



MONTHLY PRESIDENTIAL UPDATE
August 23, 2018

Dear Campus Community,

Tomorrow, we welcome the Class of 2022 to campus. Each incoming student, as well as all returning students, selected Arcadia University for a reason—perhaps because of our distinguished faculty, or for our leading study abroad programs, or because of our beautiful campus.

No matter what their reason is for enrolling at Arcadia, it is the responsibility of all members of the University community—faculty, administrators, and staff—to nurture these students, to help them realize their potential, and to expose them to the world of possibilities that awaits them. This responsibility and opportunity fills me with optimism and enthusiasm, and I hope you share a similar sentiment.

Please see below for the August Presidential Update, which focuses on topics and presidential initiatives.

INAUGURATION UPDATE

Inauguration festivities begin the week of Monday, **October 8, with a formal installation ceremony and celebration on Saturday, October 13**. Evites will be sent this month to the campus community with a September 24 RSVP requested. The Inauguration Committee is looking forward to faculty and students returning to campus and participating in the planning and activities.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

I enjoyed addressing our faculty and staff at the Academic Affairs retreat on Aug. 22. There, the Provost proposed a model for how he plans to empower the Deans, Department Chairs, and faculty leadership in the decision making process to address specific issues of academic innovation and resource allocation. The retreat participants provided important feedback to help us shape a shared governance process to address our academic concerns. Based on this feedback and other input from the community, I will ask Provost Hoffman to launch a process in the next few weeks that helps us address our challenges and seize opportunities.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

New Undergraduate Student move-in day is tomorrow Friday, August 24. A full five days of activity and orientation covers all aspects of being an Arcadia student, while incorporating fun and opportunities to make friends. The culminating event is the **Semester Kickoff on Haber Green on Tuesday, August 28 from 4:30 to 7 p.m.**

Our incoming students are an eclectic and engaging group. Some examples of the dynamic and interesting new incoming students include:

1. Students born in other countries like Germany, England, and Cameroon.
2. Students participated in a German and Dutch exchange program.
3. Students from Aalen University on campus this year through a new study abroad collaboration.
 - a. A Best Buddies volunteer who works with individuals who are intellectually and developmentally disabled.
 - b. A race car hobbyist.
 - c. An actor at the New Jersey Renaissance Faire.
 - d. A well-known DJ from PA.

International students:

- 23 international undergraduate students and 5 graduate students will join the 28 undergraduate students and 12 graduate students already on campus.
- 17 new undergrad students are from Jianguo University in China and studying Actuarial Science/Mathematics.
- 2 undergraduate students are from the new study abroad collaboration with Aalen University in Germany. They're the first group to attend Arcadia.
- 3 graduate students are from Africa:
 - Public Health student from Liberia
 - IPCR students Uganda and Kenya.

Mark your calendar for undergraduate Fall Open House dates this year—**September 23, October 21, and December 2.**

METZ - OUR NEW UNIVERSITY CATERER

Metz Culinary took over as our food service provider on June 1. Since then, they have made significant upgrades to The Chat, including kiosk style-ordering stations similar to Wawa, in addition to major improvements to our kitchens. All events this summer have been catered by Metz, and the feedback is very positive so far. We are looking forward to Metz providing an enhanced level of food variety and service to our students beginning in the fall semester.

ARCADIA UKNIGHTED - STEERING COMMITTEES

The work of the three UKnighted committees has progressed well over the summer. All three committees will continue in Fall 2018. The committees have presented updates at the Academic Affairs retreat and to the Board of Trustees at the retreat on August 8.

- **Budget Task Force** - The Budget Task Force is working to improve knowledge of and engagement with Arcadia budget/finance issues. About 220 faculty and staff attended one of a [series of sessions](#) the Task Force hosted in late May and June providing an introduction to the university's budgets – where we're at and why. Additional sessions – for students and others – are being planned for the fall semester. The Task Force is also working on developing financial literacy learning objectives as part of recommendations we expect to make for how administrators could communicate budget/finance information and engage various campus stakeholders. The Task Force is also working to catalog and assess budget ideas from the April 20 community session.
- **Shared Governance and Transparency Committee** gathered information and models of shared governance from comparative institutions and has begun exploring current structures which facilitate and frustrate shared governance models.
- **Aspirational Committee** is collecting ideas and information to draft a new vision for Arcadia. This summer we reviewed community input from the April 20 meeting and will help to establish the framework for the strategic planning process set to launch in the spring. The Committee led a visioning exercise where the Trustees imagined visionary potentials of Arcadia through a collective storytelling exercise which placed the university five years in the future, and asked the Trustees to collectively tell the stories that led to Arcadia's future success. This creative exercise toward visioning of an innovative future also was conducted at the Academic Affairs Retreat with the faculty.

A visioning exercise followed the updates which put Arcadia five years in the future, and asked the Trustees to collectively tell the stories of Arcadia's success. This creative exercise toward visioning of an innovative future also was conducted at the Academic Affairs Retreat. The Aspirational Committee will present the creative vision of the exercise at the next campuswide event.

Sept. 20 - Campuswide Conversation - Arcadia UKnighted Campus Communitywide kickoff meeting, where Co-Chairs of the three committees will present and solicit feedback. Save the Date! [RSVP your intent to join.](#)

Other UKnighted initiatives are also planned for the 2018-2019 academic year. Several additional Signature Events have been created to talk, generate ideas, and inform on the 20th or 22nd in the upcoming year, along with other events:

- **Communitywide Conversations:** Everyone is welcome to talk, raise ideas, and help us to explore. Some Communitywide Conversations will focus on campus topics to help the community consider steps forward.
- **Presidential Faculty Advisory Group:** Comprised of faculty from across the schools and colleges, this group will provide perspective for the President both on Arcadia's history and its future.

- **Pretzels with the President:** An informal gathering of 50 undergraduate and graduate students at the President’s house to talk and snack. Fifty students will be selected through a lottery.
- **Dinner with 22 Strangers:** 22 community members (faculty, staff, students, alumni) will be selected from a lottery to get to know one another over dinner at the President’s house.
- **Meet the President Alumni Series:** The President will host gatherings of alumni in several cities across the US, inviting alumni for encouraging conversations and building connections.
 - 2018: Pennsylvania, New York, Washington, D.C., London
 - 2019: California, Arizona, Florida

We look forward to taking conversations further as we engage the community in dynamic ways. For a full list and more information on these upcoming Arcadia UKnighted events, visit arcadia.edu/UKnighted.

EXTERNAL REVIEW OF DIRECT REPORTS

This summer, evaluations for several departments that are direct reports to the Office of the President have commenced; these evaluations will continue in the fall. The offices of University Advancement, University Relations, and General Counsel have been completed or are scheduled to commence before the start of the academic year. Enrollment Management will have its evaluation this fall. Recommendations and action steps will be presented to the Board periodically.

THE COLLEGE OF GLOBAL STUDIES

Dr. Eric Meadows, Regional Director for Arcadia’s programs in Australia, has retired after four years of distinguished service. After a global search, Mr. Gavin Turner was appointed as Director. Gavin brings a significant background in developing and leading experiential programs across Asia, including Tibet, India, Nepal, and South East Asia. Most recently, he served as Himalayan Operations Manager for World Expeditions. A native Australian, Gavin has substantial experience working in the United States and with North American undergraduates, including developing a crisis intervention training program for a 24-hour crisis clinic in Seattle.

Gavin leads a team of six staff and faculty. The Australia locus of operations has moved from Melbourne to Sydney, after the sale of the Melbourne property in June. The Sydney office location will allow The College to better support the growing range of Sydney-based programs: custom, internships, and five institutional partners—The University of Sydney, Macquarie University, the University of New South Wales, the University of Technology Sydney, and Wollongong University.

Jane Gunn Lewis, Resident Director in New Zealand for 20 years, has been appointed as Regional Director for Australia and New Zealand. She will continue in her role as Resident Director for New Zealand.

In collaboration with the Office of Sponsored Research and the Dept. of Biology, TCGS is applying for a grant that will provide opportunities for five Arcadia undergraduate students to participate in the STEM Summer Research programs. The grant aims to broaden participation in the sciences from under-represented groups, and in particular students who are first generation college students and/or who are from low-income backgrounds.

SUMMER BOARD RETREAT

The first annual Board Retreat was this past August 7 and 8. The two days were filled with educational and generative discussions that included presentations from Cabinet members, faculty, and staff and a very entertaining and productive backcasting session that encouraged participants to envision a highly successful Arcadia University in the year 2023. One Board member described the day as “very productive and highly engaging.”

EXTERNAL PRESIDENTIAL ENGAGEMENT

Interview: Josie Ahlquist, [Josie & The Podcast Recording](#) - release date, Aug. 22

Meet President Nair Alumni Engagement

- Philadelphia Alumni Reception
- New York Alumni Reception
- New York Meet President Nair Alumni Luncheon
- UPCOMING: September 13 in Washington, D.C.

AICUP President Tom Foley

Sara Lomax-Reese, President/CEO, WURD 96.1FM / 900AM Radio LLC.

Gerri Aaron '14H, honorary degree recipient

My next communication to the Arcadia community will be a State of the University address in the first few weeks of the fall semester. I am excited to begin this academic year, and much of that excitement stems from working alongside such a talented group of students, faculty, and staff.

Sincerely,

Ajay Nair, Ph.D.

President