

First Year Student Newsletter

Volume 12.1

August/September 2007

Produced by
Julie L. Amon, Assistant Dean for First Year Students
and the Office of Undergraduate Studies

Welcome Class of 2011!

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.

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. You can also reach me at my e-mail address: julie.amon@case.edu

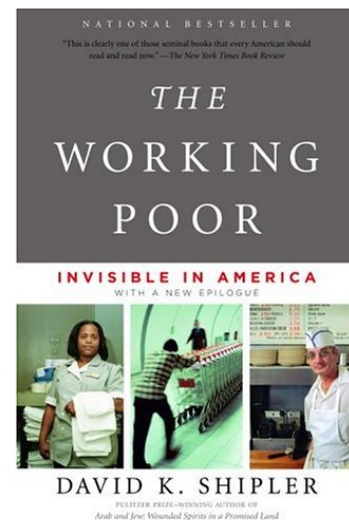
Academic Resources in the Residential Villages

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 sessions are available. The other Deans and I in the Office of Undergraduate Studies will staff the RUSS offices. Contact the main Office of Undergraduate Studies at (216) 368-2928 to determine which Dean will be at which satellite office each week.

The Common Reading, the Academic Community and You



The Working Poor: Invisible in America

The Case community will begin the discussion of this year's common reading at the Share the Vision Program on Friday, August 24, 1:00-2:00 p.m., in Severance Hall, when students will learn the winners of the Essay Contest. After the main program, at 3:00 p.m., break-out sessions will occur that will provide you the opportunity to join community members in interesting and engaging 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 *The Working Poor: Invisible in America*? Was it engaging, meaningful, boring, or relevant? Did you feel drawn to any of the individuals described by David Shipler? Do you have a book that you would recommend for next year's Common Reading? I can't wait to hear what you think!

Throughout the month of September, there will also be a number of related campus programs that will lead up to David Shipler's visit on October 5. To learn more on how you can participate in these opportunities, visit: <http://studentaffairs.case.edu/orientation/reading/events.html>

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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

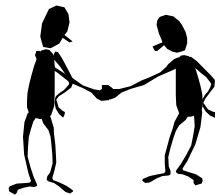
The beauty

The privilege

The limitless possibilities

Case

CONGRATULATIONS & WELCOME



Meet & Greet Your SAGES First Year Advisor
Friday, August 24, 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 25. Additionally, you will have the first two weeks 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 14 – 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 may 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

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 Western Reserve University 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 25
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Nord Atrium & SOLAR

You should make simple switches (e.g. changing sections of Econ 102) 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 Nord Atrium at the Saturday, August 25th Drop/Add Session along with representatives from Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and SAGES.

* The Drop/Add continues through the 2nd week of classes (September 7th).

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; if you are a varsity athlete, you should make sure you registered for your Varsity Sport.)

However, PHED courses are fairly tight and you may 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 of 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 between 8 and 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 or 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 visits, 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 TO 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 28, 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 improve your understanding of key concepts. These resources are accessible from an online version of the textbook, so you can link directly to learning aids 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. Learning is individualized so that you can concentrate on your own needs.

Students will also meet weekly in small groups (5-7 students) with Supplemental Instructors. The SI's will not replace the online material, but properly used, you can get more individualized, targeted instruction.

A mandatory organizational meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 28, 2007 at 11:35 a.m. in Strosacker Auditorium.

General information about the course and instructions on how to navigate the web site will be presented. Students will also sign-up for their weekly supplemental instruction sessions at this time.

For additional information or questions, e-mail the course supervisor: Terri Contenza at teresa.contenza@case.edu.

Welcome Steven

Hello, my name is Steven Scherger. As of August 13, I am the new Coordinator for First Year Student Academic Affairs. What does this rather long title now attached to my name mean? Basically, I focus on the academic well-being of first year students like you. I am directly involved with your academic advising through interactions with your SAGES instructors. Additionally, I work closely with my colleagues in Undergraduate Studies, Housing and Residence Life, Educational Services for Students, and many other offices to assist with providing you a variety of resources to make your first year a great success.

A little bit about my background . . . I am originally from Tiffin, Ohio (though better stated as a farm near Tiffin), but currently reside in Stow with my wife. I earned a B.A. in History and a B.A. in Political Science from The Ohio State University, where I also earned a master's degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs. Presently, I am working on a Ph.D. at Kent State University in Higher Education Administration. Professionally, I have worked in academic and career advising for five years at The Ohio State University and Cleveland State University.

I am really excited about joining the Case Western Reserve community! I look forward to assisting you through your first year at Case. My contact information is:

Office: Undergraduate Studies, 357 Sears Building
Telephone: (216) 368-2928
E-mail: steven.scherger@case.edu

Best wishes for a great first year at Case!

**SAGES First Year Student Plenary Session
Monday, September 17, 12:30 – 1:45 p.m. or
Wednesday, September 19, 12:30 – 1:45 p.m.
Location: Strosacker Auditorium**

The first in a series of Fall Semester plenary sessions for first-year students, this informative session will focus on how the academic advising process at Case Western Reserve University works for you and how to take full advantage of it. All first-year students are expected to attend one of these two times. I look forward to seeing you there!

**Interested in Pre-Health Careers (Pre-Med, Pre-Dent, etc)?
Wednesday, August 29, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Location: Schmitt Auditorium**

Be sure to attend the special meeting on pre-health academic requirements and professional opportunities at Case Western Reserve University, with Dean Joe Pieri, one of two Case Pre-Health Profession Advisors.

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 that 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.

** 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 to develop better time management or to boost your grades, check out ESS services. Working on an individual consulting basis, 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, physics, and math courses. Sessions in both programs are lead by students who have been recommended by professors and trained by ESS. To sign up for a tutoring appointment visit tutortrac.case.edu; to view the SI schedule, go to ess.case.edu/si.

The SAGES Peer Writing Crew can assist you at any stage of the writing process, whether you are generating ideas, composing a first draft, revising, or responding to an instructor's comments. For the next best thing to an appointment, check out the Crew's online handbook, *Beyond Typing: The Students' Guide to Writing*. View the online handbook at ess.case.edu/sagesguide.



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 (216) 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 questions you have about the information in the syllabus and ask for clarification at the next class meeting!

Classroom Etiquette 101

- Arrive at class on-time.
- Come to class prepared.
- Be respectful of your instructor and your peers.
- Turn off your cell phone...better yet, don't bring it.
- 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 **2007 – 2008 Handbook for Undergraduate Students** will be finished in the very near future. Be sure to look for it on our website at <http://www.case.edu/provost/ugstudies/resources.htm> 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 the 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.cwru.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 once per term and is mailed during the week following the last day of exams.

Updates from Student Activities & Leadership

Friday and Saturday, September 22 and 23

Fall SatCo

Classes and registration will be posted early September
<http://studentaffairs.case.edu/programs/satco/>

Saturday, September 29

Fall Leadership Conference

Conference Theme: Get Connected: Tap into your Network"
<http://studentaffairs.case.edu/programs/leadership/>

Friday, November 2 - Sunday, November 4

Family Weekend

Save-the-Date!

Registration opens **mid-September**

<http://studentaffairs.case.edu/events/familyweekend/>

Community Hour

The University Community Hour facilitates student and faculty attendance at campus-wide gatherings and special events, especially those that foster community building at Case Western Reserve University. Programs are scheduled on Friday from 12:30 – 1:45 p.m.

August 31

Student Welcome for President Snyder: Community Hour Picnic
Freiberger Tent

September 7

Taylor Branch, Award-winning Author and Journalist
Severance Hall

September 14

Community Service Fair:

Break Out of the Bubble and Make a Difference the Year!
Ballroom, Thwing Center

Sustain-A-Palooza

1914 Lounge, Thwing Center

September 21

Case for Community Day

Thwing Ballroom

September 28

Annual Sex, Drugs, and Rock n' Roll Program: Rethinking
Gender at Case

Thwing Center



GET SOME SPARTAN SPIRIT!!!

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

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 eventst. I hope to see you there!

Friday – Sunday, August 31 – September 2

Case Men and Women's Soccer Tournament

See the Athletics website for detailed tournament information.

Saturday, September 8

Case Football takes on Denison

7:00 p.m. – Fireworks Night!

Friday and Saturday, September 14 & 15

Case Volleyball Tournament

See the Athletics website for detailed tournament information.

Saturday, September 22

Case Football takes on College of Wooster

7:00 p.m.

Get Employed!!

Want to be a part of recruiting the next class to Case Western Reserve University? 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 Wednesday, September 19, 2007, 5:00-8:00 pm and Thursday, September 20, 2007 5:00-8:00 p.m. Email Judy Weiss, (judithkweiss@case.edu) ahead of time to request an appointment for an interview.

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!

Get the chance to speak with prospective students and families while getting consistent hours in the evening! The **telecounselors** work with the Undergraduate Admission staff to communicate over the phone what it is really like to be a student in Case to your next potential classmates. Have fun and get the word out about Case –it's as simple as picking up the phone (except you don't pay the bill). Contact Jeffrey T. Verespej (Jeffrey-t-verespej@case.edu) for details about becoming a telecounselor!

Career Center

The Career Center has many resources and services to help first year students with career development and exploring majors. To schedule an **appointment** or meet with a career counselor, call (216) 368-4446 or stop by the Career Center, Sears 206.

The Career Center also offers **Consulting Hours** Monday through Thursday, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Sears 206. Consulting Hours are intended for quick questions. Please sign-up at the front desk as you arrive.

Bring your draft resumes, covers letters, thank you letters, and other professional correspondence to a **Resume Emergency Room**. Please save the date for one of the following Resume Emergency Rooms:

Dates: Friday, September 14, Friday, September 21, and Friday, September 28

Time: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location: Career Center, Sears 206

Each semester, the Career Center offers a range of targeted **workshops and events** to prepare you for your career. Please register in advance for the workshops you would like to attend. You can register online through the Upcoming Events Calendar on the Career Center's website: <http://careercenter.case.edu>.

Interviewing: The Basics

Thursday, September 13, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Location: Nord 400

Networking and Informational Interviewing

Thursday, September 27, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Location: Nord 400

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 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.



**Certification of Enrollment
Verification of Academic and Judicial Standing**

The Office of the University Registrar is responsible for certifying student enrollment status. Certification of Enrollment may be required for medical or legal associations, licensure, insurance companies, employers, loans, etc. The Registrar's Office certifies enrollment by mail, fax, or on a walk-in basis (with proper ID). There is no charge for enrollment certification services. The Registrar's Office is located in Yost 110 and our fax number is (216)368-8711.

The Office of Undergraduate Studies is responsible for verifying students' academic and judicial standing. Verification of these standings may be obtained by submitting a Dean Verification Form, which you can acquire in Sears 357 or on the web at <http://www.case.edu/provost/ugstudies/forms.htm>.

**Global Nomads Informational Meeting
Thursday, August 23, 4:00 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

Wednesday, August 29, 2007 at 4:30 p.m.

Severance Hall

Case Western Reserve University President Barbara Snyder will officially open the academic year and welcome the class of 2011 during the Annual Fall Convocation on Wednesday, August 29, 2007 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. This year, in addition to the traditional program, convocation will feature the official investiture ceremony for President Snyder.

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!