Title: Welcome...

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Through this first 1942-1943 issue of the Ohio State Engineer, it is my privilege to express good wishes to the new students in engineering; the faculty joins me in the hope that both old and new students in this College will find their work pleasant and profitable.

In the stress of the times and in our accelerated program of studies we should try not to lose any of the fine spiritual values which come to those who work faithfully for the gaining of a worth while objective. In your daily work let me ask you to absorb the feeling of a common purpose and an attachment to this University which will be a source of enjoyment to you throughout your life.

Large universities like ours seem to suffer in the building of strong feelings of attachment and in the building of traditions, in contrast to the smaller schools or those which have grown from small schools through a century or more. If this be true, then we certainly do lose a very real spiritual value which we might have from our college days. There is something, intangible though it be, about college life which seems to set aside the very buildings where we have struggled —let us hope—for a finer and higher life.

Last summer I was struck with the beauty of an old stone building on the campus at the University of Iowa which served as the statehouse for a time, about a hundred years ago. In the corridor someone had placed a statement which seems to say just what I would like our engineers to feel concerning our university: “With the passing of the years the old stone Capitol has come to be looked upon as something more than stone and mortar molded into forms that are pleasing to the eye. Somehow through the alchemy of time it seems to have acquired a kind of spiritual personality that speaks to us of memories—memories of bygone days.” I therefore ask you all to so use your time here, in hard work and sensible play, that your days spent on the campus will develop that spirit of attachment which will be a great satisfaction to you long after you have left the campus.

According to official figures the College of Engineering has the largest enrollment in its entire history. In past years in welcoming students at the beginning of the fall quarter I have always thought of three categories of students as making up the total enrollment: beginning freshmen, upper-classmen and transfer students. This fall, because of the accelerated program, the freshmen are officially divided into first quarter and second quarter students. Counting all four kinds of students the enrollment is 2,092. Today there are as many students in the College of Engineering as there were in the entire University in the fall of 1907, when I was a junior in the College. To all of you, therefore, I extend heartiest welcome and salute you as the College’s largest student family.

In welcoming you to the privileges and pleasures of student life I am reminded of what Lord Kelvin told his students at the University of Glasgow when he faced them for the last time: “It has come to be my belief that as a man grows older the pictures he looks upon with the most pleasure by his fireside are those which bring before him again his college days—make your whole life full of pictures which are bright and clear and clean.” Lord Kelvin’s words take on special significance, it seems to me, in these days of uncertainty brought about by the world conflict. As you prepare yourself for greater service in this war of science and mechanization, either in industry or in the armed service, may you keep ever before you his words of wisdom.