Greetings and Happy New Year! As 2011 unveils itself, we are excited to launch this new monthly newsletter for Wheelock parents and families. Welcome to the first edition of LUCY’S LEDGER (named for our founder, Lucy Wheelock)! Each month this newsletter will provide you with highlights of student programs, updates of important events and initiatives, links to relevant articles, and ways to become involved in life at Wheelock College.

In this inaugural January issue you will find important dates for the Spring semester, notices from the Financial Aid and Career Placement offices, a feature on student leadership opportunities, and a synopsis of our upcoming Half-Year Program!

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 parents@wheelock.edu.

Sincerely,

Bryan McGrath
Assistant Dean of Students

Jonathan Lewis
Associate Director for Student Success

HALF-YEAR PROGRAM 2011

On Tuesday, January 25th, Wheelock College will host its fifth annual Half-Year Program. The goal of Half-Year Program is not only to celebrate the beginning of a new year but also to bring together students, staff, and faculty to collectively explore an important topic. Previous themes have been gay/lesbian/bisexual civil rights, rebuilding in New Orleans, hip hop music, and poverty in Guatemala.

This year’s theme is Healing Haiti Through Service & Solidarity. President Jackie Jenkins-Scott and Linda Davis (Director of the Center for International Education, Leadership, and Innovation), have recently returned from a visit to Haiti and will be recounting their experiences and sharing photos. A panel of doctors, educators, administrators, and Wheelock students, faculty and staff from the local Haitian community will provide insight and perspective into recent events. The panel will be interspersed with three short documentaries about the Haitian earthquake, cholera epidemic, and the displacement of children. Each class year will also be expected to participate in and attend focus groups facilitated by various faculty and staff. The day will culminate in a special festival full of Caribbean-inspired food, music, dance and artwork.

All students who attend each portion of Half-Year Program will receive a free t-shirt and be entered into a raffle for several prizes valued over $100. There will also be an opportunity for student participants to write a reflection essay on the day’s events, with the winning essay receiving an all-expenses-paid service learning trip.

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

It's almost that time of year again! The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2011/2012 academic year is now available online. You can log on to FAFSA’s brand new website to complete your renewal application. Note that the FAFSA website has moved to www.fafsa.gov. This year FAFSA has made some updates to their new website to make it easier than ever to apply. The priority deadline for returning students to apply for financial aid is April 15, 2011. With additional questions, please contact the Financial Aid Office.
CALLING ALL LEADERS!

The Leadership Selection process will begin early in the Spring semester and all students are encouraged to apply for leadership positions on campus. It is an excellent opportunity for your student to get more involved in serving the Wheelock community as Orientation Leaders, Student Advisors, Resident Assistants, Jumpstart Team Leaders, or Student Leadership Orientation Committee members. Each student leader is a role model on campus and plays a vital role in helping new and current students have a productive, enjoyable, and successful time during their years at Wheelock. Please encourage your student to attend one of these Information Sessions in February:

- Information Session 1 – Thursday, February 10 @ 6:30pm
- Information Session 2 – Tuesday, February 15 @ 2:30pm
- Information Session 3 – Wednesday, February 16 @ 12:45pm

For more information, students should contact the Student Life Office in the Pilgrim Student Center.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Interested in how the college can assist your student in the area of career development? The Center for Career and Professional Development is located in the Wheelock College Library, and offers a variety of services and resources to help your student during his/her entire academic career, and beyond as an alumni. Examples of our resources/services include one-on-one career counseling in areas such as self assessment, resume writing/critiquing, interviewing strategies, how to conduct a summer, part-time, or full-time job search, connecting and networking with employers directly through our Spring Career Fairs, and presentation of career development workshops.

Your student can also review our variety of online resources on our website: [www.wheelock.edu/ccd](http://www.wheelock.edu/ccd) We offer [Optimal Resume](http://www.wheelock.edu/ccd), an online step-by-step guide to developing a professional resume, as well as [Online Career Development Presentations](http://www.wheelock.edu/ccd), and [Wheelock Works](http://www.wheelock.edu/ccd), a database for current students and alumni that contains a variety of opportunities from different fields. Through our website, students can review valuable information on creating effective resumes and cover letters, preparing for professional interviews, and strategies and techniques to use when searching for opportunities. So, have your student take advantage of the services through the Center for Career and Professional Development at every stage of their academic career. We look forward to working with your student!

Best wishes,

Mary M. Sullivan
Director, Center for Career and Professional Development

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Important Dates

- Sunday, January 16: Residence Halls open
- Tuesday, January 18: Spring semester classes begin
- Tuesday, January 25: Half Year Program
- Wednesday, January 26: Deadline to add classes
- Wednesday, February 2: Deadline to drop classes
- Monday, February 21: Presidents Day (school closed)

To view other upcoming dates and deadlines, please see Wheelock's [academic calendar](http://www.wheelock.edu/academic_calendar)

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