

INGENUITY

engineer



Dean Dennis Irwin

Dear alumni and friends:

Last year, I began by sharing the sad news of Dolores Russ' passing. Since then, we've been looking back with fond memories, and we've been smiling whenever we see orange. It was Dolores' favorite color, not counting our Ohio University green. We've also been looking ahead, thanks to the astounding \$95 million estate gift that Dolores and Fritz, B.S.E.E. '42, bequeathed to the Russ College.

Fritz and Dolores were both humble, purposeful people. Our own purpose is now even more important—we are approaching transformational decades during which we will invest their years of planning. For more details on the gift and our plans, see page 10.

In other exciting news, it's hard to believe that just about a year of construction remains on the Academic & Research Center. In early 2010, all Russ College classrooms, and significant research space, will move into this new state-of-the-art facility. As the steel skeleton rose this summer, we began to catch glimpses of how the building will change learning, interaction, and research—for the better. We're happy to give you a peek at the progress, on page 9.

The Russ College did something extra to welcome our almost 350 first-year students this fall. We celebrated their arrival with an event that we hope to make an annual tradition. On the third day of classes, the Baker University Center ballroom was filled with hundreds of our new undergraduates, making new friends and talking with faculty and department chairs over dinner.



Demonstrating their commitment to academic integrity, first-year students sign the Russ College Honor Code banner at the fall welcome event.

Also at the event, the Student and Faculty Academic Honor Councils hosted a Russ College Honor Code signing with a 15-foot-long banner now on display in Stocker Center. And we heard some life lessons from alumna Carla Lucchino, M.S.I.S.E. '82. Carla, assistant deputy commandant of installations and logistics for the U.S. Marine Corps, oversees thousands of Marines and billions of their dollars. She treated us to some stories about working with generals and admirals every day, and had some thought-provoking comments on integrity.

Another new annual event is our scholarship luncheon, at which we had the honor of celebrating our scholarship donors and recipients. Beyond University-sponsored scholarships, more than 160 of our students hold scholarships provided by the Russ College. And many of those scholarships are awarded to multiple students at once. The Stocker Scholars award, created by the late Beth Stocker, is held by more than a dozen students. The dean's scholarship currently is held by more than four times as many, thanks to gifts from alumni and friends to the dean's discretionary fund. Because so many of you have given back, our students will have something to give as the engineers and technologists of tomorrow.



Gathered to celebrate the announcement of Fritz and Dolores Russ' record-breaking estate gift, **Dean Irwin** greets Russ cousins **Bill and Cheryl Herrmann**.



Emmett Boyle, M.S. '70, and **Debbie Boger** enjoy the fall scholarship luncheon.

In other academic news, we are using the change from quarters to semesters as an opportunity to redesign our curriculum. The Board of Trustees has approved the conversion, effective with the 2012–2013 academic year. Ohio University is the first of the four universities in Ohio still on quarters to get board approval for making the switch. Ohio University and the Russ College also are leaders in new research efforts that have garnered almost \$16 million in special-program state funding. Partnering with other colleges, universities, and organizations, our faculty are bringing prominence to Russ College research in bioinformatics and clean energy. For more on the projects, see page 14.

As we get ready to send our fifth issue of *Ingenuity* off in the mail, we eagerly await the awarding of the fifth Russ Prize, in February. Administered by the National Academy of Engineering, the Russ Prize—one of the top three engineering prizes in the world—also brings prominence to the Russ College. It was all part of Fritz and Dolores' plan. We are honored to be the keepers of their legacy, and we hope that we can bring them as much pride as they felt about their home here. 🍷

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