

President's Message – September 2017

Welcome to another academic year! I hope you had the opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends over the summer. For my part, I was able to be with my mother-in-law as she celebrated her 100th birthday in early August. She is a caring and hard-working woman who raised 10 children, and her zest for life continues to be an inspiration to me.

I also hope that you are as excited about this academic year as I am. Seeing the looks of excitement and anticipation on the faces of new and returning students is something I could never get tired of – and we'll see those looks a lot over the next two days as faculty and staff help students move into residence!

For returning students, it's back to the familiar. For new students, their post-secondary education journey starts now, and in the days and weeks ahead they will tackle a number of firsts – finding their way to their first class, handing in their first paper (on time!), and for many, discovering their voice for the first time.

Students who feel at home are far more likely to realize success, not only during their first days on campus, but also throughout their academic careers. That is why it is vital that we, as faculty and staff, make each and every student feel welcome and supported.

We have an excellent track record when it comes to supporting our students, but we should always remain on the lookout for those students who need help and are reluctant to ask. Please share with them – and with ANY student when the opportunity presents itself – that access to counselling services, writing support, employment on campus or any number of other support services, is just a mouse click away on our [website](#). And of course, the Student Affairs Office in the Riddell Centre can always be a first stop for a student who needs to speak with someone in person to discuss what supports are available.

A surefire way to feel part of the University community is to attend some of the many University events that will be taking place this year. There are always public lectures and cultural events like music and theatre performances, so I encourage you to take some time each week to check the events calendar, which is located [here](#).

You might also think about cheering on one of our incredible sports teams. I'll be doing just that at tonight's Rams' season opener at the new Mosaic Stadium, and I hope to see many of you there. Here's my challenge to you: if you have never seen one of our athletics teams in action, you should attend a game this semester. Cougars and Rams schedules can be found at www.reginacougars.com, and tickets are always reasonably priced. And of course, students can attend for free!

Also, be sure to save the date for the 8th Annual President's Breakfast for Athletics (Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 7:00 a.m. at the Queensbury Centre). This year, Ben Hebert, Olympic gold medalist and three-time winner of the Tim Hortons Brier, will be the featured speaker.

Last year's 900 guests contributed more than \$150,000 toward scholarships and athletic program enhancements. Funds raised each year are matched by the President's Office to a maximum of \$100,000, so by attending you can double the impact you have on the lives of our student-athletes.

Anyone purchasing a ticket (\$100 each or a table of eight for \$800) can earmark their donation toward all teams or to an individual program. Tickets and sponsorship packages can be purchased [online](#) or by contacting Jill Fulton at 585-4018 or jill.fulton@uregina.ca.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of a big change taking place on our campus today. In our ongoing pursuit to make our University the healthiest in Canada, we are continuing to move toward a smoke-free campus. More about this, as well as information about available smoking cessation programs, may be found [here](#).

In the days ahead, our campus will be teeming with activity as students return and classes start. It's a busy time for all of us, but it's also a rewarding one, because what better work can there be than helping our students become our next generation of leaders?

Thank you for the contributions you make toward student success, and here's to a great start to another academic year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vianne Timmons
President and Vice-Chancellor

P.S. If you haven't already done so, be sure to follow the University on [Twitter](#) and "friend" us on [Facebook](#). You can also follow me on Twitter at [@vianne_timmons](#).