Welcome back to campus! In case you missed the big announcement, the Office of the VP of Research and Innovation is launching a new initiative to build a top ranked university, and it will take all of us working together to elevate Memphis into a world-class research institution. We know it takes every part of the campus community to succeed, and we want to welcome you back with an introduction to some of the exciting opportunities ahead.

One of the key initiatives is the development of a new academic year focus on academic entrepreneurship and innovation. This will include workshops, seminars, and networking events designed to help faculty, staff, and students explore new ways to translate ideas into impact. We will also be launching a new incubator program to support early-stage ventures, and we are partnering with local startups to provide mentorship and funding opportunities.

Another important aspect of this year's focus is the ongoing research and scholarship that is taking place across our campus. We are excited to announce the launch of the Memoris project, which is a collaborative effort between the Urban Child Institute and the Help for Hurting Kids. This initiative aims to understand the impact of exposure to violence on children and develop interventions to support their well-being.

In addition, we are proud to announce the launch of the Pregnant Moms' Empowerment Program, which is designed to support women throughout pregnancy and beyond. This program will provide resources and support to help women make informed decisions about their health and well-being, and it will be supported by a team of experts from the Department of Pediatrics.

We are also excited to announce the launch of a new program in the Department of Psychology, which will focus on the study of human behavior and mental health. This program will be led by Drs. Vasile Rus and Scott Fleming, and it will bring together faculty and students from across the campus to explore new research opportunities.

For further information, please contact the Office of Research and Innovation or visit our website for more details. We look forward to working with you to make this academic year a success!