



# A Letter from Your University

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*By Jim Sayer, Dean*

**August 22, 2009**

Greetings from your almost-completely renovated Lake Campus!

In just over a week, we'll have our Orientation sessions for our new students on September 1, 2 & 3, then we'll start our fall quarter on Tuesday, September 8, right after Labor Day. This summer has just flown by.

Our Grand Lake Law Enforcement Academy started on August 10 with 20 cadets enrolled in this Lake Campus program. This academy will be of great benefit to area law enforcement agencies, providing professional instruction right here at home.

And last night we celebrated the "hooding" of our ninth cohort of Master's of Business Administration (MBA) graduates! Thanks to the hospitality of our friends at New Bremen High School, we were able to use their auditorium for the ceremony because of our not-yet-completed Dicke Hall on campus.

Sixteen individuals received their MBAs, outstanding MBA alumna Diane Pleiman gave the keynote address, and I was joined by Dean Berkwood Farmer of the Raj Sojn College of Business in handing out the diplomas. It was a great night to celebrate the sacrifice these students — many of them working adults with families — made to achieve their graduate degree.

## **HAPPENINGS AT THE LAKE**

With the start of the new academic year, there are lots of things planned for the first couple of months.

For example, on September 2, we shall have the formal dedication of our revamped Business Enterprise Center in Trenary Hall. This facility, which provides training for area companies and individuals, will also prove to be an important asset to our new bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. That degree program starts in September with a cohort of engineers-to-be.

At the September 2 event, the BEC will be dedicated to the efforts of Dr. Thomas Knapke, former dean of our Lake Campus and current development officer of the Western Ohio Education Foundation. Tom was responsible years ago for the creation of the Small Business Development Center, the forerunner of the BEC, so it is most appropriate that Tom be recognized for his many years of service to our area's businesses. If there is one person who should receive credit for the growth of the Lake Campus, it is Tom Knapke. So, a commemorative plaque in Trenary Hall is the least we can do to honor his service.

Then, things really go into high gear the with the start of fall quarter. This will be the start of my fortieth year in higher education, and, as I look back to my start in 1969, it is somewhat amazing to see how the face of higher education has changed.

'Way back then, I taught using chalkboards, and I usually came out of class with white powder all over my clothes. I looked like the Pillsbury Doughboy without quite the expansive gut. Today, chalkboards have been replaced with whiteboards, which, I suppose, is a type of progress, but I like chalkboards better. Guess I'm showing my age.

Forty years ago, students came to class with notebooks and pencils. Today, some still do, but most come carrying their own laptops. It is weird seeing students typing their notes — at least I hope that's what they're typing!

Even with those changes, I still get pumped up for the start of the new year, even though this year's freshmen were born in 1990 and 1991! They're ten years younger than my youngest child! That really opens my eyes.

The campus project is coming together, we have a very large entering freshman class, and my cats are knocking down three bowls of food a day.

Hey, it's great at the Lake!

