

President's Message – August 2013

When I'm out in the community, people sometimes say to me, "It must be quiet at the University over the summer." I'm always caught off guard by that comment, because the University is bustling with activity over the warmer months.

In some ways, I can see why people might think it is quiet on campus right now. It's true that there aren't as many students here as there were at the end of the Winter semester, or will be in September. But there is still a lot going on at the University over the summer, in part because our new academic year doesn't start in September as many people believe. The 2013-14 academic year has ALREADY started, as it does in May every year.

Since May, there has been a great deal of activity on many fronts. A large number of our faculty members, for example, have been busy teaching spring and summer classes, supervising graduate students, and doing other work in the community. Many have been preparing for their upcoming fall and winter courses, as well as conducting research on campus, in the library and in the lab. Some have been doing fieldwork in Saskatchewan, and in some cases, around the world.

ESL classes have continued to be delivered throughout the summer months for students who come to the University of Regina from around the world. For other units like Enrolment Services, the Registrar's Office and Residence Services, this can be one of the busiest times of year. As we move through August, the pace around the University only increases as students arrive on campus to finalize their applications, sort out their classes and do other things such as coordinate their move into one of our student residences.

Since late April, there has been ongoing activity associated with the construction of the new residence and day care facility east of the Language Institute. Currently, two giant construction cranes dominate the northeast side of campus as a testament to the scale of the project. This construction project will have a significant impact on our campus, and I wish to thank everyone for their patience as the project continues. When completed in 2015, the complex will house a 605-bed residence, a 150-stall parkade and a 90-space day care facility. The residence will go a long way toward meeting demand for on-campus student accommodations – something which is critical to student recruitment and retention.

On most summer days, Wascana Centre Authority personnel can be seen actively tending to the lawns, flower gardens, trees and shrubs in and around the University. Wascana Centre Authority are the administrators and maintainers of the grounds on which the University campus is located, and they are responsible for the beautiful park-like setting in which members of the University community study, work and even live. And of course, Facilities Management staff have remained busy with repairs and enhancements in and around our buildings to ensure that we are prepared for the influx of students who will be on campus beginning in late August and early September.

Other plans are already in place for when those students arrive. One of the major undertakings by University staff at this time of year is preparation for new student orientation, which takes a

lot of effort and is a focal point for late summer campus events. There is a new focus this year to make orientation and welcome week even more dynamic, fun and integrated.

To that end, I would like to ask you to consider taking an active role in orientation by volunteering at one or more of the events. We can all help our new students begin their academic experience on our campus in the most positive way possible.

Here are just a few of the things in which you can get involved. August 31 is residence move-in day. Why not consider volunteering to help welcome our new students as they move into our campus residences? Whatever you find yourself doing – unloading vehicles, signing out telephone and Internet cords, or greeting families – your contributions will be greatly appreciated and help our new students feel at home.

Mark your calendars for September 1-2 as welcome weekend kicks off. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved and have a great time over those days, including watching a Rider game with students in the Owl, or cooking S'Mores on the Academic Green at our welcome party.

Then, on September 3, it's Orientation Day, where we could use your help to host a session or transport students to different events. This is a great opportunity to welcome students, share their enthusiasm, and build on the momentum we've had on campus all summer long.

You can find the complete schedule of welcome week events [here](#). If you are interested in helping out, please click the following link to the [volunteer registration form](#). Or, if you prefer, email the Student Success office at ambassadors@uregina.ca or contact them by phone at 306-585-4076. The more volunteers, the better!

As you can see, the past few months have been an eventful time at the University of Regina. As summer winds down and anticipation heightens for the start of a new semester, I want to thank you for everything you have already done in this academic year. Please take the time to enjoy the rest of the summer – even busier times are just around the corner!

Sincerely,

Dr. Vianne Timmons,
President and Vice-Chancellor