Greetings from the Vice President for Student Affairs

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2012-2013 academic year. On behalf of the entire staff in Student Affairs, I am pleased to share this parent newsletter with you.

The Office for Student Affairs enjoys the opportunity to partner with parents and knows the important role you play in your students’ lives. It is our goal to provide your students with meaningful opportunities outside of the classroom that will enhance their academic experiences and enrich their lives.

We hope you find the information in this newsletter helpful and informative. Please contact us anytime should you have questions or concerns or if you have ideas for future newsletters. You may reach us at 773-298-3121, studentaffairs@sxu.edu, or in room L-208 of the Warde Academic Center (main building) on the Chicago campus.

Sincerely,

John P. Pelrine, Jr.
Vice President for Student Affairs

Inaugural First Day for First-Years a Success
The inaugural First Day for First-Years, a daylong program designed to welcome all new first-year students to the Saint Xavier University community, was attended by 400 students and almost 200 family members on August 24. For students, the day included a lecture and small discussion groups about this year's Common Reading (The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot), the New Student Induction Ceremony (attended by more than 550 new, transfer, adult and graduate students), an all-campus picnic, and fun, interactive and entertaining events well into the evening. Parents and families attended informative sessions on community engagement and academic success. Student Life thanks everyone who participated.

Fall Sports Overview

As the summer concludes, the Saint Xavier University Athletics Department has begun preparations for another action-packed year of Cougar sports. This fall should be no exception as the SXU football team looks to defend the school's first national championship title. The Cougar men's soccer and women's cross country teams are hoping to make return trips to their respective national tournaments, while the women's volleyball team is coming off of one of the program's most successful campaigns finishing at 30-5 overall in 2011. Under the direction of first-year head coach Evan Strehlau, the SXU women's soccer team is eager to make its presence felt in the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference. The newly formed Cougar men's golf team led by first-year coach Mike Mandakas will kick off the program's first season of competition. Please visit the department's website at www.sxucougars.com for team schedules, news and results. Come out for a game or match. Go Cougars!

Campus Employment

Working on campus not only assists with educational finances, but campus jobs help students build critical professional skills that can prepare them for life after graduation. Research consistently shows that students who work in on-campus jobs develop a more positive affiliation with the University and tend to complete their degrees.

While students who are eligible for Federal Work Study on their financial aid packages are given priority in on-campus hiring, all students are welcome to search for and apply to on-campus positions at Saint Xavier. Positions fill fast and are available in a wide variety of functions across many departments on campus. There are a limited number of positions available for students who do not qualify for Federal Work Study. Students should visit CougarJobs.com to search for positions. Cougar Jobs also houses listings for off-campus employment and internships.

Instructions on how to apply for on-campus employment, current listings and the Student Employment Application are all available at CougarJobs.com.

Students interested in learning more may contact Jean Riordan, director of career services, at riordan@sxu.edu or 773-298-3131.

Message from a Dean

The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) is the heart and soul of Saint Xavier University. Pumping life into the curricula and fostering the kind of thoughtful reflection so often lacking in public discourse, the arts and sciences faculty, programs and courses play a critical role in the education of our students. The mission of the University, to
educate students to search for truth, to think critically, to communicate effectively, and to serve wisely and compassionately in support of human dignity and the common good, is the mission of the College of Arts and Sciences.

CAS is a diverse and sometimes confusing world. The college is home to more than 100 full-time faculty, 15 academic departments, seven free-standing programs, 30 undergraduate majors, three graduate programs and 23 undergraduate minors. Many of our major programs also offer specialized tracks or concentrations. Eight of our majors lead to teacher certification, when partnered with the School of Education’s professional education program. Also, the college sponsors the General Education Program, Honors Program, Pre-Law Program and Pre-Health Professions Program. What does this mean for your student? CAS is a place of opportunity and discovery, a place where curiosity is engaged, questions are explored, social responsibility in the exercise of critical thinking is required and preparation for life is a priority.

What can you and your students expect from CAS in the 2012-13 academic year? Our strategic priorities are student engagement, faculty excellence and quality assurance; we will be working on enhancing student-faculty interactions in community-based learning, research collaborations, first-year seminars and career preparation programs. New courses, alongside traditional courses, offer intellectual challenge and academic support. Throughout the year, CAS will sponsor lectures, films, career planning meetings, concerts and exhibits. Most important, the CAS faculty will be available to assist your students on many levels: to offer advice, share knowledge, challenge preconceived notions and help your student successfully transition through the college experience.

The value of a college education is unquestioned. In economic terms, college graduates out-earn those without a degree. In social terms, college graduates enjoy higher levels of health and “happiness” than those without a degree. Regardless of your student’s major, the broad and deep education across many disciplines provided by the College of Arts and Sciences will establish a solid foundation for success with purpose. Just look at this year’s CAS Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, Mr. Dan Brown, Class of 1978: an inventor with more than 30 U.S. utility patents and industrial design awards; founder and principal of Consul-Tech Concepts Inc., a product development and design consultancy; founder and president of LoggerHead Tools LLC; and adjunct professor at Northwestern University’s School of Engineering and Applied Science. Mr. Brown’s interest in industrial design dates to his college days at Saint Xavier in the 1970s, when he majored in biology and minored in chemistry. He embarked on a career in the chemical and plastics industry applying his science education and natural ability in engineering, and from there launched a career in industrial design and marketing. The opportunities are endless, and the College of Arts and Sciences is here to support your student.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Alaimo, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Academic Success

A good way to ensure that your son or daughter reaches his or her educational goals is to encourage the use of the Learning Center. The Learning Center provides all Saint
Xavier University students with the academic resources to be successful beyond the classroom. One of our greatest resources is the ability to impart educational strategies and skills that promote self-confidence and motivation in all aspects of the learning process.

Below is a list of tips you can share with your son or daughter:

1. Consult with faculty members. When students feel they are not fully connecting with the material, they should meet with the respective faculty member to ask questions and review material. (An added bonus is that the faculty members get to personally know students!)

2. Work with the Learning Center. Advise your son or daughter to drop by the Learning Center to consult with the staff to address academic skill development (time management, note taking, etc.), free tutoring and the Academic Success Workshop Series.

3. Recognize available resources. Encourage your son or daughter to explore all of the resources offered (Counseling Services, Career Services, Residence Life, Campus Life, etc.) in order to make his or her University experience as successful as possible.

4. Communicate. One of the greatest skills to bestow on your son or daughter is to communicate whenever an issue arises as well as to take the initiative in requesting help prior to a larger issue forming. When your student doesn’t know where to turn, he or she can always visit the Office for Student Affairs in L-208 (or contact us at 773-298-3121 or studentaffairs@sxu.edu).

**Quest Retreat for First-Year and Transfer Students**

**September 21-23, 2012**

During the college years, students are exploring and examining their faith and values in order to form and claim their own religious and spiritual identity as emerging adults. Quest is a student-led retreat for first-year and transfer students designed to help these new students successfully transition into college. Students of all faiths are welcome and encouraged to attend. During the weekend retreat, there are organized activities and opportunities to reflect, pray, rest, make friends and talk with upper-level students about their experiences with relationships, stress, faith and other collegiate topics. Students develop friendships with peers and campus ministers that endure through college and beyond.

Fall Quest will be held Sept. 21-23 at Five Pines Retreat Center in Berrien Center, Mich. Registration is open now. The cost is $30, payable to Saint Xavier University; financial aid is available for need-based students. Transportation, accommodations and all supplies are included in the cost. Please contact Regina Hall Minister Lauren Dentzman at dentzman@sxu.edu or 773-298-3383, or call Campus Ministry at 773-298-3900 for more information.

**Homecoming 2012**

This year’s Homecoming events include the following activities:

- Hypnotist Christopher Carter
Voices and Visions

**Voices and Visions Speaker Series: Featuring Arianna Huffington and Mary Matalin**

Thursday, November 1, 2012
Shannon Center, Main Arena
3700 West 103rd Street

- Doors Open: 6 p.m.
- Keynote Address: 7 p.m.
- Doors Close: 7:15 p.m.

Huffington and Matalin’s visit to campus comes five days before what may be deemed as one of the nation’s most historic presidential elections, providing Chicagoans with a unique opportunity to witness a moderated point-counterpoint discussion with two powerful perspectives.

General admission tickets are $25 each plus service charge and are available by visiting [Ticketweb](#). A limited number of $200 priority tickets are available which include priority seating and admission to an exclusive post-lecture wine and cheese reception with Ms. Huffington and Ms. Matalin. Saint Xavier University students, faculty and staff are free but must reserve a ticket online.

The Voices and Visions Speaker Series is sponsored by University Relations and in part by the Student Government Association. For more information contact the Office of Special Events at 773-298-3748 or specialevents@sxu.edu.

First-Year Parents: Transition from High School to College

As the proud parent of a college student -- perhaps for the first time or perhaps for the last -- you certainly know that there will be challenges ahead. Here are a few tips you might want to remember as your student embarks on this new adventure.

- Do not ask your student if he or she is lonely. The first few weeks of school are action-packed; adjusting to new people and new situations takes up a majority of a first-year student’s time and concentration. Unless they’re reminded of it, they’ll probably get over the loneliness and homesickness. And even if they don’t tell you during those first few
weeks, they do miss you.

- If they do want to come home every weekend, encourage them to get involved on campus with clubs, activities, sports, etc. Involved and engaged students tend to be more successful students and have a richer college experience.

- Expect them to change. Change is a normal part of the developmental process, and right now they are in the stage of adolescence in which they are trying to find and develop identities. Couple that with the fact that their brain is still developing and you have an opportunity for some role confusion. But don’t worry ... they WILL be home again ... with dirty laundry in tow!

- Remember that even though they think they are an adult, they still want and need your support. Call occasionally. Text or email (they may actually respond!). Send a care package. But don’t drop in unexpectedly -- that would be WAY too embarrassing.

- If they are a commuter, you will have similar issues, but they will play out under your roof. They will want their independence while still being dependent on you in so many ways. If they don’t appear to be engaging on campus other than going to classes – again, encourage them to get involved in groups, clubs, etc. It will make their experience much richer socially and academically.

Remember when you taught them to ride a bike? You removed the training wheels and held on while you ran beside them ... and you gradually let go as they learned to pedal faster and faster ... and then they soared on their own!

Safety on Campus

The Office of Public Safety is committed to offering the highest quality protective services to maintain and improve our unique educational environment and quality of life. Public Safety’s ability to be effective depends on the students, staff and faculty being our “eyes and ears.” The University community has historically assisted in pointing out any unsafe conditions, suspicious persons or unusual occurrences. Your student is invited to do the same. Our goal is to provide professional responses to all safety- and service-oriented requests from the campus community. In addition to our law-enforcement, emergency medical and security responsibilities, the department provides a number of services including emergency preparedness training and personal safety seminars, parking management, vehicle and room lockout assistance, battery jumps, protective escorts and shuttle bus services.

For more information contact:

- Public Safety Dispatch Emergency: 773-298-3911
- Public Safety Dispatch Non-Emergency: 773-298-4400 or 3541
- Administrative/Parking: 773-298-3950
- University Shuttle Bus and Van: 773-298-4400
- Confidential Hotline: 773-298-3838
- Lost ID Card Hotline: 773-298-IDID (4343)
Student Profile -- Kelly Mihalik

Kelly Mihalik was born and raised in Dearborn, Mich. She was attracted to SXU's School of Nursing when she was looking for a school with a "small campus feeling" and a "close relationship with faculty." The small class size and the close relationship with faculty have played out for Kelly. She can often be overheard saying, "I love it here!"

Kelly is starting her senior year serving as president of the Student Government Association, a third-year Resident Assistant, a member of the Student Nurses' Association and a peer minister. Her secrets to success include "time management, prioritizing, knowing there is a support system and taking time for myself."

She secured a nursing internship (through a competitive process) in Ann Arbor, Mich., this past summer, spending five weeks in cardiac step-down and five weeks in cardiac ICU. She said she learned so much and knows that she wants to work in cardiac ICU. However, she is looking forward to her final year at SXU, including pediatric and OB rotations, along with community and critical care/leadership.

Mission and Heritage Happenings

- Expanding on some of the themes in the Common Reading for first-year students (The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot), SXU will host Sister Rosemary Connelly, R.S.M., executive director of Misericordia, for the first Catholic Colloquium lecture of the 2012-2013 academic year. Sister Rosemary's lecture, titled "Misericordia: The Right to a Life Worth Living," is set for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 19, in the Butler Reception Room. This lecture is free and open to the public. As the chief executive of a multifaceted organization that serves people with mental and physical disabilities, Sister Rosemary has long championed the innate human dignity of all persons – a theme that resounds through the Common Reading.

- The second Catholic Colloquium lecture this year will take place at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 10, in the Butler Reception Room. Cardinal Roger Mahony, retired archbishop of Los Angeles, will speak on current U.S. immigration policy in a presentation titled "I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me." All are welcome at no charge.

- On Wednesday, September 26, Saint Xavier University will celebrate Spirit of Mercy Day, one of SXU's three annual all-University observances. Spirit of Mercy Day features the Mass of the Holy Spirit, a prayerful tradition for the start of the academic year at Catholic institutions, and the Leadership Commissioning, a rite that recognizes and supports the service of leadership in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy. Mass is at noon in McDonough Chapel; the commissioning takes place at 3:30 p.m. at the Academy Bell. Other features of Spirit of Mercy Day include a 4 p.m. opportunity to meet local Mercy sisters and a 6 p.m. S.T.A.T. service project of
making bag lunches to go to local homeless shelters.

**Important Dates and Upcoming Events**

- **September 17:** Women's Spiritual Groups begin (contact Campus Ministry to register)
- **September 19:** Catholic Colloquium Lecture Sister - Rosemary Connelly, R.S.M., "Misericordia: The Right to a Life Worth Living," 6:30 p.m., Butler Reception Room*
- **September 21 - 23:** Quest Retreat for First-Year and Transfer Students (contact Campus Ministry to register)
- **September 23:** Cougar Spirit Sunday Student Mass, 8:00 p.m., McDonough Chapel*
- **September 23-30:** Homecoming Week 2012
- **September 26:** Graduate School Fair, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Butler Reception Room
- **September 26:** Spirit of Mercy Day Liturgy, Noon, McDonough Chapel; Commissioning of Leaders Ceremony, 3:30 p.m., Academy Bell* (classes cancelled between noon and 1 p.m.)
- **September 26:** Graduate School Panel, 2 p.m., Fourth Floor Board Room
- **September 26:** S.T.A.T. - Brown Bag Project, 6 p.m., Atrium*
- **September 29:** 12th Annual Cougar 5K Run/Walk, 9 a.m., Shannon Center*
- **September 30:** Homecoming Liturgy, 10 a.m., McDonough Chapel*
- **October 9:** SXU Fall Job Fair, Noon-3 p.m., Butler Reception Room
- **October 10:** Catholic Colloquium Lecture - Cardinal Roger Mahony, "I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me," 6:30 p.m., Butler Reception Room*
- **October 15:** Deadline to petition for spring 2013 graduation
- **October 25-November 8:** Registration for spring 2013 classes for currently enrolled students
- **October 26-28:** Awakenings Retreat (contact Campus Ministry to register)
- **November 1:** Voices and Visions Speaker Series (Arianna Huffington and Mary Matalin), 7 p.m., Shannon Center* (ticket required)
- **November 21-25:** Thanksgiving Holiday
- **November 25:** Residence Halls open at 5 p.m.
- **December 14:** Residence Halls close for Winter Break at 6 p.m.

*parents/family welcome