First Year Events

New Student Orientation
August 27 - August 30, 2006
An intensive four-day orientation program for new students prior to the first day of classes. During the day, students meet with academic advisors to plan fall classes. Evening discussions are focused on diversity and inclusion, alcohol and other substances, and sexual decision making. Students have opportunities to meet members of the faculty and administration and to make friends with other students as they become familiar with their new home.

Fall Convocation
Wednesday, September 6, 2006 * 3:30 PM * Chapel
Fall Convocation is the official culmination of New Student Orientation and the start of Vassar's academic year. Convocation address by Professor of English Robert DeMaria.

William Starr Freshman Course Lecture
Wednesday, September 20, 2006 * 5:30 PM * Chapel
The Class of 2010 summer reading is Shalimar the Clown, by Salman Rushdie. The title of Mr. Rushdie's address is "Step Across This Line."

Freshmen Parents' Weekend
September 30 - October 1, 2006
Invite your parents and family back to Vassar for the weekend to explore the campus and to hear what you've been up to. There will be panel discussions of student and academic life.

The Freshmen 15
May 2, 2007 (following Spring Convocation)
A gathering of first year students, featuring fifteen three-minute reflections on the trials and achievements of the freshmen year. Celebrate your accomplishment through song, dance, and works of art.

Belonging And Community
These Community Conversations bring first year students together to discuss their experiences in defining, belonging, and contributing to the Vassar community. Led by faculty, students and administrators, the dialogues will cover a range of topics and students will learn more about themselves, their peers, and Vassar.

September 20, 2006

Week of October 23, 2006
Altered States: Alcohol and Drugs in Community Context
Altered States is a dialogue session facilitated by Vassar counseling and health staff members held in each house following the completion of the final survey for Alcohol Edu. Students will be encouraged to talk openly about what it's really like to be a new student at Vassar—faced with decisions about alcohol and other drugs and the impact that other students’ use has on the community.

Week of November 13, 2006
Freedom, Not License: Ethical dilemmas in building community in a residential setting.

Week of February 26, 2007
Belonging or Not
Do we choose to belong or are we chosen to belong to a community? This experiential workshop and dialogue will examine aspects of belonging or not belonging. Come prepared to share your thoughts regarding your sense of belonging — or not.

Week of April 16, 2007
The Courage to Change
A wrap-up conversation in the series. Students will receive specific information on times and locations at a later date.

Special Projects

Common Knowledge
"Common Knowledge" is an evolving on-line game designed to challenge some of the cultural and intellectual assumptions we live by. The game, developed by a diverse group of faculty and students, tries to deal with the things that everybody knows but are not necessarily true. Automated responses (opinions, film clips, or links) will also help players find resources when their interest in a particular topic has been sparked. Students will be contacted when the prototype edition is online.

Elements of Leadership
February 6 and 7, 2007 at 6:30 PM
Presenters from Residential Life, Athletics, Campus Activities, and Campus Life will review resources for student leaders, expectations of student leaders, and the typical responsibilities involved in leading an organization or project on campus. Students thinking about assuming or running for a leadership position next year should attend this workshop.

More information on first year resources can be found on the Dean of Freshmen website: http://deanoffreshmen.vassar.edu

You can also contact
the Dean of Freshmen
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or the Campus Life Office
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