Dear Belmont Student,

As another academic year draws to a close, it's good to reflect on what was certainly a pivotal time in the history of Belmont University. The opening of Troutt Theater and the groundbreaking of a new residence hall last fall signaled the expansion of campus, while the addition of new programs in Songwriting and Pharmacy broadened our educational offerings. Belmont's image was further enhanced with the news we would host the 2008 Town Hall Presidential Debate. Still, nothing supersedes the Belmont mission to be "a student-centered Christian community providing an academically challenging education." This year Belmont's enrollment reached a record high of nearly 4,800 while still retaining a 13:1 student-to-teacher ratio. In 2007-08, Belmont dreamed bigger and achieved more than ever before, cementing our image as a leader among teaching universities.

Though we are fortunate to be members of the Belmont community during this exciting time, like public and private higher education institutions everywhere we are facing the reality of rising costs. We continue to work hard to keep Belmont's cost increases at a minimum while providing a superior educational experience.

Undergraduate tuition for 2008-09 will increase $645 per semester to a total of $10,035 for full-time students, an increase of 6.85 percent, which is in line with national averages. 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 costs will also go up slightly, varying according to residence and meal plan. The increase is consistent with inflation and is necessary to offset increasing costs including food, maintenance and utility rates. In addition, the undergraduate student fee for full-time students will be $520, an increase of $20 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 new ‘Belmont Goes Green’ 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,

Robert C. Fisher
President