

April 19, 2007

Dear Parent:

I write to express to you my profound sadness at the shooting rampage at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute earlier this week. At times like this we can only turn to our faith in God and seek the support of one another to give us a new hope that the many affected individuals and communities will be able to embark on the deep process of healing.

Incidents like this, regardless of how far away they may seem, bring all of us in higher education closer together to face the real sorrow and horror of the events. Further, these incidents also serve as notice for us who are dedicated to the work of student affairs to again express our support for you, and our students. To that end, I have asked our Director of Public Safety and other appropriate departments to conduct a review of our procedures and practices. Additionally, all staff have been asked to remain vigilant to individuals who may be struggling unsuccessfully with the pressures of life in order for appropriate interventions to be taken.

As we move to the end of the semester, with exams, papers and seemingly endless tasks on the horizon, take some time to assess your student's well being. I encourage you to remain familiar with the resources of the University to support your student. The University's web site [www.shu.edu](http://www.shu.edu) provides a full listing of office contact and program information. If you are in need, reach out to someone today. You are always welcome to contact the Department of Public Safety at 973 761-9300 or the Dean of Students Office at 973 761-9076 with questions and concerns.

Let us take this opportunity from the tragic events at Virginia Tech to be reminded about how fragile and sacred life is and to take that extra step to care for ourselves and one another. I wish you all a happy reunion with your student as the end of the semester approaches.

Sincerely yours,

Laura A. Wankel, Ed.D.  
Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Services