The theme at Carroll for the 2012-2013 school year is Energy. Needless to say, the energy is everywhere. We kicked off the academic year at Opening Convocation with local 2012 Olympic triathlete Gwen Jorgensen and her motivational story about channeling your energy into the opportunities presented to you. Last week, students and staff got together to burn off some physical energy on Main Lawn with Zumba, a group exercise program. Students have also already had the chance to travel off campus and visit places of worship in the surrounding community to strive to understand the spiritual energy of cultures different than their own. This is just the beginning, too. We are excited about a whole year of energy-filled activities that will give students the chance to expand their minds and understanding of the world around us through this unique lens.

To keep consistent with our university-wide Energy theme, the energy behind the excitement of a new year in Student Senate can only be matched by our excitement for the new opportunities that go hand-in-hand with a year of transition like the one we are experiencing. Since the beginning of the school year, we have already welcomed nine fresh new faces to our organization, all of whom are full of positive energy and ready to serve our student body.

As always, Student Senate is looking for new and better ways to connect with students to best represent their thoughts, opinions and concerns about life at Carroll University. This year, our organization is looking to expand the expectations we have of ourselves by going above and beyond our normal habits to connect with students and the organizations we represent to communicate to them what we can do to assist their needs. It is always exciting to see the fruits of our collaborations as well. A recent example was our collaboration with Chartwells to phase out one of the food options in the PIT to something that was more appealing to current students. Based completely on student input, we are now happy to welcome Red Mango Frozen Yogurt to campus this semester.

Student Senate is also continuing to demonstrate our support for Academic Affairs and the development of more Cross-Cultural Experience options by continuing to offer ten $500 scholarships to students participating in CCEs. In addition, we are able to show our support to the General Education Program by having student representatives serve on GCCEC as the program continues to grow.

Finally, Senate is excited about our continuing role in the creation of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities Student Government Association (WAICU SGA) that was initiated by our predecessors last year. We have been collaborating with the student government at Marian University and have been continuing communication with representatives from Alverno College, Beloit College, Marquette University, and Concordia University in an effort to develop a bigger and better Student Government Conference hosted at Carroll’s Center for Graduate Studies in November. We are excited to have such a big role in giving other students the opportunity to take part in leadership development, networking opportunities, and collaborating on issues that we all experience as Student Government members.

Thank you for allowing me to have the opportunity to speak with you today. Student Senate is forever supportive and grateful for the involvement of the trustees and the efforts you put in to make our university a better place for everyone. We look forward to continuing to partner with you and the campus community for the next academic year as we gather to support an institution we all value greatly.