

Message from the President – September 2008

Welcome to the start of the new school year at the University of Regina! Welcome to our new and returning students, faculty and staff. We have an exciting time ahead and I am pleased and grateful to be here, as I begin my new position as President of your university. I came to Regina and the U of R only a few months ago, but in the short time I have been here I have learned that it is a dynamic university in a wonderful and welcoming community.

If you are new to our campus and to Regina, welcome to your new home! You should know that you have chosen to study or work in an environment that is friendly, supportive and innovative. While your first days and weeks on campus may feel a bit overwhelming, they will be exciting as well! I know we share much of the same excitement and optimism – mixed with a touch of nervous anticipation as well.

To our new and returning students in particular, over the next few weeks you will quickly become acquainted, and reacquainted, with the rigours of coursework – assignments, essays, labs and exams. While it's sometimes difficult to see the light at the end of the tunnel when you're focused on immediate tasks and deadlines, never lose sight of the bigger picture. Regardless of your area of study you are receiving the best possible training to become a citizen of the world. You are learning to think critically. You are learning to express yourself freely, creatively, and with conviction. You are satisfying your intellectual curiosity. And by expanding your knowledge, skills and understanding, you are preparing yourself well for the career of your choice.

This is a wonderful time of year, of new beginnings for many and also of transition following the summer. If you are a new student, you may have spent the last few months experiencing your first job. If you are a parent, you may be sending your children off to school or returning to school yourself as an adult learner. Many of us have spent the summer visiting with family in other parts of the country, or welcoming others into our homes. A number of our faculty members have been busy with fieldwork or research in other parts of Canada and the world, or teaching summer classes. Like me, many of you were busy moving family and home. Some have come from afar, changing not only city but country to come to the University of Regina. And some of you are experiencing the transition from smaller rural communities to a larger city. Transition was also evident on campus over the summer, with repairs, renovations and upgrades underway in anticipation of the school year. Staff worked diligently to ensure our technical and administrative systems and processes are ready to support program delivery throughout the year.

In this time of new beginnings and transition, regardless of how we arrive at the University of Regina it is important to know that we work and learn in a community of people. Through our interactions we develop the bonds that strengthen our community. As individuals in a scholarly community, we contribute our passion, knowledge, and expertise to the greater goal of the University: to advance, share and apply knowledge; and to develop thoughtful, creative, adaptable, contributing and humane

citizens. We share a large vision, but it is one that I know we will continue to achieve together. I have no doubt that we are greater together.

I look forward to meeting and listening to many of you in the coming weeks and months, and to building strong relationships within our campus and in our city and province. I invite each of you to participate in, benefit from and contribute to all that this community has to offer as you reach for your own personal, academic, and professional goals.