Our long-awaited summer is finally here! After a chilly spring, the late-June rapid launch into more seasonal temperatures was not only good for the garden - it also did wonders for the soul!

For many faculty members, summer can be a wonderful time of year to tackle those things that build up over the academic year when the daily schedule of classes absorbs most of our time. For others, it may be an ideal time to focus on research, visit field camps, complete articles, or travel afar to pursue additional research.

Many of our faculty members stay right here through the summer teaching classes to a wide range of students: graduate students in intensive summer courses; undergraduates trying to maximize their time in their program or get additional classes; summer language students from our own community brushing up on their second language skills; and students arriving from international destinations for immersion experiences or to study English as a Second Language.

Over the weeks ahead, hundreds of young people will come onto campus for the summer camps we offer to the community. Programs like the Summer Sports School or the Educating Youth in Engineering & Science (EYES) camps help introduce a new generation of future students to our University environment, and provide educational opportunities in unique, fun and creative ways.

At the same time, we also host many guests, nationally and internationally, at conferences that are either sponsored by the University or which use our conference and residence services. We are proud to welcome our guests to our beautiful campus, and hope they feel at home while they’re here.

For many of our staff, summer is a time to prepare for the fall launch of new initiatives. With our focus in the past year on several major activities such as Strategic Planning, Strategic Enrolment Management, and Branding, the coming fall will be the time to put plans into action. Summer gives us the opportunity to put all the pieces in place to ensure successful implementation. This is also a time when our Facilities Management team undertakes additional maintenance projects in and around our buildings, such as lab upgrades and other improvements, adding to the hub and buzz of activity in the corridors.

There is no question that our University is a year-round operation and a thriving and dynamic environment, even in the summer. Despite this, summer is also a time to refresh and take a break, to spend time with family and friends, perhaps exploring our province, our country or other countries. I remember "road trips" taken with my own family as the source of lifelong memories and enjoyment. And if your summer travels take you only as far as a good book in your own backyard, or watering and weeding the flowers and vegetables, any time occupied "tending the garden" is always time well spent!

Enjoy every moment. We will talk again in September.