A Memorandum of Appreciation
August 18, 2008

To: My Carolina Family
Fr: Gene Luna
Re: Carolina Welcome Opening and Move-In Weekend

One of the most gratifying times of my work at the University is our Annual Carolina Welcome Opening and Move-in Weekend. The excitement of our incoming students and their families infused with the enthusiastic welcome from our faculty, staff, and upper class students makes for a great beginning to another Carolina New Year. It was made even more exciting having President Pastides and his wife, Patricia, helping on the Move-In Crew and seeing first hand the dedication of his faculty and staff as they made such a wonderful first impression on the new members of our “family.”

I could list person after person who made a positive impact or impression with a student and their family, but the list would be never-ending, and I’d surely miss some of the most helpful among us. I could cite the various departments on campus that went above and beyond the norm to prepare our campus and provide extraordinary services this weekend, but that would mean copying our campus departmental listings. I might call out some of the leadership of the University for the vision and support they provide, but seeing so much leadership from those at all levels and from all corners of the University make that focus a bit too narrow. So let’s give credit where it’s due – to ALL of you!

Suffice it to say, one of the reasons that the University of South Carolina is increasingly the choice of so many bright students from South Carolina and from so many other states and countries is that coming to Carolina ensures you will get a world-class education both in and out of the classroom, and you’ll get it with a personal touch of sincere care and hospitality unmatched anywhere. I saw this displayed throughout this past weekend and I’m convinced the parents and students share this with their friends and neighbors back home, which then continues to spread our reputation – your reputation – of being such a great place to call home while getting a high quality university education.

Thanks to each of you who contributed to such a smooth and welcoming opening weekend. Your efforts, individually and collectively, made a huge positive impact.

My sincere best wishes for each of you throughout this year at your University of South Carolina!

Cc: President Harris Pastides
Provost Mark Becker