

8-2014

Welcome Back 2014

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

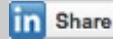
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WPI

Parents & Friends Newsletter



WELCOME BACK 2014



Welcome from President Laurie Leshin



It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to WPI's 2014-15 academic year, my first as president of this great institution. I am especially excited to welcome our 4,012 undergraduate and 1,916 graduate students to WPI later this month. Whether you are returning to campus, or, like me, entering your first year, together we will experience the thrill of discovery as we explore new ideas, meet new people, and take on global challenges in exciting areas of study including data science, robotics, interactive game development, and the life sciences and engineering – and many more!

And, I very much hope to see you again for [Parents Weekend](#) September 12-14, when the campus is in full fall foliage (and in full swing!) with a football game, theatre, and musical performances. Our students are excited each year to welcome their families to WPI and I am looking forward to it!

As you may know, WPI enters its sesquicentennial year this November, a celebration that will take us

Important Dates

8/24 – 9/5: Online Check-In for Fall Semester

8/24: President's Freshmen Welcome BBQ

8/28: First Day of Classes

8/28-9/4: Add/Drop for A-Term (no fee)

9/5-9/11: Add/Drop for A-Term (late fee)

9/11-13: VOX presents [Les Misérables](#)

9/13: Parents Weekend Concert

9/25-27: Masque presents [The Beams are Cracking](#)

9/28: [Walk to Cure Cancer](#)



through the 150th anniversary of WPI's founding on November 11, 2015. Our 150th year will include many opportunities to reflect on the founding belief that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems, and to see that principle in action today. And we will kick off the sesquicentennial year with my inauguration as president, a ceremony filled with academic tradition and celebration, which will take place on Saturday, November 8 – all are invited and I hope to see you there!

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and get ready for an amazing year together. I can't wait to meet you in person.

Five Resources for Community Engagement



WPI has an involved campus culture. Students, faculty, and staff frequently interact outside the classroom. Here are five resources your student can use to engage with the WPI community:

1. Join one (or more) of over [200 clubs and organizations](#), ranging from sports to student government.
2. Check out events poster in residence halls and around campus to find out about daily events, from lectures to movie screenings.
3. View [Social Web](#) to find cultural, social, and educational events taking place in the Worcester area.
4. Like the [WPI Campus Center and Student Activities Facebook Page](#) to learn about upcoming events.
5. Peruse our list of [100 Things to Do](#) on campus, in Worcester, and beyond.

Just for First Year Students



This is a time of great excitement, as well as some anxiety, for first year students, who face many changes and challenges. Recognizing this, we provide first year students with a variety of

View our [Fall 2014 Athletic Schedules](#)

Women's Welcome Breakfast

All incoming female students are invited to the Women's Welcome Breakfast on Monday, August 25, 7:30-8:50, featuring a keynote address by Dorothea Wong, WPI alumna and aerospace industry leader.

Community Service

The Community Service Work-Study Program provides an opportunity for students to collaborate with local non-profits while earning their federal work study allowance. Any student who has been granted Federal Work Study Funding is eligible for participation. [Find out more](#)

New Student Orientation Resources

Make sure your students stay organized by downloading the new student orientation [Bizzabo app](#) for iOS or Android. Students can manage their schedules, see detailed information about each session, and connect with friends. They can simply register and search "WPI NSO 2014"

Students can also join the incoming class of 2018 community by visiting the [WPI 2014 New Student Orientation webpage](#), powered by Bizzabo.

Health Services

WPI [Health and Wellness Services](#) are available to all students. We offer easy, affordable, quality care. After hours MD available by calling 508-334-8830.

A flu clinic is scheduled for October 2, 2014.

resources:

- The [Insight Program](#), in which students meet regularly with their Insight teams, made up of fellow students, two upperclassmen, and a Resident, Community, and Faculty advisor.
- [Great Problems Seminars](#) that introduce students to project work at WPI.
- Special courses that help students [discover majors and careers](#), [develop spatial visualization skills](#), and achieve a life/work balance.
- University-wide resources including the [Academic Resource Center](#), [Academic Advising](#) office, [Student Development & Counseling Center](#), and [Writing Center](#).

IGSD Applications



The application process for the [Global Perspective Program](#), WPI's signature study away program, will begin on Tuesday, September 2, with the Global Fair, featuring all off-campus IQP opportunities for the year. We will be offering new programs this year in Paraguay, Greece, and Western Massachusetts.

Project Center directors will hold information sessions in September. Students must attend the information session for at least their first choice site in order to apply. The application deadline for off-campus IQPs is October 6, 2014.

Meal Plans

Have you bought your student's meal plan? Visit our [website](#) or call the Bursar's Office at 508-831-5203 to purchase your plan.

Financial Aid Reminders

Each year, several financial aid applicants are selected for verification. If your student was selected, documentation was due by August 15. For more information, see [Financial Aid Application Status Check](#) and [Verification Process](#).

For any incoming freshmen and transfer students or first time borrowers of federal loans, please make sure your student has signed all Master Promissory Notes and completed entrance counseling so we can disburse loans.

We encourage all students to take advantage of our [Financial Literacy](#) programs, which are held throughout the year.

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