

MARY WASHINGTON COLLEGE

VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS AND DEAN OF STUDENTS

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Letter from Dean of Students to all new students.

Dear Incoming Students and Families:

Soon you will be starting your life here at Mary Washington with all the challenges and opportunities for growth that college life brings. You will be determining your own life and making decisions which may have far-reaching consequences. Perhaps no decision will be more important to you than how you choose to deal with your new found freedom as it relates to alcohol.

Recent news accounts of alcohol related deaths on college campuses in Virginia as well as throughout the United States tell the story. Good, young people who have gone off to college and when faced with peer pressure, traditions, and misconceptions about what college life is supposed to be, made the wrong decision with tragic consequences.

Alcohol use is not, nor need be, a way of life here at Mary Washington. I feel compelled to write to you on this topic in order to be sure you understand that only you are able to determine your drinking behavior. Abusive drinking will ultimately impact your family, your friends, and the College should there be a need to make a late night or early morning phone call to a family member.

This letter is not a scare tactic; it is intended as a wake-up call for us all. We take very seriously our mission to provide a safe, educational environment for Mary Washington College students. While we have a campaign at the College to raise awareness of drinking issues as well as professionals who provide alcohol counseling and classes, we can't do it alone. This letter is intended to be the catalyst that starts a conversation between the important adults in your life and you about drinking before you come to college.

You are a member of a wonderful group of bright, energetic people who are able to both learn and enjoy life. It has been our experience that when given the opportunity, young people such as yourself will respond appropriately. Please take the time now to have a frank discussion about alcohol with your family. Be responsible and true both to yourself and to Mary Washington and we'll see you in the fall!!