June, 2011

Dear Member of the McCormick Class of 2015:

On behalf of the entire McCormick School, I extend to you a warm welcome to Northwestern and to our own community of scholars.

It is my sincere hope that I get to meet you, as well as each of your classmates, early in the coming academic year. My intention is for you to get comfortable in meeting the faculty, our Undergraduate Engineering staff, and myself. You will find all the Undergraduate Engineering offices located in Tech on the second floor; my office is room L268. Wildcat Welcome offers you the first chance to do this, and at that time you will begin to meet upper-class McCormick students during the many orientation and introduction activities.

Especially noteworthy for you in the coming academic year are the two required sequence courses that comprise the Engineering First program. One course, "Engineering Analysis," is a four-quarter sequence that spans into your sophomore year. "Engineering Design and Communications" is a two-quarter sequence that is intended for you to take this year, if at all possible. Engineering First replaces a traditional set of courses on basic topics with these integrated sequences; one of its main goals is to build your understanding of concepts key to an engineering education. The McCormick School has invested heavily in creating Engineering First, and we have found that it is a fundamental and exciting improvement over traditional curricula.

I encourage you to take advantage of all that McCormick and Northwestern offer. There is an incredibly wide array of activities, such as off-campus volunteering, artistic performance, and athletics. In McCormick there is, likewise, a whole host of things in which to get involved, such as various design competitions, on-campus research, and engineering discipline-based chapters of professional societies. We also offer opportunities to gain valuable experiences through our certificate programs: Co-op, Biotechnology, Architectural Design, Engineering Design, Business Enterprise, and the Kellogg certificates in either Financial Engineering or Managerial Analytics.

You have heard it from us before, and I will remind you again: all of us at McCormick are dedicated to your personal growth through an engineering education. It is clearer than ever to me that what you do in earning your McCormick degree will be an exceptionally rich preparation for your career following graduation. I wish you the best as you make this life passage with us.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen H. Carr
Associate Dean