

August 2009

Dear Marietta Student:

Greetings from Marietta! I hope you are enjoying a relaxing and productive summer and soon will begin the 2009-2010 academic year.

Since May the College has been busy getting ready for your arrival. We have been cleaning, repairing and renovating where appropriate. One of the areas we have focused on this summer is campus safety and security. Some of the things we are doing were already on a "To Do List" while others are direct results of recommendations from the Campus Safety Committee. Our goal is to have these projects completed by the start of the academic year. Let me share some of these with you:

- **Residence Halls:** The security of our students in residence halls is a very high priority for us. Projects we are undertaking this summer include door replacements where needed, installation of security screens on first floor windows, new door closures and automatic locks on suite doors in Parsons, exterior door closures for Fourth Street, permanent locks on Parsons laundry rooms, card access on bathroom doors in Pioneer and Arts and Humanities, replacement of glass around doors with safety glass as appropriate and installation of the ViaRadio Emergency Notification System in residence halls.
- **Campus Police:** Campus Police provide for the security of people and property at Marietta College, and we want to be sure that the department has the resources it needs. We have hired a second Campus Police Dispatcher to provide better coverage for calls, instituted new 12 hour work shifts for Campus Police Officers and applied for a federal COPS grant for hiring an additional officer. We are working with the Marietta City Police to ensure that 911 calls that affect the campus are transmitted seamlessly from city to Campus Police. The emergency phones throughout the campus will be replaced with telephones that are more visible and easier to identify. We are also exploring additional safety measures including the installation of cameras in public places in the residence halls and the relocation of the Lakefront Bus Lines. This fall, we will continue to offer self-defense instruction for all students who are interested.
- **Student Life:** The Student Life Division will continue to work during the 2009-10 year to heighten awareness of safety issues by increasing campus-wide programming focused on safety/security, enhancing signage in residence halls

with emergency information, partnering with Student Senate for a Safety/Security campus-wide workshop and providing additional safety/security training for Residence Life staff.

One of the other major changes you will see when you return in the fall, particularly if you are living on campus in college housing, is that we have eliminated landline phone service in the residence hall rooms. We have studied this for several years and have found that with the advent of cell phones the vast majority of students do not set-up and use the landline in their room. Students who still want a land line will be able to contract for it separately for a charge of \$200 for the year. For safety and security reasons we will still have an emergency phone on each floor of the residence halls with a direct line to Campus Police.

This change means that we will need to collect your cell phone numbers since they will now be the primary means for the college to contact you. I have enclosed a form that we ask you to fill out to provide your cell phone number, to update information for the Pioneer emergency notification system, and to provide us with a confidential missing person contact. Please take a moment to complete the form and return to the Student Life Office, 215 Fifth Street. If you are a new student and already completed the form during Enrollment Days you do not need to do a second one.

The savings we gain by eliminating the land lines in the residence halls will allow us to update the washers and dryers in the residence halls and to offer **FREE** use of those machines.

Finally, you will find enclosed a flyer that addresses the H1N1 flu virus and what you can do to protect yourself. I encourage you to read it and follow the recommendations.

We are confident that these changes will enhance the quality of your experience as a Marietta College student. We look forward to arrival.

Sincerely,

Lon S. Vickers
Vice President for Student Life/Dean of Students