



A Letter from Your University

By Jim Sayer, Dean

September 5, 2009

Greetings from your renovated Lake Campus!

Well, it is just about showtime! In three days we'll start our fall quarter, and our renovated facilities are ready for the onslaught of many hundreds of both returning and new students. People who have not been here since May simply won't believe the incredible transformation of the campus in such a short period of time.

While I like the entire renovation, my favorite parts are the hallways in both Dwyer and Andrews Halls. Before, they were dark and tunnel-like. Now, they are very bright and welcoming. The new paint, light fixtures, and flooring make the halls appear to be wider, but they are just the same width as before. They just look bigger, and, boy, are they fun to walk through.

If you cannot wait for our official grand opening on October 1, you are more than welcome to drop by your Lake Campus and look around. You'll see a snazzy facility that has moved from the 1970s to the 21st century.

As our renovation and expansion project comes to an end, I want to tell you how proud I am of our faculty, staff and students. Throughout 13 months of noise, dust, and spatial dislocation, everyone maintained their senses of humor, managing to work effectively in the midst of chaos. Even when we had to be creative in developing a seven-week term for the spring quarter, everybody took it in stride.

And I should mention how great our contractors have been. The folks from Brumbaugh Construction, C&J Electric, and Ohio Plumbing & Heating have been very accommodating. Unlike building something from scratch with nobody around, those folks had to work while many hundreds of people were engaged in the teaching/research/learning processes. They kept the distractions to a minimum, allowing us to operate as close to normal as possible.

HAPPENINGS AT THE LAKE

This past week, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, we hosted our annual Orientation sessions for students and their parents to get everyone ready for the start of classes next week. The turnout for those sessions was just short of phenomenal. We had nearly 250 people here those three days, and they received academic information, took tours of our facility, and received their final preparations for the start of classes.

The orientation sessions went well because of the strong organizational efforts of Ms. Gretchen Rentz, who orchestrated the events. People were moving from information sessions, to tours, to refreshments, all beautifully choreographed to handle large numbers of people smoothly. Gretchen just completed her MBA degree here at the Lake Campus, and she certainly demonstrated her management and organizational skills. Now you know why I'm proud to have Gretchen part of our Student Services staff, for she goes that extra mile to serve our students.

Ten days from now I shall have the pleasure of going to WSU Dayton to attend the annual Faculty Awards Ceremony, wherein certain outstanding faculty from throughout the University will be recognized for their professional accomplishments. Happily, another Lake Campus faculty member is receiving such recognition this year.

Dr. David Wilson, Associate Professor of English, will receive the "Early Career Achievement Award" in recognition of his great publication record since completing his doctoral degree. David has been very successful in getting many papers and books published in just a few years. He is an excellent example of the truly outstanding faculty we have here.

Our great new revamped facility is ready to go, our faculty and staff are fired-up for the start of a new academic year, and my cats are going through three bowls of food a day! Those cats completely agree that it's great at the Lake!

