

First Year Student Newsletter

Volume 11.1

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Produced by
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and the Office of Undergraduate Studies

Welcome Class of 2010!

The Common Reading, the Academic Community
and You

Greetings from the Dean for First Year Students

I am excited to finally see all of you on campus and am ready to kick off this exciting new year with you. This is the first in a series of newsletters that I will be sending to you throughout the year so that I can stay in touch with you and keep you informed about important events, deadlines, issues, and opportunities. The topics will depend on *your* questions and concerns as well as mine. So please feel free to stop by my office in Sears 357 or at RUSS in Wade or Fribley so that we can chat. Let me know what you would like to know more about. You can also reach me at my e-mail address: julie.amon@case.edu

Open Invitation

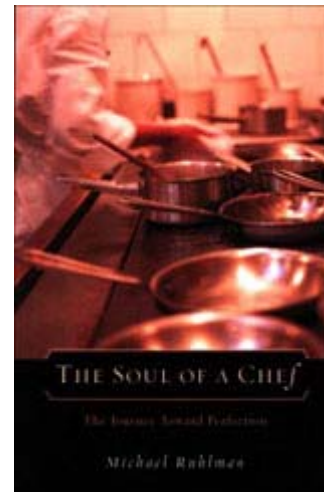
I've written to all of you, talked on the phone with many of you, e-mailed you and met some of you. As your class dean, I am looking forward to getting to know each of you. I invite you to stop by my office in Sears 357 or at R.U.S.S. in Wade and Fribley to introduce yourself and to let me know how things are going.

Academic Resources in the Residential Villages

R.U.S.S.

Stop in and Get to know a New Friend in the North and South Residential Villages

The Residential Undergraduate Studies Satellite (R.U.S.S.) offices are located in Wade and Fribley. As an extension of the Office of Undergraduate Studies, you can stop by R.U.S.S. for quick advising information and academic resources. RUSS is open from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Monday – Wednesday. Both appointment and walk-in advising appointments are available. I and the other Deans in the Office of Undergraduate Studies will staff the RUSS offices. Contact the main Office of Undergraduate Studies at 368-2928 to determine which Dean will be at which satellite office each week.



The Soul of a Chef

The Case community will begin the discussion of this year's common reading at the Share the Vision Program on Friday when students will learn the winners of the Essay Contest, and be able to join their community members in engaging and interesting dialogue and debate about this book.

Detailed information about the Share the Vision Program as well as your break-out discussion sessions will be provided in your Welcome Days Schedule and Information Packet. I encourage you to let your voices be heard during this program. Much debate has already spread across campus about the selection of this year's Common Reading. What did you think of the *Soul of a Chef*? Was it engaging, meaningful, boring, or relevant? Did you feel drawn to any of the characters described by Michael Ruhlman? Do you have a book that you would recommend for next year's Common Reading? I can't wait to hear what you think!

E⁴

Explore

The possibilities

The campus

The city

The opportunities

The academic degrees, majors and minors at Case

Your values, beliefs, dreams and passions

Enrich

Yourself

Your relationships

Your community

Engage

In the classroom

Out of the classroom

Your peers, your professors, the staff, your family, your friends, your communities

Enjoy

The unknown

The differences

The freedom

The challenge

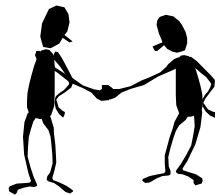
The beauty

The privilege

The limitless possibilities

Case

CONGRATULATIONS & WELCOME



Meet & Greet Your SAGES First Year Advisor
Friday, August 25, 10:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.,
Veale Athletic Center

Friday morning, you will meet your SAGES First Seminar faculty member who will also serve as your first year advisor. At this event you will also meet the other members of your First Seminar and receive a copy of your fall semester schedule. You will have a chance to go over your schedule with your advisor, ask questions, and discuss any potential schedule changes. Schedule changes cannot be made until the First Year Student Drop/Add Day, Saturday, August 26. Additionally, you will have the first two week of classes to continue any discussions with your professor/advisor and make adjustments to your schedule.

Your First Semester Schedule

An average first year student course load is 15 – 19 hours with 5 classes, and first year students may not carry more than 19 hours (except music majors and some students with 4-credit hour science/engineering/foreign language courses who may carry more with permission of a dean). If your original course selections totaled more than 5 classes or 19 hours, a course was dropped from your schedule. As a result of course conflicts and closed courses, some student schedules might have been altered. Additionally, not all requests were able to be accommodated. If your schedule currently includes fewer than 14 credit hours, please add a course, unless advised not to do so by your first year advisor. You must be registered for **at least** 12 credit hours in order to be a full time student.

Your schedule should allow you to take courses that help you explore your academic interests, as well as your educational and career goals. Course registration should take into consideration placement changes resulting from earned credit through transfer credit or AP, IB or A-Level examinations. If your advisor does not have transfer credit evaluations and/or advanced examination test results, then Case has not received this information. You need to arrange that this information get to me as soon as possible so that your advisor and I can advise you appropriately with regard to degree completion. If you and your advisor feel that a change needs to be made to your fall semester schedule, please make these changes during the First Year Student Drop/Add session and/or during the subsequent Drop/Add period.

Proficiency Exams

Updated Proficiency examination details are described in your Welcome Days Schedule. Please review the schedule for important details about these opportunities.

Proficiency exams are completely optional and are free to students. Students who feel that they have an extensive background in a subject for which they did not previously earn credit may take a proficiency exam. Successful completion of a proficiency exam will result in the awarding of Case credit.

Making Changes, Additions, or Deletions to your First Semester Schedule

ALL SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENTS MUST BE DISCUSSED WITH YOUR FIRST YEAR ADVISOR.

First year students have a special drop/add period*:

Saturday, August 26
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Yost 110 & SOLAR

You should make simple switches electronically using SOLAR; other changes requiring special permission, such as admission into a "Permit" class or a closed class, must be made on a Drop/Add form and be processed at the Registrar's Office – Yost Hall, Room 110. I will be in the Registrar's Office for this Drop/Add Session along with representatives from Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and SAGES.

* The Drop/Add continues through the 2nd week of classes (September 8th).

Course Offerings Update

Physical Education - All students must complete two full semesters of physical education activity courses for zero credit hours. You were instructed to include at least one full semester or half semester course in your fall schedules. (Music students will be registering this week for MUDE 101 and, varsity athletes should make sure that you registered for your Varsity Sport.)

However, PHED courses are fairly tight and you might not have been able to add one to your schedule. If you do not have a PHED at all, check on availability during the first week classes. If you can find something open that works with your schedule, then go ahead and add it during the drop/add period. If you cannot find a course, then make sure to include it in your spring semester schedule.

Chemistry 113* – Students who want to try to get signed in to CHEM 113 should visit the Registrar's Office during Drop/Add on Saturday. However, if you cannot get into CHEM 113 this fall, there will be plenty of openings in the spring semester. * Students considering a major in chemistry (especially a B.S.) should make sure that CHEM 113 is part of their fall schedule. If it is not, make sure to speak with a chemistry representative at First Year Drop/Add on Saturday.

MATH classes – Students who want to get signed in to a closed math course or who have any questions about which math course is appropriate for his/her interests should also stop by to see Chris Butler during First Year Drop/Add on Saturday. Chris Butler can also be reached at chris@case.edu or x2881.



SAGES First Seminar Placement

All first year students were given an opportunity to review First Seminar course descriptions and based on schedule availability, identify up to 10 different seminars of interest. This information was compiled and then was compared to each student's fall semester schedule so that all students were placed into a First Seminar of interest (either a topical seminar for Life of the Mind seminar) that should accommodate the other courses planned for the fall.

Remember that all First Seminars have a 4th Hour that offers first year students and SAGES faculty flexible time for UCI visit, plenary sessions, talks, and many other opportunities. All first year students have Monday and Wednesday from 12:30 – 1:45 p.m. blocked to accommodate the 4th Hour. An additional seminar time will be added to your schedule as well.

NO CHANGE MAY BE MADE YOUR SAGES FIRST SEMINAR COURSE WITHOUT CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL BY DEAN AMON. Changes to your SAGES First Seminar course will only be considered in the event that your First Seminar course conflicts with another course that is absolutely required in your first semester.

Web-Based Math 120 (CRN 03940)
First Class Meeting: Tuesday, August 29, 11:35 a.m.
Strosacker Auditorium

Study math when it is convenient for you, focusing on what you want to learn. No set class times. The web never gets tired of interacting with you and giving you feedback. But there is more -- if you still have a question, you can ask it, face-to-face, one-on-one, of a real human.

In the web-based Math 120, you will be able to work at your own pace with lots of feedback and a rich and flexible set of interactive course materials. Math 120 WB includes a variety of multimedia resources -- such as video lectures, animations, and audio clips -- to help you improve your understanding of key concepts. These resources are accessible from an online version of the textbook, so you can link to learning aids directly from particular examples and exercises in their online text. Videos and animations are also accessible from individual online homework and practice exercises. Also, homework and tutorial exercises, present guided solutions and step-by-step examples to help you work through specific problems. You can individualize your learning to concentrate on your own needs.

Students will also meet weekly with SI's (Supplemental Instructors). The SI's will not replace the on-line material, but properly used, you can get more individualized, targeted instruction.

There will be a mandatory organizational meeting on Tuesday, August 29, 2006 at 11:35 a.m. in Strosacker Auditorium. At this meeting, both general information about the course, sign-up for your weekly sessions and instructions on how to navigate the web site, will be presented. Be sure to be there.

For additional information or questions, e-mail the course supervisor: Dr. Lovegren at victoria.lovegren@case.edu.



Pre-Medical Students

Be sure to attend the special meeting on Pre-Medical education and pre-health opportunities at Case, with Dean Joe Pieri, one of two Case Pre-Medical Advisors during the first week of schedule. **Check your Welcome Days Schedule for specific date, time, and location information.**

Get Employed!!

Want to be a part of recruiting the next class to Case? The Office of Undergraduate Admission has several opportunities for students to get involved, and to make a buck or two. If you like talking to people, you're beginning to know your way around campus, and you have an uncanny ability to walk backwards, you could be the next Case tour guide! Interviews will be conducted Thursday, September 21, 2006, 6:00-8:00 pm and Sunday, September 24, 2006 2:00-4:00 p.m. Email Judy Weiss, (judithkweiss@case.edu) ahead of time to request an appointment.

Not ready to make the commitment to being a tour guide, but still want to get involved in recruiting students to Case? Sign up to be a student ambassador! Ambassadors help the admission office with a variety of activities, including hosting prospective students overnight. Contact Dave Vitatoe (david.vitatoe@case.edu) for details!

How to Work a Career Fair
Tuesday, October 3, 5: 0 0 – 6: 0 0 p.m.,
Location: Thwing Center

In preparation for the Fall Career Fair, the Career Center is sponsoring a workshop to help you prepare for the event. This timely workshop will outline reasons why students (including first year students!) should attend. In addition, the session will offer advice on researching organizations, gathering the appropriate documents, developing your "30 second commercial," and connecting with prospective employers.

During this event, the Career Center will release the directory of employers scheduled to attend the Career Fair. Those students in attendance will have the first glimpse of the directory! The Fall Career Fair will be held on Thursday, October 5th, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the Veale Center.

Watch for additional programs scheduled later in the semester specifically for 1st year students including "Help I Need A Major!" to be held on Thursday, October 26th, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Visit the Career Center web site for more information about the array of programs and services offered.

<http://studentaffairs.case.edu/careers/>



Buying Textbooks

Many students are eager to purchase textbooks as soon as they arrive on campus. However, you should wait to purchase textbooks until your fall schedule is set. Since different sections of classes often require different texts, it is essential that you know which classes in which you are enrolled. When you have finalized your schedule, take a printed copy of your schedule to the bookstore and look for your required texts. The books are arranged by school or college and then alphabetically by department. You will see cards on the shelves which tell you which books go with which courses and which sections. Read the cards carefully and make sure to ask the friendly Bookstore staff for assistance if necessary.

** However, you should keep in mind that it's OK to wait until you attend the first class meeting before purchasing your textbooks. It is often helpful to review the syllabus and ask questions of the instructor before making your purchases.

Read Your Case E-Mail

By now, you should have activated your Case email account and you should be checking it regularly. Important, official correspondence (responses to special requests and petitions, dates and deadlines, opportunities, and this newsletter) will occur over e-mail. The Office of Undergraduate Studies recognizes that you get many emails on a daily basis and therefore strictly limits all communication to essential and timely information, deadlines, and opportunities. You are responsible for adhering to policies, procedures, deadlines, and requirements addressed in emails sent by the Office of Undergraduate Studies.

ESS Provides Free Academic Success Services

Educational Services for Students (ESS) is here for you. If you need better time management or to boost your grades, check out ESS services. ESS staff members can help you create an effective schedule to maximize your time. To set up an appointment with an ESS staff member, call 368-5230, or stop by ESS in Sears 470.

Free Peer Tutoring is offered in over 70 courses, and Supplemental Instruction (SI) sessions are available for selected biology, chemistry, engineering, and physics courses. To sign up for a tutoring appointment or to view the SI schedule, visit ess.case.edu

Career Center

Welcome to Case! We are excited that you are here! As you settle into college life, know that we are here for you when you have questions or need help with all things career related! Our new consulting hours (no appt. needed) are Monday 1:00-3:00 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., and Wednesday 1:30-4:00 p.m. in Sears 206. Come visit us!

Class Attendance

You are expected to attend your classes regularly. Be sure to note your professors' office hours and go see them if you have questions or concerns related to course material and/or expectations. If you are ill, contact University Health Services, 2145 Adelbert Road (368-2450). If you miss classes because of illness, it is your responsibility to discuss your situation with the professor and arrange for make-up work (if allowing make-up work is consistent with the professor's course policy). If a family emergency makes it impossible for you to attend classes, please notify the Office of Undergraduate Studies, Sears 357, at 368-2928 immediately.

Syllabus 101

Course syllabi are among the most important university documents that you will receive each semester. Your course syllabus is viewed as a contract between you and your professor. You are responsible for knowing the information contained within the syllabus, for reviewing the syllabus on a regular basis and for noting any changes that a professor makes to his/her syllabus. It is essential that you review your syllabus after your first class to become familiar with course requirements and professor information. Read all course syllabi carefully and look especially for the following information:

- Professor Name
- Professor Email, Phone & Office Location
- Professor Office Hours
- Required Books & Materials
- Assignments & Due Dates (put the important dates in your calendar/planner during the first week of classes)
- Attendance/Absence policy
- Final Exam Schedule

Highlight any questions that you have about the information contained in the syllabus and ask for clarification at the next class meeting!

Classroom Etiquette 101

- Arrive at class on-time.
- Come to class prepared.
- Bring paper and pen to take notes.
- Be respectful of your instructor and your peers.
- Turn off cell phones and pagers...better yet, don't bring them.
- Talk to your instructors in advance if you will have to miss a class.
- Ask questions.
- Come with a passion to learn!



Essential University Publications

Prior to attending summer orientation you were instructed to review your **First Year Information (FYI) Guide**. This publication is especially useful in first year and I encourage all students to review to this publication at http://www.case.edu/provost/ugstudies/FYI%20Guide_Web.pdf

The **2006 – 2007 Handbook for Undergraduate Students** has been finished and is available to all students on our website. <http://studentaffairs.case.edu/office/doc/handbook0607.pdf> This document is absolutely essential to your academic success and I encourage you to start the process of familiarizing yourself with academic requirements, policies, and procedures. Although Handbooks are updated each year, you will follow **THIS Handbook** until GRADUATION!

Your **Degree Progress Report (DPR)** is a degree audit made available to all students by the Office of Undergraduate Studies. Your DPR can be viewed through <http://My.Case.edu>. It is critical that you check this document on a regular basis to ensure satisfactory progress toward degree completion as well as accuracy of course registration each semester. You can familiarize yourself with document during the drop/add period as you verify the accuracy of your schedule, and later in the fall semester as you verify the appropriate posting of AP, IB, and college credit.

Your Grade Report at Case

Please note that your cumulative grade report will be available on-line from the student tab on the Case portal at <http://my.case.edu>. Like many other universities, Case does not send a "paper" grade report to you in the mail. The portal has a fully printable grade report, but if you would prefer that the university also mail a copy of your grades, there will be a way for you to make a request from the registrar's web site at <http://www.cwrw.edu/provost/registrar/>. The on-line grade report is available soon after your final exams end and is updated regularly. The paper grade report is available only once per term and is mailed during the week following the last day of exams.

Updates from Student Activities & Leadership

<http://studentaffairs.case.edu/activities/>

Saturday, September 16

Fall Leadership Conference
Featuring a keynote address by Michael Poll: Straight A's Won't Get You the Job!
<http://studentaffairs.case.edu/programs/leadership/>

September 20-22

Annual Sex, Drugs, and Rock N Roll Conference!
More information to follow

Also, the deadline for applications for the Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) for first-year students is Friday, September 8!
<http://studentaffairs.case.edu/programs/emerging/>



GET SOME SPARTAN SPIRIT!!!

<http://www.case.edu/athletics/varsity/>

Friday, September 1

Spartan Spirit Kick-off BBQ
12:30-2:00 p.m., Orientation Tent
*Meal plan accepted

Make sure to support your peers representing Case as Varsity Athletes. Check out the Varsity Athletics Home page <http://www.case.edu/athletics/varsity/> for the fall sports schedules. Here are a few events to check out. I hope to see you there!

Saturday, September 2

Case Football takes on Oberlin
6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 6

Case Men's Soccer takes on Seton Hall
7:30 p.m.

Friday & Saturday, September 15 & 16

Case Volleyball Tournament
See the Athletics website for detailed tournament info.

Saturday, September 16

Case Football takes on Kenyon
6:00 p.m. – Promos and Post-game Fireworks!

Saturday, September 23

Case Women's Soccer takes on Kenyon
1:00 p.m.

The Residential Colleges and You

<http://studentaffairs.case.edu/living/residencelife/colleges/>

For first year students living in a Residential College, there are several types of staff members ready to provide support, encouragement, connections to opportunities, and a meaningful community experience. I encourage you to actively engage in the Residential College beginning of the school year activities, and to get to know the staff in your Residential College as well. Check your **Welcome Days Schedule** for additional information about Residential College events.

Coordinators of First-Year Residence Education (FYC)

Coordinators strive to build communities where students can live and learn. They work to build seamless educational environments in which faculty, staff, and community members can become involved in residential college programming and interact with students outside of the classroom.

Assistant First Year Coordinators (AFYC)

The Assistant Coordinators monitor academic trends in the Colleges. They take the lead in planning academic traditions such as "Meet the Dean" or compile study directories so students can easily find study partners in their specific College.

Resident Assistants

Resident Assistants (RA) are undergraduate students who provide support, mentoring, and opportunities for residents to connect with each other and faculty through programming in each residential college and around campus. RAs have been trained by Undergraduate Studies to answer questions and make referrals to academic support offices on campus. They also live on the floors in the residential colleges with their students.

Academic Connections

All staff members work closely with the Office of Educational Services for Students and the Office of Undergraduate Studies to provide academic resources to all students. Programs offered include how to form study groups, time management, study skills, and individual appointments as necessary.

Commuter Connections

<http://studentaffairs.case.edu/education/commuter/>

First year students who will be commuting to campus also have a wealth of resources to connect commuters to the Case community and to academic success. Make sure to check your **Welcome Days Schedule** for additional information about Commuter events. Don't delay in meeting the Commuter Assistants and getting to know the Commuter Lounge in Thwing.



Global Nomads Informational Meeting

Thursday, August 24, 1:00 p.m.

Thwing Center, Cleveland Room

Where do you come from? Where is home? If you have lived part of your life overseas because of your parents' jobs, you may have difficulty answering these questions. This group is designed to help you meet and talk with others who have had the experience of living outside their passport culture. Students, staff and faculty are welcome. Meetings are scheduled monthly throughout the year.

For more information, contact edythe.zimmerman@case.edu

Annual Fall Convocation

Thursday, August 31, 2006 at 4:30 p.m.

Severance Hall

Case Western Reserve University Interim President Gregory Eastwood will officially open the academic year and welcome the class of 2010 during the Annual Fall Convocation on Thursday, August 31, 2006 at 4:30 p.m. at Severance Hall.

Commencement is a formal academic ceremony and celebration that welcomes the new class of entering students and opens the new academic year. The University President presides over the event that also features a keynote speaker and an opportunity to celebrate and recognize excellence in student leadership.

This year's keynote speaker is **Michael Ruhlman**, author of this year's common reading, *The Soul of a Chef*.

All faculty, staff, and students are welcome to attend; however, seating is limited so visit the Commencement website TODAY to be sure that you are able to participate in this annual tradition.

<http://www.case.edu/convocation/>

Welcome to Case!
Have a Wonderful First Semester!