

**New Students and New Enthusiasm
in the Upper School**

**Dennis L. Calkins
Head of the Upper School**

The beginning of every new school year is unique. Some experiences can be predicted but it is always exciting to anticipate what will be new and different. Although we have completed less than one cycle of classes this fall, it is already apparent that the 2008-09 school year will be unique for two reasons – our new students and the enthusiasm that has been generated by our senior class.

On Wednesday, August 20th, I welcomed forty new students – a record number for the Upper School. These students come from twenty different schools – fourteen from within the Tulsa area and six from schools as far away as Houston and Chicago. They bring an impressive array of talent and experience to our school. I have been impressed by their enthusiasm and their willingness to get involved in the life of the school. I am also proud of the way our returning students have welcomed them into the Holland Hall community.

Our senior class has been instrumental in providing positive leadership and boundless enthusiasm to the beginning of the new school year. Student Council, Dutch Spirit, and Community Service leaders have already planned activities and events for all of us. Our seniors gave up the last two days of their summer vacation to complete a two-day leadership workshop. They are helping to establish an atmosphere that will ensure that their last year in the Upper School is filled with positive experiences for all of us.