Dear Belmont Student,

As another academic year winds down, it's good to reflect on what 2009-2010 brought to Belmont University. Belmont received its highest ranking yet, landing at No. 7 in the U.S. News & World Report’s Master’s South division of America’s Best Colleges. In addition, Belmont was lauded for the second year in a row by U.S. News as a “Top School to Watch” in the nation, proving that Belmont continues to cement its image as a leader among teaching universities. This attention is surely drawing more students as well; in fall 2009, Belmont’s enrollment reached a record high of 5,424 while we continue with a 12:1 student-to-faculty ratio. But with all the exciting things going on at Belmont, nothing supersedes our mission to be "a student-centered Christian community providing an academically challenging education."

Like public and private higher education institutions everywhere, we are facing the reality of rising costs. And even though the total price of attendance at Belmont ranks near the bottom of our peer institutions, we recognize that the cost can still be a challenge to you and your family. We will continue our efforts to control costs while at the same time adding value to your Belmont education.

Undergraduate tuition for 2010-2011 will rise $630 per semester to a total of $11,265 for full-time students, an increase of 5.92 percent. This increase helps assure continued growth and improvement of academic programs. These funds also allow us to improve faculty and staff salaries and alleviate the escalating costs of employee benefits.

Room and board fees will also rise 3.08-5.93 percent, varying according to residence and meal plan. The increase is necessary to offset rising costs of food, maintenance and utility rates. In addition, the undergraduate student fee for full-time students will be $575, an increase of $30 for full-time students. (The fee is pro-rated by hours for part-time students.) This fee directly impacts the overall campus experience for Belmont students, benefiting areas such as health services, campus safety, mail services, parking, maintenance, career services, library services, student activities, speaker series and technological advances. This fee also provides all students complete access to the Beaman Student Life Center facilities and will be used to facilitate environmental initiatives.

You will soon receive a guide that explains Belmont’s financial policies, cost and payment options. A complete list of tuition fees is also available on the Belmont Web site on the Cost Estimator Link found on the Student Financial Services page.

Belmont University’s administration, faculty and staff seek to educate and motivate each student to discover their life’s passion and ready them to engage and transform the world with disciplined intelligence, compassion, courage and faith. I am truly proud of our accomplishments and eagerly anticipate what the coming year will bring. We are honored that you have entrusted your education to us. Thank you for your presence in the Belmont community.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Robert C. Fisher
President