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## Transfer Student Orientation

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Welcome  
Dr. John M. Dunn  
Transfer Transition 2009

- Good morning. It's my job and my delight today is to offer the official formal welcome to you as new members of the Bronco family. We're glad you're here. You made a great decision when you chose Western Michigan University.
- We expect great things from you while you're a student here, and we know you'll accomplish great things when you're a proud Bronco alum--and believe me, that will happen sooner than you might think it possible at this point. Your next few years will be full ones and they will speed by with exceptional speed.
- You may think you already know a lot about this university. Don't get too comfortable with that feeling. You'll be surprised at every turn. Everytime I think I know it all about WMU, I learn something new or we launch an important new initiative. Here are three things that have happened here in just the past 10 days.

-For six days, ending Monday, we had 700 of the world's leading physicists, including Nobel Laureates, here on our campus for the International Conference in Photonic, Electronic and Atomic Collisions. Held every two years, it's usually in places like London, Vienna, Paris or New York.

-We announced the new WMU Confucius Institute, which will make this university a center for Chinese language instruction and cultural exchanges and puts us in partnership with Beijing Language and Culture University, China's premier language instruction school.

-Yesterday we cut the ribbon on a public open house for our archaeological dig in Niles--Ft. St. Joseph, one of the oldest colonial French settlements in the nation was founded in 1691. Other universities tried for years to find it the site but failed. We succeeded and are uncovering a wealth of new historical information.

You will be continually amazed at everything happening here. I've just told you about three first-rate academic happenings. You'll find the same kind of social and cultural opportunities.

- Take advantage of everything this university offers. Your studies come first, of course, and you've already figured that out. But being a successful person means being able to balance work and fun. It means trying new things, meeting new people and learning outside the classroom. Don't miss a chance to do any of that.
- I hope to see you here in Miller watching Broadway shows; across the plaza at the Richmond Center for Visual Arts or at the Dalton Center; in Bronco Stadium, Lawson Arena and Read Fieldhouse for athletic events; on the intramural fields having fun; and downtown enjoying the Kalamazoo community.
- Think about joining a student organization and plan on playing a leadership role now or in the future. Consider a study abroad program. Explore. Make friends with a faculty member (you'll be surprised at how easy it is). Read the paper everyday to find out what's happening and who's speaking on campus. Go to everything that sounds even remotely interesting. In short, take advantage of everything WMU has to offer. You will never regret it.

- I'm looking forward to getting to know as many of you as possible. When you see me on campus, don't be shy about introducing yourself and talking.

I try to greet and talk with as many students as I can, but I'd love it if you tap me on the shoulder as we're standing in line at Bigbees and just tell me who you are and how your student experience is going.

- As the next couple of years speed by--and believe me they will--I will watch your progress with pride. In due course, I'll be standing on the Miller Auditorium stage to shake your hand and present your diploma. It will be a moment in which we both will feel a great sense of accomplishment.

Welcome to WMU. Enjoy your orientation activities, and get ready for the ride of a lifetime.