

Jan. 24, 2018

Good morning,

Happy New Year to everyone, and to those that have been away from campus, welcome back as we prepare for the spring 2018 semester. Here's an update on a few items:

**Enrollments.** Almost 300 students earned their bachelor's degrees in fall 2017. Some will be returning for graduate study. I also welcomed new international students this morning from a number of countries, including China, Denmark, France, Germany, India, and Tanzania. According to our admissions data, we will have over 227 new undergraduate students this spring, both first-time and transfers, which is more than last year at this time (220).

**Construction.** The spring will be a busy time as we begin the construction process of our new 450+ bed residence hall next to Chesapeake Dining Hall. I've attached a couple of artist's renderings of the proposed residence hall. We also had a meeting with several architectural firms interested in designing and building the Education and Health Sciences Building. I've attached a diagram of where we propose to build the building (between the Cordts PE Center, the Lane University Center, and the baseball field). We are too early in the process to talk about what the building will look like other than that it will be the new home for programs from the College of Education, those in the health sciences, as well as Brady Health Center and Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS).

**New Positions.** In case you missed the announcement before the holidays: Dr. Sudhir Singh has moved from Interim Dean to Dean of the College of Business. Dr. Dorothy Campbell has joined us as Interim Dean of CLAS following the retirement of Dr. Joe Hoffman. Congrats to you both (and to Joe, on his many contributions). We will be interviewing two candidates next week for Vice President of Administration and Finance, following the retirement of Dave Rose last December. And a committee is reviewing applications for the Vice President for Regional Development and Engagement, a new office being funded by the state of Maryland as announced by Gov. Hogan, which will begin in July 2018. I'll share more on those searches as they progress.

**Our Astronaut-Alum.** You will be hearing more about Astronaut Ricky Arnold '85, a Frostburg alum who earned his accounting degree and teacher certification from FSU. He is returning to the International Space Station in March for a 171-day stay, and he is taking some FSU garb with him! We are working with NASA to have a broadcast on campus from the space station this spring. Part of his mission will be to complete the lesson plans that astronaut and teacher Christa McAuliffe never got to do when the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded on liftoff in 1986. Everyone here should be proud of Ricky and his accomplishments. Not too many universities can boast about one of their alums having this Out-of-this-World experience. It adds a bit to our "A World of Experiences!"

I hope the semester starts well for everyone, and I'll update you as things progress here. Enjoy the spring semester.