Dear Belmont Student,

Being Belmont, it should come as no surprise that the new year is off to a promising start. U.S. News & World Report’s 2011 list of America’s Best Colleges places Belmont University at No. 5 in the Best Regional Universities-South category, our highest ranking ever, while also praising us for the third year in a row as a “Top School to Watch” in the nation. Student enrollment reached an all-time high last fall of 5,936, and our faculty has grown to meet those needs, maintaining a 13:1 student/faculty ratio. We also remain committed to providing a world-class learning and living environment for our students as can be seen with the recent openings of McWhorter Hall and a 400-bed residence facility.

While these are certainly exciting achievements, it’s simply not enough. As author Jim Collins noted, good is the greatest enemy of great. At Belmont University, we seek greatness through unparalleled academic excellence, innovation and engagement. We aspire to make this university distinctively Belmont, a place where students explore their passions and develop their talents to meet the world’s needs.

However, 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 2011-2012 will rise $620 per semester to a total of $11,885 for full-time students, an increase of 5.5 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 a similar percentage, 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 $595, 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 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 engage and transform the world with disciplined intelligence, compassion, courage and faith. We are honored and grateful that you have entrusted your education to us.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Fisher, President