



PAULA K. GARRETT, Ph.D.  
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS  
AND DEAN OF THE COLLEGE

June 2, 2008

Dear New Student:

Congratulations on your decision to attend Warren Wilson College; you have decided to join a distinctive Triad Education Program, in a warm, friendly setting of unbelievable natural beauty. We are now planning for your arrival, setting up orientation, preparing your courses, and readying the campus and ourselves to welcome the class of 2012 into our community.

At Warren Wilson, we are proud of our academic programs. We offer a wide-range of courses in some predictable and some less-predictable disciplines, and our courses are taught for a variety of learning styles. You have the opportunity to take courses from many subject areas and to discover the subjects that most interest you, that best match your strengths or best address your weaknesses. You will divide your course work among three basic categories: liberal arts core courses, a major, and electives. Liberal arts area courses are designed to ensure that you develop important skills and a breadth of understanding, making connections across a number of disciplines. Eventually you will select a major which will allow you to make even deeper connections in an academic discipline or an interdisciplinary field. And you will want to take every elective your schedule will allow in order to take advantage of all that the College has to offer.

To begin this exciting academic journey, you will enroll in a course called **First-Year Seminar** in your first semester. The seminar, together with your orientation program, will introduce you to college-level intellectual challenges and provide a transition into Warren Wilson College and its educational programs. In the First-Year Seminar you will have the chance to pursue an academic interest with a small group of students and an instructor who will serve as your academic advisor for your first year here. Your First-Year Seminar need not be in a discipline you intend to pursue. Rather, you should consider the seminar an opportunity to use the lens of liberal arts education for in-depth exploration.

Because this course is an important part of your first semester, I would like to offer you the chance to make choices from among the **First-Year Seminars** offered in 2008-2009. Enclosed you will find a list of the seminars being offered, along with a brief description of each course. Please read the enclosed information and select the **four** seminars that you find most interesting. You will soon be receiving an e-mail message from the Office of Academic Affairs asking that you complete an on-line response form about your seminar preferences. **We urge you to respond to that e-mail with your preferences by June 23, 2008.** We will make every effort to place you in a seminar of your choice, and seminar assignments will be made in priority order of the date your reply arrives in the Office of Academic Affairs. Students who do not reply by June 23 will be assigned to a seminar based on spaces remaining. Once we make the assignments, we will inform you of your course placement and your advisor.

At that time we will also send you a packet including details of the academic requirements within our Triad Education Program and a schedule of courses that are available to first-year students during the fall registration. Once you have learned your First-Year Seminar assignment, we ask that you spend some time drafting a complete schedule of courses, keeping in mind the important Triad components of work and service hours. The time you spend thinking about courses for your first semester will facilitate academic advising and registration for courses in the fall.

Again, I congratulate you on your choice of Warren Wilson College. Your time here will be the chance of a lifetime. I look forward to meeting you and further introducing you to the academic programs at Warren Wilson College.

Sincerely,

Paula K. Garrett