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Good morning. It is an awesome day to be a Student Prince!

Let me formally welcome our first-

touched, including Model UN and Greek life leadership. If we had offered the *PlusOneAdvantage Free MBA* (Hint!) a decade ago, I am certain that he would have that degree too. Welcome back to your campus, Wes, and thank you!

Our 308 first-year students and transfers are a strong group of men and women with many talents and accomplishments. Let me say a few words about them.

They bring richness, diversity, energy and intellect to our community. About 6% are from Tiffin, 6% are also from Heidelberg legacy families, 9% are from Michigan, 14% are in our Honors Program, 20% are Heidelberg Scholars, 24% are minority students, 24% are from out-of-state, 39% are first generation college students in their families, 42% are females, 58% are males, 64% are interested in Division III athletics, and 100% of our new students are ready to succeed at Heidelberg.

Our entering class is a smart one. They arrive as a group with the highest recorded average GPA and ACT cohort scores in

With a warm and friendly spirit, this campus is a truly caring place where new and returning students can connect with their professors and with each other in meaningful ways. Explore, learn, hang out, ask each other lots of questions, study, work, play and pursue your dreams here together at Heidelberg! Follow Dean Dustin Brentlinger's strong advice and build new relationships with classmates who are quite different than you because that is where you really learn and grow.

I encourage all of you to finish our AIM Hei Common Reading this fall and be ready for the class discussions in the middle of the semester. We are reading *The Sunflower* (1969) by Simon Wiesenthal. I have finished the book, so jump in too ... including *The Symposium* essays!

Following my annual habit of making a pair of additional reading suggestions on this occasion, because we should all read more than we do, I strongly recommend two books that touch the same core issues and central questions about the human condition as *The Sunflower* but in quite different ways.

The first book is *Beyond Good and Evil* (1886) by the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900). It is a philosophically complex work that challenges the false assumptions, blinded virtues, and harsh moralities of Europe at that time which then fed much of what would subsequently happen in two world wars.

The second book is *The Nazi Seizure of Power* (1965) by the American historian William Sheridan Allen (1932-2013). It is an incredibly detailed and graphic account of how one German town lost its soul to the Nazis between 1930 and 1935.

It is our privilege to have each one of you here to teach, mentor and serve in support of your academic and career aspirations. You make us a better school by being here and we want you each to graduate in four years. Let us hold tightly to that goal as we declare ...

Everyone Matters ... All Students Rising!

Good luck to all of you and especially to the