

President's Message



As I write this, I am looking out over the Peterson Manor lawn, covered by the 15 inches of snow that have fallen over the last 72 hours. What a beautiful view!

Walking across campus these last few days has been a powerful reminder for me about what it must have taken to launch a thriving University on this site more than 50 years ago. But that is exactly what Frank DiPietro envisioned when he established a liberal arts college in 1962 – a thriving academic community that would enrich the lives of students, faculty, and staff.


As you know, Dr. DiPietro passed away this last December, but his legacy is alive in each of the students who walks by my window, in each of our alumni who bring meaningful contributions to their communities, and in each of us at Franklin Pierce University who contributes to educating the next generation of leaders of conscience. This legacy is a powerful and palpable reminder of what one person can do to advance the improvement of many lives. I am grateful for Dr. DiPietro's vision and commitment, and glad that I had the opportunity to know him.

As Dr. DiPietro witnessed during his 12 years as president, change comes slowly to academic communities, but it comes nonetheless. Change is coming to American higher education faster than ever before. Pressures from the federal government to be more accountable for what we teach, from families who focus more on the cost of education than value, and from competitors who are introducing new instructional delivery models mean that colleges and universities must adapt to newer, faster, innovative ways of educating students.

Franklin Pierce University's academic and administrative departments are busy these days conducting program reviews in order to strengthen our offerings. We will examine what new programs we can offer, as well as make difficult decisions about programs that no longer draw students as majors. These decisions will help Franklin Pierce better confront the challenges that lie ahead for all of higher education, while distinguishing our unique brand of education.

As always, I encourage you to make a visit to Franklin Pierce and take advantage of the interesting lectures, thoughtful performing and visual arts programs, and exciting athletic events. All of these activities are enriched by the presence of our alumni and friends, so please come "home" when you can. And remember our offerings as an academic institution are enriched by alumni financial support. If you have not yet supported Franklin Pierce with a gift, please do so today.

Ex Umbris Ad Lucem,


James F. Birge, Ph.D.
President

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