



A Letter from Your University

By Jim Sayer, Dean

October 31 2009

Greetings from your beautiful Lake Campus!
And Happy Halloween!

If you like historical trivia, and as I get older I can identify with historical trivia, you might remember that there was a major international flu pandemic right near the end of the First World War. Termed the "Spanish flu," although the strain apparently started in Kansas, it killed many millions of people throughout the world. By Halloween 1918, this country was ravaged by the disease, ultimately killing over 500,000 Americans.

That might keep the current furor about H1N1 in perspective. As I write this, there have been no confirmed cases at your Lake Campus, so let's hope that luck lasts through this flu season.

And this also is the 71st anniversary of the famous "War of the Worlds" radio broadcast. That was the radio play done in a news broadcast format that convinced millions of Americans that we had been invaded by Martians.

HAPPENINGS AT THE LAKE

As we wrap up October and head into the home stretch of this fall quarter, we look back at two great events at the campus that allowed us to celebrate the completion of our construction project. Our Grand Re-Opening attracted almost 800 folks to campus to see how different and beautiful your Lake Campus now looks. And on October 9, the WSU Board of Trustees held its meeting in our new Dicke Hall. Those trustees, plus other visitors from the Dayton branch, were equally impressed with the changes we've made.

In addition to our major construction project, we've also made significant changes to our Learning Center in Trenary Hall. Formerly known as our library, our Learning Center has cleared-out hundreds of old, outdated books and opened up a lot of space for study and small-group meetings. In addition, we've

installed 12 new computers in the Center, bringing our total in that new space to 16 for students to use for research and writing.

So, instead of trying to study or use their laptops in our noisy cafeteria, where people are eating and playing ping-pong and pool, students now can enjoy the comfort and quiet of our Learning Center. We still have lots of books, journals, and periodicals, but the open space and new technology should prove to be of great benefit to our busy students.

Coming Up: Next Tuesday, November 3, author Robert Miltner will be in the area, doing readings at the Lake Campus at noon, then at St. Marys Community Library at 7:15 that evening. These readings are sponsored by the Lake Campus English Department, by the College Community Arts Council, with support from the Ohio Arts Council, and by the St. Marys Community Library.

And on November 13, the Lake Campus will host its Junior Scholars Program for area high school students. Sponsored also by the College Community Arts Council, this program will feature a cycle of poetry workshops delivered by four widely-published poets. Students are selected to participate in this honors symposium through their high schools.

For more information about these and other College Community Arts Council programs, check out their Web site: www.lakeccac.com.

As in the past we're offering a number of Intersession courses this year in the period between the end of fall quarter and the start of the winter term. These classes are a great way to grab a few more credits. As with our regular winter quarter classes, you may sign up for our Intersession courses online without having to come to campus.

My cats are eating like mad, trying to bulk-up for the winter, and there has been no broadcast of alien invasion. Even on Halloween, it's great at the Lake!

