

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I am writing to inform you that I will be stepping down as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences on August 16, 2013, at the request of the president of the university. Kelly Damphousse has been named interim dean.

I leave the dean's office after 16 years, knowing that the college is in excellent shape, not only financially and programmatically, but in terms of people as well. I have always said that my primary role as dean has been to facilitate the success of our faculty, staff and students by providing resources to help them achieve their educational and personal goals. The entrepreneurial activities of the faculty and the tuition and fees paid by our students provide a firm financial foundation on which to base future success.

Innovative programs, such as the A&S online course program; the A&S study abroad program; the A&S summer program; the college's career planning and leadership programs; and the International Relations masters degree program for military students are enhancing and expanding the educational opportunities available to our students, while generating revenue to support the activities of the college. The college's travel, teaching and research support programs and the IT support and training program are helping our faculty and students to reach their professional goals.

The generosity of our alumni and friends has provided: over \$10 million in endowment for scholarships; funding for awards that recognize faculty and students for outstanding performance; and endowments for chairs and professorships that help us recruit and retain excellent members of the faculty. I believe that I have done my part to help create the foundation that is in now place. It will be the task of everyone in the college to sustain and enhance the college in the years to come.

After leaving the dean's office I will become a dean-direct faculty member and move my office to Cross Center in space adjacent to Chinese Literature Today and the OU Confucius Institute, where I will devote my attention to expanding OU's international activities and to teaching. I plan to remain an active member of the faculty of the college and to continue to contribute in any way that I can to the continued success and improvement of the college.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure serving you these past 16 years and I thank you for your support. For me it has been a labor of love.