PARENTS UPDATE

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Dear Parents,

We are writing to you as we move towards Thanksgiving and the end of a most unusual semester. Our students have been real troopers—they are pioneers willing to brave this challenging world, and they have done a wonderful job, whether as remote students trying to tune in to events on campus or as students in residence, of which we have about 6,000 in the dorms, as well as many in nearby apartments. We truly admire their spirit and determination to make this a good semester in spite of the limitations.

In this issue, we include a photo essay so you can get a visual picture in your minds of Gallatin teaching during the pandemic. Both of us are teaching in-person courses, so you will see us at work with our students, as well as pictures from more of our in-person classes.

The pandemic has, of course, had an impact on the opportunities students have to interact socially. In a normal semester, the Gallatin building would be a lively hub of student activity, with students getting together for study groups, lunch hours, club events, and meetings of all sorts. NYU has been lucky to have maintained a remarkably low infection rate but nonetheless few of these usual activities have been able to happen in person this semester. Clubs and other student groups are still very active, however, but now they meet virtually rather than in person.

To help foster community, Gallatin has launched a new initiative this semester—affinity groups—in which students with similar academic interests can meet each other and make friends. Affinity groups incorporate both virtual meetings and small, socially distant in-person gatherings. Find out more about these groups on page 7.

This semester, we have also sponsored small outings to area museums and an excursion to forage for mushrooms in Brooklyn’s Prospect Park! Learn more about these options by going to the Gallatin website: [https://gallatin.nyu.edu/studentlife/studentgovernment/collaborations.html](https://gallatin.nyu.edu/studentlife/studentgovernment/collaborations.html) and [https://gallatin.nyu.edu/studentlife.html](https://gallatin.nyu.edu/studentlife.html).

We hope you enjoy this brief glimpse of college life in the midst of the pandemic, and that you and your family members are all well and keeping safe.

Yours,

Susanne L. Wofford  
DEAN

Patrick McCreery  
ASSOCIATE DEAN OF STUDENTS

ON THE COVER: EXTERIOR OF GALLATIN BUILDING FROM EARLY FALL 2020, PHOTO COURTESY NYU PHOTO BUREAU
Whether on site or remote, Gallatin students have shown their dedication to continuing to move forward with their education, no matter the setting. Some have chosen to Zoom in to their classes from home and others to wear masks and to take the necessary precautions in order to join classes in person. All have come together to learn. Likewise, Gallatin faculty have learned and adapted to new classroom environments and modes of teaching, meeting the challenges of engaging with students in Zoom-only classes or in classrooms that use screens to bring remote students into socially distanced-classroom spaces. The Jerry H. Labowitz Theatre for the Performing Arts has been repurposed from the School’s main event space to a central hub for in-person classes at 1 Washington Place. In every way, students, faculty, staff, and administrators have shown their commitment to keep learning and teaching alive in the context of the public health crisis.
“This semester has been, without a doubt, the most challenging semester I’ve ever taught! Teaching in-person has been a real process of trial and error. There have been technical snafus to troubleshoot and we have had to figure out how to conduct basic activities like peer-reviews while respecting social distancing guidelines. One of the bright spots has been the ability to use the live chat function on Zoom to conduct a social-media style discussion as I ‘livestream’ a video. I told the students at the beginning of the semester that it was just going to be a little wacky, so let’s lean into it. And it helps that one of my classes is on the absurd in world literature and philosophy! Although I can’t wait to have a normal classroom again, I’ve been really impressed with how the students have responded given everything going on in our world right now.”

—ASSISTANT PROFESSOR DUNCAN YOON
COURSES: “FIRST-YEAR INTER-DISCIPLINARY SEMINAR: AFRICA, CHINA, & GLOBALIZATION” AND “THE ABSURD”
FROM KAREN HOLMBERG’S COURSE “NYC COASTLINES: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE,” STUDENTS COLLECT DATA ALONG THE HUDSON RIVER.
Contacts for Parents

Many administrators are working remotely this semester. When reaching out, please use email contacts first. You may also reach out via the general phone number for the Office of Advising at (212) 998-7320.

Associate Dean of Students: Patrick McCreery
212-998-7351 | patrick.mccreery@nyu.edu
Assistant Dean of Advising: Amy Spellacy
212-992-9837 | amy.spellacy@nyu.edu

OFFICE OF ADVISING
Can assist with academic planning, developing a concentration, degree requirements, policies, academic performance, and more.
First Year Class Adviser: Yevgeniya Traps
212-992-9838 | yevgeniya.traps@nyu.edu
Sophomore Class Adviser: Cameron Williams
212-992-9830 | cw1375@nyu.edu
Junior Class Adviser: Irene Morrison-Moncure
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Senior Class Adviser: Malik Walker
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Transfer Class Adviser: Aubrey Korneta
212-998-7356 | alk415@nyu.edu
Transfer Class Adviser: David Sugarman
212-998-7343 | dss368@nyu.edu

OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
Can help provide answers about leaves of absence, school/life balance, housing issues, semester withdrawal, adjusting to college, and more.
Director of Student Affairs: Rahul Hamid
212-992-7750 | rahul.hamid@nyu.edu
Associate Director of Student Affairs: Richard Jung
212-998-1542 | richard.jung@nyu.edu

OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE
Helps students engage in activities and with organizations that expand their academic, social, political, and cultural interests.
Director of Community Engagement and Associate Faculty: Lisa Daily
212-992-6314 | lad421@nyu.edu

Assistant Director of Student Life:
Robert Peñaherrera
212-992-6304 | rrp3@nyu.edu

INTERNSHIPS
Can assist with internship opportunities.
Senior Director of Academic Internships: Nancy Rubino
212-992-8706 | nancy.rubino@nyu.edu
Director of External Programs: Faith Stangler
212-998-7376 | faith.stangler@nyu.edu

OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES
Can assist with registration and financial aid issues.
Director of Student Services:
Sherese Williams-Spencer
212-998-7369 | sherese.williams@nyu.edu

AFFINITY GROUPS are organized around interdisciplinary themes and meant to be primarily social in nature, building communities within and beyond Gallatin by meeting regularly throughout the academic year to discuss pressing issues, host speakers, and visit relevant organizations, museums, parks, or community spaces throughout New York City (in small groups and following NYU health and safety protocols). Students must enroll in affinity groups and they will appear on student transcripts as a zero-credit notation. There are currently five groups being offered for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021: Social Justice, Citizenship, and Human Rights; The Performing Arts in an Unsettled Time; Business, Music, and Media; Identities & Community Action; and Urban Environments, Communities, and Cultures. Groups are open to all Gallatin undergraduate students and are led by Gallatin graduate students. Even if your student didn’t join this fall, there is still plenty of time to sign up! For more information, contact studentlife.gallatin@nyu.edu.