

New Student Welcome Letter

DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE



Greetings!

June 20, 2016

As your dean of students, I am very excited to welcome you to the Florida College family. I know from personal experience that you will benefit greatly from the time that you spend here. Our mission at Florida College is to help you grow spiritually, socially, mentally and physically. If you are devoted to God and seek to serve Him in all that you do, I know that you will find great opportunities for personal development and achievement during your time here at the College.

As you prepare to arrive on campus, a few items require your attention. Included with this letter are two important forms: **student health information** and **vehicle registration** (if you intend on bringing a car to campus). Please complete these and return them to the dean of students office. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these documents, please contact my administrative assistant, Ms. Kelly Mitchell, at mitchellk@floridacollege.edu.

You can find more useful information at floridacollege.edu/newstudents, including the College's code of conduct, traffic and parking regulations, student societies info, and the services provided by our advising office.

As a community of scholars, we choose a work of literature each year to serve as a focal point and a topic of discussion throughout the year. This Common Reading helps to promote critical thinking and encourages academic interaction. Here are a few words from Dean Crispell, our Academic Dean, concerning this year's Common Reading, the "Funeral Oration" of Pericles (along with the companion reading, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address): "Pericles explained the unique nature of his beloved city and people; what it meant to sacrifice and struggle—and even die—for the principles of liberty and a free society.

In something of an extremely brief companion piece, the 272 words spoken by President Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg on 19 November 1863 served as something of a reflection on much of what Pericles had uttered two millennia before him. The meaning of sacrifice for a 'new birth of freedom' is often remembered; what is often forgotten is the role of 'us ... the living,' even as Pericles spoke to not only inspire tears for the dead, but inspiration for the living. What does it mean to be at liberty in a free society?" This is the question we will consider this year.

As a community of believers, we also choose a biblical theme for each academic year. The theme for 2016–2017 is, "Every Thought Captive." It is based on 2 Corinthians 10:5. In a culture that has become increasingly hostile toward biblical teachings, it is more important than ever that we ensure that our hearts—and even our thoughts—are committed to obeying Christ in all things. If Christians want to influence our culture for good, we have to begin by conquering ourselves. So, while we spend this year learning more about God's Word and His world, let us also strive to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

It won't be long before you are settling in beneath the sunny skies of Florida and viewing our palms and lofty pines along the peaceful banks of the Hillsborough River. In the meantime, enjoy the rest of your summer and spend some time meditating on what you want to achieve while you are a part of this community of Christian scholars. I look forward to personally welcoming you in August.

In Him,

Dr. Jason S. Longstreth

Dean of Students



Florida College
Learning, Living, Leading His Way