April 14, 2017: Weekly Message from Interim President Curtis McCray

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Dear Campus Community,

This Friday's newsletter is shorter and different from those previously and different from those to follow in the weeks ahead. We, Wright State, are in a traditional season when the collective muscle and intellect that we have held so tautly for weeks, months, semesters relax, if slightly. For we are in the midst of the season that, in my experience, Midwesterners love more than any other — spring.

Moreover, we in higher education, unlike our peers in other occupations and professions, have this marvelous sense of completion to our work; we mark the conclusion with the end of term, and for our graduating students, commencement. Now, there will be a return; we will begin again, just as winter will surely come again. But take a moment and listen to the university breathe a sigh of relief. Join it with your own exhalation.

My poet, Geoffrey Chaucer, in the 14th century writes that when April comes, its sweet showers penetrate the dry land of winter and March, and life springs anew from the otherwise dead land. All of nature is renewed to once again express the fundamental mystery of existence. And for humans, Chaucer says, it is the time of pilgrimage, the time to seek our own renewal. Certainly we, all of us, whether pious or pagan, whether believer or doubter, can appreciate and experience the glory that spring and April bring to us, the sense of renewal and of new possibilities.

Curtis L. McCray
Interim President

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