated lounges in residence halls. We are also proud to announce that there are new technology upgrades in several classrooms.

We are almost ready for your arrival. For many of you, this will be your first time sending your student off to college. For others, this may be your second or third time going through this separation process. To ease the transition we have planned a comprehensive 4-day Orientation program for students, including curricular and extracurricular programs, and events both on- and off-campus. As parents and family members we invite you to help your student with the move-in process and to stay through lunch and a brief welcome on move-in day, Saturday, September 3. (A more detailed Orientation schedule will be posted soon on our Student Life page.)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact family@wheelock.edu. In the meantime, enjoy the rest of your summer and we'll see you in September!

August Checklist!

1. Is your student living on campus? If they have not yet done so, it is imperative that they contact their roommate to become acquainted and discuss plans for furnishing anything additional for the room.
2. When thinking about what to bring to campus with them, your student should keep these packing tips in mind.
3. Some instructors have already listed their required books on Wheelock's online bookstore. Check it out and make a plan for buying books in time for Fall semester classes to begin on September 7.
4. All students should complete their summer reading assignment before the arrive on campus (see below).
5. Don't forget school supplies!
When can your student move in?

New student athletes should plan to arrive on Sunday, August 21. Check-in runs from 9:00-11:00am in the Campus Center. Parents of athletes should plan to attend a meeting with the Director of Athletics, Diana Cutaia, at 12:00pm.

New resident students should plan to arrive on Saturday, September 3. Check-in runs from 9:00am-12:00pm at their residence hall. Parents of resident students are invited to enjoy lunch and attend a welcome session with Wheelock president, Jackie Jenkins-Scott, at 12:30pm.

New commuter students should plan to arrive on Saturday, September 3. Check-in runs from 11:30am-12:00pm in the Campus Center. Parents of commuter students are invited to enjoy lunch and attend a welcome session with Wheelock president, Jackie Jenkins-Scott, at 12:30pm.

Before you know it...Fall Family Weekend will be here!

Please join us for Family Weekend 2011 on Friday, October 21 through Sunday, October 23. We have an exciting weekend planned that will provide you with opportunities to visit with your Wheelock student, meet members of the faculty and staff, and enjoy special events in Boston and on-campus. There will be a collection of free events as well as some that require an admission charge. Please note that all reserved tickets are non-refundable. Visit our Family Weekend website to view a complete schedule of events and to register for the program.

Registration will be open in late August through the Student Life tab on the website. Stay tuned for more info!

Jumpstart participates in Read for the Record

What are you doing on Thursday, October 6? How does breaking a world reading record while raising awareness about America’s achievement gap sound? Join Wheelock students as we participate in Jumpstart’s Read for the Record® presented in partnership with Pearson Foundation. It’s a national campaign that mobilizes adults and children to close the early education achievement gap by setting a reading world record. On October 6 more than 2 million voices will call for an end to America’s early education achievement gap by reading Llama Llama Red Pajama by Anna Dewdney – setting a world record in the process! Sit down to read in your community. You’ll be standing up for children everywhere!

Get involved at www.readfortherecord.org to help Jumpstart close the early education achievement gap.
**Summer Reading: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks**

As in previous years, all incoming students have been assigned a summer reading book, which is to be finished before they return to school. This year's book is *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. Just so you know what your student is reading, here is a brief synopsis of the book:

Skloot's book focuses on the true story of Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first "immortal" human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb's effects; helped lead to important advances like in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions. This book takes an extraordinary journey, from the "colored" ward of Johns Hopkins Hospital in the 1950s to stark white laboratories with freezers full of HeLa cells to Henrietta's small, dying hometown of Clover, Virginia—a land of wooden slave quarters, faith healings, and voodoo—and to East Baltimore today, where her children and grandchildren live and struggle with the legacy of her cells.

(Source: Amazon.com)

Please ensure that your student has completed reading the book and is familiar with the major themes of the story before they arrive to campus. During New Student Orientation and throughout the year, all new students will be participating in book discussions and classroom reflections about aspects of Skloot's research. It is imperative that your student is prepared to engage with their peers, staff, and faculty.

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**First Year. First Month. Every Day.**

Student engagement is a key component in your student's success while in college. In fact, higher education researchers Ernest Pascarella and Patrick Terenzini, looking at three decades of research on college students, found that a student's level of involvement outside the classroom can have a positive impact on cognitive development, leadership, and public speaking skills, and is "critical" to their decisions about whether to persist in their studies toward graduation (see: How College Affects Students: A Third Decade of Research, 2005).

To support and encourage your student's engagement, the Office of Student Success will be sponsoring and promoting 30 days of programming - called "First Month" - that begins on September 7, the first day of classes. Activities included in First Month range from workshops on time management and note-taking, to athletics games, to "family game night," to excursions into Boston.

Encourage your student to get involved in as many First Month activities as they can. The experiences can last a lifetime!

With any questions about First Month, ask your student to contact Jonathan Lewis in the Office of Student Success at jlewis@wheelock.edu.

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**Important Dates**

- **Sunday, August 21:** First-year Fall athletes arrive  
  Program participants arrive
- **Sunday, August 21:** Bridge
- **Sunday, August 21 - Wednesday, August 31:** Bridge Program
- **Saturday, September 3:** Move-in Day  
  Saturday, September 3 - Tuesday, September 6: New Student Orientation
- **Wednesday, September 7:** First day of classes  
  Wednesday, September 14: Convocation  
  Wednesday, September 14: Last day to
add undergraduate courses

Wednesday, September 21: Last day to drop undergraduate courses

To view other upcoming dates and deadlines, please see Wheelock's academic calendar.