

Dear Colleagues

It is wonderful to hear and see our faculty and students filling the corridors once again. I hope you all had a terrific summer. It is fabulous to have you back, and to all our new faculty, staff, and students we extend a very warm welcome. Our new university President, Dr. Karl Scholz, has now arrived and I am excited for the academic year ahead.

We have had a very busy summer upgrading our facilities; hiring and onboarding new staff and academic leaders; meeting with alumni and friends across the country; along with building government relations at our nation's capital. Be sure to mark your calendars to the **Welcome Back** on Tuesday, **October 3** from 4pm-6pm to connect with our college community.

I am proud to report our first college **strategic plan** for 'growing a vibrant community of changemakers' has been finalized. Over the past year we explored what matters to us in our respective fields and roles, what our mission together should be, and the values we that underpin and orient our work together. We worked diligently to create a plan that represents our collective goals, and one which will shape the first five years of my time serving this remarkable community. The resulting plan is broad enough to allow us to be responsive and flexible in the face of change, all the while specific enough to create a positive working and learning environment. You can access the plan online at: <https://design.uoregon.edu/strategic-plan>. I encourage you to visit the website and explore our plan. Thank you for your thoughtful contributions. Your feedback has also offered me important and helpful points of self-reflection as I continue to serve you as Dean. On that note, for the year ahead I plan on spending more time getting to know members of our college community and I look forward to hearing from you when I visit your faculty meetings and at college events.

I am pleased to share that Stephen Duff has agreed to serve as our **new Associate Dean of Student Affairs**. Stephen has extensive experience as a member of our tenured faculty and as the former Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Architecture. Professor Susan Sokolowski has accepted a position at Lulu Lemon but thankfully, will continue teaching and advising for us as part of the Sports Product Design program. In the interim Carly Mick will be joining us as interim Director of Sports Product Design. Carly received her MS in Textiles from the Department of Textile and Apparel, Technology and Management at North Carolina State. She has been teaching in our program for the past 2 years.

We have had key members of our staff leave over the summer for both promotional and personal reasons: I want to thank Tash O'Brien, Sherilyn Schwartz, and Hannah Petkau for their service. I am very grateful for all they have contributed to the college during their time with us and I wish them the very best as they begin this new chapter in their lives. Please join me in thanking Assistant Dean of Finance and Operations, Stacy Williams-Wright, who has done a lot of heavy lifting in the HR space to ensure that the college is appropriately staffed. I ask for your patience as she works to quickly fill staff vacancies.

We are so fortunate to have such a tremendous group of faculty, staff, and students. I am honored you have entrusted me to serve this remarkable community. Let's have a fabulous year together!

Adrian Parr  
Dean and Professor  
College of Design  
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