Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the new academic year! There is no better time at a university than the beginning of the fall semester. With renewed energy, ideas are popping around in our heads, new faces appear on campus, and enthusiasm abounds. So let’s enjoy it before the usual doses of reality set in during the second half of the semester.

You will note some changes in the leadership of the university. Greg Eastwood officially became the interim president on June 2. Already he has demonstrated an openness that bodes well as we proceed with advancement of our goals. Gerry Korngold stepped down from the dean position at law after nine years in the position, and Gary Simson assumed the deanship on July 1. Gary comes to us from Cornell, where he was professor and associate dean for academic affairs and associate dean for faculty development.

There are transitions occurring in leadership at four schools: arts and sciences, engineering, management, and medicine. Bob Savinell, dean of engineering, announced his resignation from the dean’s position effective January 1, 2007; he will remain on the faculty of chemical engineering. Mark Turner of arts and sciences and Myron Roomkin of management resigned their dean positions over the summer and remain on the faculty of their respective schools. Cyrus Taylor has been appointed interim dean of arts and sciences, and Mohan Reddy has been appointed interim dean of management. Ralph Horwitz will step down as dean of the medical school September 15 and remain on faculty at Case until December 1, 2006, when he will become professor and chair of the department of medicine at Stanford University. By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have named an interim dean at the medical school.

I wish to point out some very positive occurrences over the summer:

- We matriculated a first-year undergraduate class that numbers about 1,030. The quality of the class is excellent, as defined by test scores and out-of-class activities in high school. The undergraduate classes entering in 2005 and 2006 are strong in number and quality. This is a great base upon which to build—we must make the most of it.
We received formal notification from the National Science Foundation that we have been awarded a Science and Technology Center (STC) to establish the Center for Layered Polymeric Systems. These awards are very competitive. More than 160 proposals were submitted, and only six awards were made this year. Ours is only the second STC awarded to a university in Ohio in the 20-year history of the program. Kudos to Anne Hiltner, the PI, and her colleagues in engineering and arts and sciences for their great work to attract the center.

- Case received a large gift ($6 million) from alumni Larry and Sally Sears. This gift will fund a laboratory within the electrical engineering and computer science department that will focus on innovation and experiential learning.

- Professor Bill Deal has been named the first Inamori Professor and is serving as the first director of the Inamori International Center for Ethics and Excellence. The Inamori Center at Case focuses on global perspectives of ethical concerns, such as human rights; biomedical advances; and business practices.

- Jeffrey Wolcowitz has been recruited from Harvard to become dean of undergraduate studies at Case. Jeff comes with about 30 years of experience at Harvard, along with a long list of accomplishments in undergraduate academic affairs.

The budget situation has caused a great deal of concern over the past 12 months. While there are still significant financial challenges ahead, we need to refocus our efforts on revenue generation. Confidence and optimism, along with hard work, generally lead to success—we shall adopt this principle. Despite our financial challenges, we continue to move forward, albeit at a more deliberate pace than before. I have no doubt that we will be successful not only in achieving financial stability but also in becoming a stronger academic institution.

In closing, I wish to thank all of you for your perseverance and support of the university over the past 12 months. It will be rewarded.

Sincerely,

John L. Anderson
Provost and University Vice President

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