The chime is ringing once again each morning now that our students are back on campus! It’s a great sound – although I suspect some of the students don’t hear it at 7:45 a.m. Others who have early classes paddle on the sidewalks toward their classrooms, blanket wrinkles still on their faces.

We have welcomed an exceptional group of students to campus this fall. The sophomores, juniors, and seniors came back with confidence and renewed commitment to do well this year. Our first-year class, the largest since the 1970s, is filled with young adults, eager to make the transition to more independence and intellectual challenge. The faculty and the staff here are ready to support students in learning and growing.

This fall’s presidential election gives us a distinct opportunity to help students accept the demands of responsible citizenship. Our student body includes students from very conservative to very liberal, with the majority of students somewhere in between. In a healthy democracy, this variety is essential. It is also important that people who disagree on politics learn how to talk intelligently and respectfully with those with whom they disagree. The election will stimulate many class discussions and late-night conversations in the residence halls. We want all eligible students to register to vote and then to vote!

Manchester College students have exceptional opportunities to work side by side with professors on scientific and psychological research, art projects, theatre, music, tutoring, writing and more! This fall semester, professors will assist seniors to apply for Fulbright Scholarships and graduate schools. The Office of Career Services helps students, even first-year students, with career planning and internships. The opportunities for students to work alongside faculty and staff are unlimited.

We are very pleased that your student has chosen Manchester College. We will do all we can on our part to help your student learn, and we are grateful that you will be doing the same on your part. Together, we will nurture the students to become persons of “ability and conviction.”

What is happening at Manchester College tonight? This weekend? Next month?

Stay connected by using our MC WEB CALENDAR.

You can find out information about sports events, theatrical performances, scheduled games, and so much more!
First-year timeline: typical first-year adjustment issues and how parents can be supportive

**October/November**

- Roommate problems begin to arise and escalate
- Student’s question: "Do I fit in here?"
- Midsemester exams and grades
- Consequences of decision-making experienced
- Many exams and papers due before Thanksgiving
- Excitement and/or anxiety regarding going home for Thanksgiving
- First series of campus-wide illnesses (cold, flu, strep, etc.)

**How can family members help?**

- Encourage use of campus resources: hall directors, RAs, Counseling Services, MCRS, Success Center (study tables, tutors).
- Listen, be supportive, encourage.
- Refrain from rescuing, but convey, "It’s okay to ask for help."
- Send care packages and notes.
- Brainstorm options to assist with grades/studying.
- Acknowledge the increased difficulty of college over high school.
- Assure that friends and family support the college experience, while missing the student, too.
- Refrain from lecturing or "I told you so," "You know better," etc.
- Remind the student that mistakes can be learned from - what can be done differently in the future.
- Anticipate and express optimism about changes the student has made.

Visit [http://www.manchester.edu/OSD/Counseling/FirstYearExperiences.htm](http://www.manchester.edu/OSD/Counseling/FirstYearExperiences.htm) for a complete timeline.

### Graduates of May 2008 - Where are some of them now?

You may be wondering what our recent MC grads are up to … here is a glimpse into some of their lives!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Major at MC</th>
<th>Currently at:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Julie Eslinger</td>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>Staff Accountant at Crowe Chizek, Elkhart, Ind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caleb Samuel</td>
<td>Biology-Chemistry</td>
<td>Iowa Medical School, Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Neuhalfen</td>
<td>Elementary Education/ Special Education</td>
<td>K-6 Special Education Teacher at Metro North Elementary School, Wabash, Ind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Krisiak</td>
<td>Adapted Physical Education</td>
<td>Adapted Physical Education Teacher at Addams Middle School, Bolingbrook, Ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Ball</td>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>Commercial Lines Underwriter at Cincinnati Financial, Cincinnati, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tolani Rasaki</td>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>Graduate student in International Relations at Suffolk University, Boston, Mass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelli Griewank</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Case Manager for Indianapolis Public Schools through Midtown Community Mental Health Center, Indianapolis, Ind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob Grady</td>
<td>Social Work</td>
<td>Family Case Manager at SCAN (Stop Child Abuse &amp; Neglect), Fort Wayne, Ind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Polakowski</td>
<td>Social Work and Spanish</td>
<td>Fulbright grant recipient, teaching English in South Korea</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Would you like to have the MC alumni in your family featured in our newsletter? Please [email us](mailto:) and let us know of their current activities. We would love to hear from you!
Coming down for a visit?

Here are some North Manchester motels:

- Treeway Inn 260-982-9090
- Fruitt Basket Inn (B & B) 260-982-2443
- Hospitality House (B & B) 260-450-0720

Hungry? Try these places to eat!

- China Buffet 260-982-8000
- KenapocoMocha CoffeeShop and Bakery 260-982-4705
- Main View Inn 260-982-9900
- Mr. Dave's 260-982-4769

Visit [http://www.manchester.edu/admissions/visit/accomodations.htm](http://www.manchester.edu/admissions/visit/accomodations.htm) for a complete list of accommodations and restaurants.

Staff Spotlight: Jerry Sweeten

"I just love it when I see a student get excited about learning, discover a passion to want to know more, and work hard - it all translates into success," says assistant professor of biology and director of environmental studies, Dr. Jerry Sweeten, '75.

Born and raised in Kokomo, Ind., Sweeten earned his undergraduate degree in biology at Manchester College and his master's at Ball State University. Out of his love for the outdoors and his belief in experiential learning, he worked for 25 years at the Ashore Wood Environmental Science Center, which features 160 acres of forest and streams designed to teach science to public school students.

Afterward, Dr. Sweeten went on to complete his Ph.D. in stream ecology with an emphasis on management issues at Purdue University. Though he came into academia a bit differently, Sweeten decided to teach at Manchester College and "found his place," stating, "I desired to give back to a place that gave me so much."

Sweeten believes that students should have "a fire in their belly" when it comes to their studies. His classes are designed to spark and sustain the sense of curiosity that is necessary for success in any endeavor. MC students fondly testify to Sweeten's enthusiasm for the outdoors, his appreciation of the wonders of Mother Nature, his strong principles, and his genuinely caring demeanor.

As part of his regular lectures, Sweeten engages the minds of his students by encouraging them to see, touch, and simply experience the subjects covered in his classes. "When you hold a bird in your hands, be sure to feel its texture, see its vibrant colors, and use your other senses. This is when you'll remember it for the rest of your life."

Sweeten and wife Melinda manage the College's 100-acre nature preserve, Koinonia Environmental and Retreat Center, and are proud parents of three children: Anna, Jeremy and Sara.

Questions? Feedback? E-mail familyconnections@manchester.edu.
Click [here](http://www.manchester.edu/OSD/FamilyConnections/indexkf.htm) to unsubscribe to Family Connections.