

Hello DePauw first-year student!

My name is Caitlin Neal and I am your first-year mentor! This means that once you get to DePauw you will be grouped with the other students in your first year seminar into one mentor group and I will be leading you all in the orientation process. This involves a few days of activities that will help us all get to know each other and help you get used to college and being at DePauw.

I can speak from experience, making the changes that college requires can seem a daunting and difficult process, but there's no reason it has to be! Right after you unpack we'll start meeting and after orientation we will continue to meet throughout the semester and the rest of the year. Because of this, by the time your classes start you'll already be familiar with campus and some of the people who you'll be living and taking classes with. Having a mentor and a mentor group can make all the difference when it comes to making this transition!

I hope that you're really excited to come to DePauw because there's a lot to look forward to! First and foremost, school is the most important thing about being here, and DePauw students definitely work hard. But that doesn't mean you're not going to have fun! There are so many traditions here like the Monon Bell game (a football game against our rivals Wabash College), Relay for Life, the Little 5 Bike Race, Marvin's Garlic Cheese Burgers, and campus golf (hitting tennis balls with golf clubs at targets around campus). If these things don't sound all that great to you, don't worry because there is definitely something for everyone here. In no time you will be involved in some of the student groups and activities that DePauw is so well known for.

Let me tell you a little bit more about myself. I am from just outside of Detroit Michigan and I am going to be a junior Conflict Studies major with Japanese and Women's Studies minors. Like most DePauw students, I am involved in a lot of organizations. This year I'll be the co-president of both United DePauw (DePauw's LGBTQ group) and FMLA (The Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance). Since I've been at DePauw my involvement in these and many other organizations has really enriched my life, and I know that you will find many activities that will enrich yours! Whether it's with a radio show, a sports team, our environmental club or college democrats, republicans or libertarians, there is something for every student at DePauw.

I hope that my letter has gotten you pumped about coming to DePauw in August! Make sure to enjoy the rest of your summer with your family and high school friends, and make plans to keep in touch during the school year. If you have any questions, or just want to introduce yourself, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me by sending me an e-mail or finding me on facebook. It is my job to help you acclimate to college, so just let me know if there is anything I can do to help!

Can't wait to meet you!

Caitlin V. Neal
caitlinneal_2010@depauw.edu