

The Installation of President McArthur  
Welcome from the Faculty

“My task here is to welcome John MacArthur as the 17<sup>th</sup> President of Cameron University from a faculty perspective.

However, from a faculty perspective “welcome” doesn’t seem to be quite the right word.

John McArthur has been here for almost 10 years now and ‘welcome’ just doesn’t seem to fit.

He first came here as Dean McArthur, and as I am sure you all know, Academic Deans are the highest ranking faculty member, and the lowest ranking administrator. So not too long ago he was a faculty member at Cameron University.

Now I am purposefully not saying he was ‘one of us’, because if there is an ‘us’, it implies that there is a ‘them’. And as we all know, no good comes from governing as ‘us vs them’.

Instead, I would like to point out that he is a man who leads by experience and example.

As Dean part of his job was to wear a faculty hat and teach. But as the administrative side of that position, he made sure that he taught in all of the formats that he was asking all of us to use.

So he knows the joy of being able to reach out to students via on-line classes, who may be stationed around the globe. And the loneliness of wondering “HELLO. Is anybody out there?”

He knows the joy of being able to play some of the awe inspiring animations available for PowerPoint, and the despair of staring at the ‘Blue Screen of Death’.

He knows how important it is to reach our Duncan Campus via ITV, and the frustration of needing to move as you teach, but being stuck in front of the camera.

And he knows the thrill of being able to ad-lib with chalk in response to a particularly insightful question, and the embarrassment of spending the rest of the day with your black suit covered with chalk dust.

So what John McArthur brings as our 17<sup>th</sup> President, is a shared experience in the classroom, and the demonstrated leadership style that makes sure that that experience helps to guide his decisions.

So maybe ‘welcome’ is the right word in the right context.

Because the faculty of Cameron University, ‘welcome’ the opportunity to work with John.....President McArthur, as together, we prepare these great Cameron students to be the Earth shakers, that we both know they can be.”