

Dear Friend:

On Friday, October 26, 2007, a person broke into the automobile of one of our admissions recruiters and stole a laptop computer. The admissions recruiter was on out-of-state travel visiting prospective students in the greater Chicago area. Regrettably, the computer contains personal information regarding applicants for our 2007 and 2008 student classes. The information does not include any social security numbers, driver's license numbers, credit card information, banking information, or financial data of any kind. However, the data file does include name, home address, telephone number, date of birth, e-mail address, academic information, and student identification numbers.

Access to the laptop computer was protected by user identification and passwords on two different levels. At present, we have had no indication that this information has been accessed or has been misused in any way. The University immediately reported the laptop theft to authorities and an investigation is ongoing.

My purpose in writing is to inform you that your name and personal information are in the data that were contained on the stolen computer. I want to bring this situation to your attention and encourage you to take actions to minimize any potential risk of identity theft. It is important to emphasize that we have no evidence that this personal information has been retrieved, accessed or misused. To assist you we have established a Web site - ferris.edu/laptoptheft - that includes additional information, further suggestions, and links to other resources. Additionally, we have established a toll free number (1-800-433-7747) where you may contact us with any questions you might have about this incident.

As a university community we take very seriously our responsibility to safeguard your personal information. These data have been removed from all laptop computers. We are reviewing security precautions and protocols for the handling of student information. We will make every effort to ensure that this does not happen in the future.

Please accept my personal apology for any concerns or inconvenience this incident may cause you.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler
President