



May 25, 2022

Dear New Students,

Congratulations on your entry to Beacon College during a markedly competitive admissions year. We welcome you to our extraordinary collegiate community! Your journey here will be transformative – but as you become a valued member of this community, we know that your positive contributions to the life of the school will help shape our path and further our growth. Transformation is most powerful within a community of kindred spirits, all working to achieve a shared vision. Throughout all the change and growth, you will therefore feel right at home – because you *will* be home!

Following Beacon's 32nd Commencement, those familiar with a collegiate environment might expect that the pace of life on our campus would slow to a more moderate tempo, as is customary among higher education institutions throughout the nation. This has not been the case at Beacon College over the past five years, a pattern that continues unabated this summer in preparation for the 2022-2023 academic year. Allow me to share with you several of these advances and also to provide timely information of family interest.

Construction on Campus: As you might know, during this same span of time, Beacon has been fortunate to receive, through dedicated fund-raising, support for a series of campus improvements. This summer, through the selfless philanthropy of generous benefactors, we will undertake two projects of significance, both revitalizing signature landmarks on the Beacon campus.

The first, known as *The Oasis*, will be an outdoor student destination for fitness, recreation, and social time that will be constructed on the present site of the basketball court and pool area in close proximity to both new residence halls and the Village Apartments. The College is in the process of securing additional acreage to expand the array of features available to undergraduates including a large pool, sun deck, and cabana area, full-scale basketball and sand volleyball courts, and landscaped venues through-out to promote student connections. The Oasis is so named to provide students with a sanctuary for recreation, relaxation, and enjoyment situated within a dynamic, energetic community. We believe that years hence, you will recollect The Oasis as a memorable, distinctive element of the Beacon College student experience – a haven of activities and community, where friendships will be established and treasured for life.

We have also prioritized the upgrading of one of the core facilities that has served Beacon since the College's founding in 1989: the Stoer Building (the *Center for Student Success*). This second major project for the Summer, involving a \$400,000 renovation of this structure, will allow for the replacement of the roof and glass windows, the upgrading of all electrical and HVAC systems, attention to the first- and second-floor offices, and increasing the capacity for advanced technology throughout the space. Although the Stoer Building will retain its historic exterior façade, students will be welcomed for the Fall semester in a totally rejuvenated learning environment, expressly designed to support the needs and progress of students who learn differently.

Finally, the College is restoring the former Getzel property on Main Street, situated close to the Dining Commons, to create a large classroom with additional office space to enhance academic scheduling, instructional options, and student and faculty convenience.

Programmatically Returning to Society’s New Normal: Although the College will remain watchful and protective of our community in a post-pandemic world, it is our obligation to return – on campus and beyond – to the “high-touch” breadth and depth of the “Beacon Experience” that defined our Institution long before COVID-19 influenced most every aspect of daily living. Underscoring this commitment is the College’s return to international opportunities for our students. On June 7, Provost Chandler will be leading 31 Beacon undergraduates on a two-week Travel Abroad experience to Australia. For the Fall Semester, the College will re-introduce to a full complement of students, “Beacon in Tuscany,” our signature Study Semester Abroad program. Other off-campus program options to enrich student learning and growth that were being contemplated before the pandemic will now be re-examined for future academic years – ensuring that Beacon College students enjoy manifold options to enrich their undergraduate experience and to be part of exciting and diverse environments for learning and growth.

Technology Investments: Significant investments are being made this Summer in the arena of technology to enhance classroom engagement and campus-wide communication. We have begun the process of converting each classroom to a common interactive platform for instruction and conferencing that is wholly compatible with Beacon’s transition to Microsoft and its suite of applications. In the interest of safety and security for all student residences, the College has completed the installation of a comprehensive electronic lock and camera system throughout campus. We are also upgrading the Institution’s system of telecommunications by replacing the existing network with a “best in class” telephony and messaging platform that will be readily integrated into the web of other enterprise technologies currently in place at the College, while also supporting future enhancements and developments in the fast-moving milieu of technological innovation.

Beacon’s Seriousness of Purpose in Budgeting During an Inflationary Period: The College’s Board of Trustees and Administration worked diligently over the past four months to keep the increase in tuition and fees as reasonable as possible in a time of spiraling inflation. It should be no surprise that since January, the budgeted expenses for almost every non-personnel item this year exceeded the Board-adopted budget, especially in the costs of food, utilities, and anything requiring fuel – such as transportation and the preparation of meals.

With the consumer price index continuing to exceed 8%, the College explored every avenue to maintain expenses as low as possible in achieving the ultimate goal of a balanced budget. This was not easy, as our own faculty and staff are caught in the same economic dynamic and uncertainty that faces our families. Having wrestled with these multiple competing forces, we have been able to hold to a budget that honors and supports the learning needs of our students, and that balances the financial pressures facing both parents and the College, while providing the highest caliber of instruction and services and delivering solid student outcomes. With our essential investments in people, technology, services, and facilities, we have structured a tuition and fee increase that averages 5%.

Important Dates, Actions, and Events in Anticipation of the New Academic Year: In order to make sure our students and parents have ample time to prepare for arrival on campus and to plan for Beacon’s upcoming student and family Fall events, **I ask that you please consider the important**

information below. Although there's still over two months until the Fall semester begins, the time will pass more quickly than you think:

Friday, July 8 – Fall Tuition and Fee Payments Due

A copy of your estimated expenses for the Fall term (which you can also access in SONIS, using your SONIS ID) will arrive shortly. This initial bill reflects your expected costs for tuition, room, and board. If appropriate, a revised bill will be generated reflecting any changes in housing, financial aid, fees, and course load. If you have not already **accepted** and **applied** for the financial aid that is listed on this statement (particularly student and parent loans), we ask that you **do so immediately**. Should you need assistance, please contact the Enrollment Office at 352-638-9731. Students who do not make arrangements to cover Fall expenses prior to Orientation **may risk** being denied class registration and/or permission to move into campus housing.

Sunday, August 14 – Navigator PREP Only

For incoming students who enrolled this past spring in Navigator PREP, you are welcome to begin moving into your residence on August 14 beginning at 2 PM. Sunday evening, starting at 6 PM, there will be a celebratory event for both students and parents to review accomplishments and meet Beacon College faculty and staff. Formal invitations to participants will be sent in the month ahead.

Monday, August 15 – Sunday, August 21 – Orientation

Monday, August 15 will mark the official start of your first-year experience at Beacon College. You will have the opportunity to create your schedule of support services, check-in and settle into your student residence, and register your vehicle and attend various information sessions. A formal Convocation program, marking the beginning of the academic year, is scheduled for 10 AM on Wednesday, August 17. (Although the Student Orientation period is scheduled for one week, Parents' Orientation will conclude shortly after the Convocation.)

The remainder of the Orientation Program is designed to make our new students' transition to collegiate life a very positive one, to introduce newly arrived collegians to the Beacon environment and community, and to make all aware of the services and expectations of the College.

Details of the Orientation schedule will be available on July 1 on our website.

Friday through Sunday, October 7 – 9 – Parents' Weekend

At Beacon College, Parents' Weekend is a tradition and an opportunity for families to spend "quality time" on campus touring the College and visiting with our students' professors and learning specialist. In addition, parents are encouraged to participate in informative workshops, and of course, spend time with their student and the friends that they have certainly made! The highlight of the weekend will be a Dinner/Dance that will be held at The Brownwood Hotel and Spa on Saturday evening, October 8. Look for the details on the Parents' Weekend calendar of events, available on our website on August 1.

Further Assistance? In the event that you have questions and/or need assistance, here is the contact information for those individuals that can assist you:

Questions regarding Financial Aid: Stephanie Knight, Director of Enrollment Services & Fin. Aid
sknight@beaconcollege.edu (352) 638-9730

Questions regarding Housing: Tanisha McIntosh, Director of Residential Life
tmcintosh@beaconcollege.edu housing@beaconcollege.edu (352) 638-9786 (352) 787-0845

Questions regarding Billing: Cindy Eckhart, Student Accounts Specialist
ceckhart@beaconcollege.edu studentaccounts@beaconcollege.edu (352) 787-8068

Questions regarding Course Registration/Academic Program: Carrie Santaw, Registrar
csantaw@beaconcollege.edu (352) 638-9705

Questions regarding Academic Support/Course Schedules: Dr. Oksana Hagerty, Dean, CSS
ohagerty@beaconcollege.edu (352) 638-9757

Questions regarding Student Counseling and Wellness: Dana Manzo, Dean of Center on Wellness
dmanzo@beaconcollege.edu (352) 638-9751

Questions regarding Parents' Weekend: Keri Jo Pannella, Director of Development
kphillips@beaconcollege.edu (352) 638-9768

All Other Questions: Cindy Lepore, Executive Assistant to the Provost
clepore@beaconcollege.edu (352) 638-9804

In closing, I recognize that the length of this message is considerable. However, there is much to comment on and plan for now to assure that the transition of our students to the new academic year is a promising and worthy one – a year that will be animated by and will renew within our community “the life abundant,” which represents a signature attainment and goal of Beacon College’s mission. Our community is understandably excited about the academic year for which we are preparing, and all at the College await your arrival with great anticipation. For this and many other reasons, I look forward to personally greeting each of you on August 15.

With gratitude and all good wishes, I remain

Sincerely,



George J. Hagerty
President