Dear Parents and Families,

The annual tradition of Dooley’s Week has come and gone, which means finals are just around the corner followed closely by the promise of summer. While this can be a time of great excitement for many, it can also be a time of stress and anxiety for our students. There are many resources available on campus for students to turn to if they need help, including Student Health and Counseling Services.

In this issue, we spotlight Student Intervention Services (SIS), a dedicated team of professionals who work with students facing a variety of problems to help get them back on track. Their slogan, “You matter. We Care.” communicates their commitment to helping students flourish.

For the Class of 2014, graduation is fast-approaching. It’s hard to believe that the four years since they first arrived on campus have passed so quickly. During their time here, they have accomplished many great things. If you will be on campus for commencement, we do hope that you will join us at the Division of Campus Life Brunch on Sunday, May 11th in the DUC Commons from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm.

All the best,

Andy Wilson, PhD
Senior Associate Dean for External Relations
Division of Campus Life

Student Spotlight: Samantha “Sammie” Scott 15C

Important Dates: Spring Term Exam Period 4/29-5/9; Oxford Campus Commencement 5/10; Campus Life Commencement Brunch 5/10; Atlanta Campus Commencement 5/12; Residence Halls close at 2 pm 5/13
Resource Highlight: Student Intervention Services (SIS)

Student Intervention Services, or the SIS team, arrived on campus this past fall as a new initiative of the Division of Campus Life. The team’s purpose is simple yet challenging: to help students in need. Carolyn H. Livingston, PhD and Senior Associate Vice President for Campus Life (pictured above), who chairs the SIS Team, explains, “Everyone goes through challenges, and we’re here to help with that no matter how big or small those challenges may be.”

Replacing the former Crisis Management Team, the SIS Team can assist students facing a variety of issues, ranging from financial need, to mental health issues, substance abuse, classroom issues, and beyond. In the past, crisis management was fragmented and left to a few people who were not always able to follow up with students in need. The SIS team has dedicated members who serve on a 24 hour a day/7 day a week rotation. Additionally, the Division has brought on a case manager to help maintain the cases throughout the week. The team also collaborates with faculty and staff across the university.

Member of the SIS team, Jeff Tate, Assistant Director, Residence Life & Housing, says, “The most rewarding aspect of working with the SIS team has been working with students who I possibly would have never met and helping them through a tough time and hopefully getting them back on track so they can be successful at Emory.” He also notes the high level of collaboration that takes place in the work the team does, “[The SIS team] gives you a totally different type of opportunity to interact with students and it is also a great way to build new relationships with staff and faculty across campus.”

Since its inception, the SIS team has been very busy, already working on over a 130 cases prior to Spring Break. Case Manager Adrienne Slaughter says, “Students come to the university in search for academics but also independence. It can be challenging navigating peer pressure, academic pressure, and family expectations.” She finds the most rewarding aspect of her position is helping a student navigate those pressures and discover his or her best self.

In addition to Tate and Slaughter, the team consists of Jonathan Duke, Associate Director, Dobbs University Center; Kayla Hamilton, Associate Director, Residence Life and Housing; Natasha Hopkins, Assistant Director, Office of Student Leadership and Service; Lauren Jacob, Associate Director, Barkley Forum; Andre Moore, Club Sports Coordinator, Athletics and Recreation; Liana Smith, Assistant Director, The Career Center; and M. DeLa Sweeney, Assistant Director, Office of Multicultural Programs and Services. All of the members serve a two-year team that includes training for suicide prevention, sexual assault, disability services, counseling, and academic programming.

The team’s motto is “You matter. We care,” and their work has been paying off in the form of letters of thanks from students and families. But the biggest reward for their work is seeing a student get back on track and succeed.

For more information about Student Intervention Services, including how to make a referral, visit http://www.emory.edu/CAMPUS_LIFE/sis/.
Student Spotlight: Samantha “Sammie” Scott 15C

Edison, NJ
Sociology major, Media Studies minor

Throughout the college application process, Sammie Scott had an instinct that there was just something “right” about Emory. She didn’t visit the campus, but once she arrived at Emory, her feeling was confirmed. She was in the right place, a place she now sees as home.

Since her arrival, she has been actively involved on campus. Scott joined Black Star Magazine as a fashion writer and Arts and Entertainment Editor during freshman year, and now she oversees the magazine as Editor-in-Chief. She is a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority, the Black Student Alliance, and AHANA A Cappella. She also works as a resident advisor in Dobbs Hall.

Scott is passionate about social justice and is dedicated to improving the Emory community. She serves on the advisory board of the Emory Black Student Union (EBSU). New this academic year, the EBSU is a space dedicated to the affirmation of black communities at Emory. Further, Scott is a participant in Advocates for Racial Justice, and she is a Vision in Action Fellow with the Office of Student Leadership and Service.

For her, this work has been the most fulfilling work she has been a part of at Emory. She says that her biggest accomplishment thus far is “learning how to create and maintain spaces of support and affirmation that are dedicated to the black communities at Emory and beyond.” Regarding how her time at Emory has changed her, she says, “I've learned how to better-advocate for myself and others. [I’ve learned] to show that those who are marginalized have, and have always had, a voice.”

Though she still has one year of her undergraduate career left, Scott already has clear goals for her life after graduation. She plans to pursue a career in Public Relations and Communications, focusing specifically on social and digital media in the fashion industry. She also plans to pursue an MBA.
EMORY STUDENTS ARE LEADERS on campus and in service to the greater community, with 90 percent regularly participating in volunteer activities. Ajay Nair, senior vice president and dean of campus life, is committed to providing these experiences by developing one of the strongest student life programs in the country. Make your gift today to the Campus Life Fund for Excellence and create opportunities outside of the classroom that shape students’ character and expand their horizons.