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Titansition

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Titansition

Hello Class of 2018 and our new transfer students! It is a pleasure to finally make your acquaintance! My name is Austin Aldag, and I am your Student Senate President, and on behalf of the Illinois Wesleyan University Student Senate I want to warmly welcome you to **YOUR** new home for the next important phase of your life. I am both thrilled and honored to call each and every one of you not only my friend but my colleague. I look forward to meeting you all and learning about the elevated levels of both talent and potential that you possess. I also hope you are all enjoying your first real day of being a “Titan” on our campus, socializing with your newly found friend that will surely last a lifetime, moving into the various residents halls, and I anticipate that you are looking forward to the whirlwind of events this week for what we call “Turning Titan.” Now the transition to college is a monumental milestone in one’s life, and I know this has been on your minds all summer long.... But the time has finally come!

I am well aware of the feelings you are all experiencing at this moment. I can vividly recall when I was sitting in your seats two short years ago, and wow does time truly move quickly when you are having fun! Though, at least for me personally, it was rather difficult to pay much attention to this ceremony. This was due to my head being utterly filled to the brim with the feelings of anticipation and eagerness to get started on this abstract thing that people called “college.” Paired with this was me taking part in an excess amount of internal inquiry of what laid ahead in my near future. I can still remember many of the questions

I had to this day:

- Who are my friends going to be?
- Will I actually be able to live with my roommate day in and day out?
- Is the freshman 15 a real thing?
- Wait...what is this summer reading book that everyone keeps talking about?
 - (Hole up book) And I am willing to loan mine out to whoever gets to me first
- Are 8am classes really as awful as event portrays them to be?

Though these are just a trivial subset of the ones I thought that day, and I am confident that there are many more running through all your minds at this very moment.

I am not one to sugar coat things ...(take a short pause)... times of transition can be difficult. They may, at least at times, appear to be upsetting, intimidating, and will surely push you out of your comfort zone, but that is okay. We all know that if it came without any obstacles or challenges it truly would not be worth it. The 7th Vice-President, and a man that would be a fantastic hair product model, John C. Calhoun illustrated times of transition in his 1851 work entitled *A Disquisition on Government* as the following:

“The interval between the decay of the old and the formation and establishment of the new constitutes a period of transition which much always necessarily be one of uncertainty, confusion, error, and wild and fierce fanaticism”¹

Nevertheless, do not let this alarm you in the least. That is not my goal. Know that your previous activities and behaviors that you came to know in high school and/or other institutions, such as study habits, volunteering, or working to make a living, have more than prepared you to take on Illinois Wesleyan University head-on.

Anecdotally, participation in a high school sport can point you in the direction of leading a team here at IWU. Correspondingly, leadership learned in student councils or other organizations can easily transition you to become a student leader here on campus; which may take the form of Student Senate, one of our 100 Registered Student Organization. Or these past experiences may even lead you to start something new and innovative that our campus has never seen before. And let us not ignore academic excellence.

As you transition into Illinois Wesleyan, know that the path you take is entirely your own making, and the possibilities are endless.

With keeping all of that bared in mind, welcome to your new home at I-W-U, and I cannot wait to see all of your successes both on campus and off!

Thank you!

¹ John C. Calhoun. *A Disquisition on Government* (1851), p. 90.