



9-19-2015

## The IWU Family

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### Recommended Citation

Thaker, Jake, "The IWU Family" (2015). *Remarks and Messages*. 7.  
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September 19, 2015

## The IWU Family

It's my pleasure to provide the student remarks for this year's Family Weekend. When I was thinking about what comments to make, I had to first deal with the issue of what family weekend was for. Is it for getting extra hands to help with laundry? Is it for getting a free meal or two with people you already know? Of course not (even though this is sometimes on the hearts and minds of our students)! As the name suggests, the weekend is truly devoted to family. It's a time for our families at home to meet our families at school--our IWU family--and we really are a family here. All members are accounted for, I assure you.

We all have that one friend who forces you to take ibuprofen when you're feeling sick. Then, they yell at you for not taking care of yourself. This person is mom. There's also that friend who yells at you for not doing homework. Why are they disciplining you? You know what you did wrong! That's dad. Then there's that friend who wants to play video games and wake up late for class. That's your little brother. That friend who loves to watch the bunnies and squirrels on the quad and pet every dog within sight? That's your little sister! Speaking of animals, every confused, hungry, cross eyed squirrel on the quad is our pet at home.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that we've substituted you and don't want to go home. We still need home cooked meals. And of course, your guidance, care, and love.

And for those moments when you wait for your student to call or text home and they don't? I promise you, your student is either working diligently at the library on homework, participating in a club meeting, playing music or a sport, trying a new hobby, or meeting with friends and new people. Your student is working *extremely* hard to realize their dreams, learn about the world, and make you proud. That's all they want to do.

Welcome again, to our family, and to family weekend 2015!