



June 6, 2011

Dear Student:

“It’s not easy being green” according to Kermit the frog, but our 2011 Common Read author finds that “going green” and reducing his carbon imprint is doable, as long as he keeps a sense of humor.

This year our freshmen class will explore the issues, facts and opinions surrounding environmental sustainability including alternative energy, organic and locally grown food and climate change. Discussion of these topics will require you to examine your personal beliefs as well as those of your classmates; challenge assumptions and formulate new ideas.

Reading the book “Farewell, My Subaru” by Doug Fine, is the first step in this learning process. I am asking you to read this book prior to your arrival in the fall. It’s the story of one man’s attempt to change the way he lives, get back to nature, and experience green living on his Funky Butte Ranch in New Mexico. Will author Doug Fine inspire you to make changes to your lifestyle? Does the author make plausible arguments that his choices make a difference to the environment? What actions can the student body at WCSU take to contribute to a greener United States?

Throughout the academic year, we’ll discuss these questions and your professors will incorporate the themes of this book into your classes as part of your course work. There will be opportunities to participate in book discussions, attend lectures on a variety of environmental issues and meet author Doug Fine when he comes to campus on October 25<sup>th</sup>. For more about Doug Fine, visit his website: [www.dougfine.com](http://www.dougfine.com).

Your class will participate in the university’s fourth annual community common read. We expect you to set a standard of high excellence that will serve as a guidepost and benchmark for future classes who will follow this WCSU tradition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Roy Stewart  
Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs