

Dear Alumni and Friends,

While the students were away on summer break, things were as busy as ever here on the campus of Eastern Washington University. We are beginning a challenging new academic year, but one that holds lots of promise as Eastern expects to enroll its second-largest freshman class ever.

As many of you may know, my summer has been a bit unusual this year, as I have been dealing with some health issues. Happily, I am recovering and have started putting some time in at the office, with the expectation of being back for our students this fall.

I want to thank everyone who sent me well wishes and prayers during the past couple months.

Personally, I am quite excited to see what the new school year has in store for us here at Eastern. In addition to seeing our freshman enrollment rise again, we've also seen a distinct change in the demographic makeup of our student body over the past couple years, as we've seen a solid increase in student diversity. I am also happy to see that we've made progress this year in hiring a more diverse faculty to serve our growing multicultural student body.

The fall also brings with it a new football season – and as many of you know, I am a big football fan. This issue of *Eastern* magazine pays tribute to the tradition, connections and opportunities borne out of 100 years of Eastern football. As we hit the century mark on the gridiron, we take a look back at the people who truly *started something big* so many years ago by providing the building blocks for a great and lasting football program.

With that in mind, I am hoping this year's version of the Eastern Eagles makes a bit of history of their own, bringing home the Big Sky title and making another long and spirited run through the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs. See you at Woodward Field!

Sincerely,

Dr. Rodolfo Arévalo, President



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