

Message from the President – October 2008

As the excitement of September settles into the regular pace and schedule of the academic year, we may now have time to look up and see more clearly the community around us. Our students notice more closely other students and their professors, and get to know more about each other through conversation in the classroom, labs and hallways. Professors are also learning more about their students, challenging them to think in new and different ways. Our faculty share and discover knowledge and ideas with new and returning colleagues in their own and other disciplines. Many of our paths cross in the daily operations and administration of the University so well managed by the hundreds of employees who work here.

With close to 12,000 students, over 50,000 alumni and 1,430 faculty and staff, the University of Regina is in itself a community that resides within a greater community. Off campus, we meet each other in curling clubs or walking in the park, at Rams, Cougars, Pats and Riders games, in coffee shops and grocery stores, at churches and art galleries, and at our children's schools and activities.

Although we call ourselves a community, it is important that we also **view** ourselves as a community – an inclusive group of people who connect with and support each other. This has to be a conscious effort, because it is easy to become isolated, focus on our own area and lose a sense of the connections we have around us.

Community is the theme for my October 18 installation, which takes place as part of Fall Convocation. Convocation is a time for the entire University community to join with our graduates' families to celebrate the achievements of our students. Throughout their time at the University of Regina, our graduating students have shown a tremendous amount of hard work, dedication and sacrifice, all of which culminate with their convocation. My hope is that as they begin their careers, our graduates continue to view the University of Regina as their community, maintain their connection to us, and recognize that we have a shared responsibility to serve our greater community.

The two weeks surrounding convocation are filled with activities that highlight the University's motto, "As One Who Serves." Presented under the theme, "Greater Together with the Community," these activities will showcase the amazing diversity of our campus and rich activities in which our faculty, staff and students are engaged. I plan to attend every event if possible, and it is my hope that faculty, staff, students and members of the public also take this opportunity to attend a few events.

Please watch for posters around campus advertising these events, or take some time to review the [calendar listing online](#).

When you see me at any of these events – or anytime, for that matter – please introduce yourself to me. I also encourage you to drop me a note later at greatertogether@uregina.ca to let me know what you thought of the celebration. I appreciate the feedback and want to know more about your ideas for building community both within the University of Regina and together with the city of Regina, the province, and those outside our province and country.

I am thrilled to be part of this amazing university and look forward to seeing it grow and prosper with your support and active involvement. We can only be “great” together, and we need to foster the connections that will allow us to build a strong and inclusive community.