



A Letter from Your University

By Jim Sayer, Dean

September 19, 2009

Greetings from your rockin' Lake Campus!

We started fall quarter with the largest number of students ever in Lake Campus history, as over 1350 students are registered for classes this term. We are enjoying the sight of full classes throughout the campus, and the buzz and excitement level is unbelievably high because of the presence of so many students. It's great!

I really enjoy the start of a new school year because of the new first-time students, young people who just finished high school this past spring. They are so excited to be transitioning to college life with new responsibilities and new perspectives on their futures. The only thing they have to worry about is the dreaded "freshman 15."

HAPPENINGS AT THE LAKE CAMPUS

One of the newest innovations this year has been the addition of classes toward the four-year bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, something that area companies and businesses have told me this area needs. So, in response, we have added two classes this fall, and we have 20 future MEs enrolled.

Importantly, this is the very same program as that offered at the Dayton branch, so our graduates will be up to speed with other graduates from both WSU Dayton's and other universities' ME programs.

WE GAVE OUT BIG BUCKS!

On Sunday, September 13, we hosted our annual Western Ohio Education Foundation Scholarship Ceremony, wherein nearly \$240,000 was distributed to Lake Campus students to help further their education.

This is an all-time high amount, and the WOEF Board, plus Development Officer Dr. Tom Knapke, works constantly to raise scholarship monies to help area students. Without the great support of many area companies, individuals, and social groups, we could never offer that amount of scholarship support, but they realize an investment in students today will pay big dividends for all of us tomorrow.

Students are very thankful for this aid, because the cost of higher education is not cheap. Granted, our tuition and fees are very low, just a tad over \$5000 a year, but that still is a good chunk of change. So, any scholarship support really helps.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

On October 1, less than two weeks from now, we'll be hosting our Open House from 4-8 p.m. to officially celebrate the completion of our \$9 million renovation and expansion project.

A brief program (let me emphasize "brief") kicks it off, followed by guided tours of your new Lake Campus. We'll have snacks, and I'll resist the temptation to break a Pepsi bottle on our new Dicke Center wall.

And our next project: building student apartments! I know that lots of students would love to live on our park-like campus, and I know that some parents also would love to see their kids move out of the house!

So, we are busily engaged in that effort, and, if things fall correctly into place, we'll have some residences ready for occupancy next fall.

ART:21 IS COMING!

The Lake Campus, in conjunction with Arts Place, the College Community Arts Council and St. Marys Community Public Library, will offer the opportunity to see the PBS series *Art:21—Art in the Twenty-First Century*. The first episode, "Compassion," will be presented at our Lake Campus on Tuesday, September 29, 6:00 p.m., 229 Dwyer Hall. Stay tuned for more arts in our new facility!

I hope to see you for our grand re-opening on October 1! We're making it a true community event — so, come out and look around.

School's back in session, our campus looks beautiful, we have more students than ever before, and somehow two more cats showed up. It's great at the Lake!

