

August 2004

## *A Moment for Grove City College*

Summer has come to Grove City with lots of spring and early summer rain. The grounds are emerald and the buildings are as beautiful as ever. One building is brand new and just a few weeks from being finished. It is the new Student Activities Center (SAC), pictured here, located just in front of the year-and-a-half-old Hall of Arts and Letters. (Both new buildings straddle the location of the now razed Calderwood Hall.) The SAC has great utility for student needs and uses (the new food area will bear a familiar name – the Gedunk). It provides a dimension we never truly had and it will enhance the student experience for our 2,300 undergraduates. Its completion signals a trilogy of new dynamic space (the dramatic addition to the Pew Fine Arts Center, the spectacular Hall of Arts and Letters and the beautiful Student Activities Center), built from the results of our ongoing *Change & Commitment* Campaign. As I wrote in my last “Moment” piece about fundraising, the Campaign, which is about 90 percent complete, has been funded in very large measure from alumni gifts. And for that the Board of Trustees and the entire College family can never say thank you enough.



***Student Activities Center***

I would like to briefly look back on some of the subjects I wrote to you about during the past year and provide you with an update and some further comments.

My initial “Moment” explained a new policy and approach to legacy applications (daughters and/or sons of a parent graduate). As indicated, applications would be handled exclusively by our Director of Admissions Jeff Mincey and that I would review with him all who were deferred or not admitted (although Mr. Mincey makes the final decision). Recall that included was the previous year’s freshman academic profile. It was pointed out that a legacy applicant should at least be “in the ballpark” of that profile. I am pleased to report that we had a record 81 legacy students apply, of which 94 percent were admitted.

On this point, for your information, should you have a son and/or daughter who wants to apply this year, below is the incoming freshman class academic profile. Again, your child should at least be “in the ballpark” for consideration. Too far from the ballpark range is not fair to the prospective student as it makes it very difficult to be successful.

### **FRESHMAN CLASS PROFILE – 2004**

3.74 GPA

1274 SAT

28 ACT

64% in the top 10% of their class

80% in the top 20% of their class

SAT mid 50% range 1176-1373

I also wrote about the Greek system at the College. Many responses to that piece were received. Exactly half appreciated hearing an update with perspective. The other half strongly felt that a Greek system at a Christian College was an inconsistent proposition.

To those opposed to keeping the Greek system, I replied by reminding them that I had written about the imperative that the Greek system, to be successful, must reflect the mission, vision and values of the College. We have made progress and have involved a committee of faculty, as well as alumni who were a part of the Greek system, to advise and mentor the process.


In my last “Moment,” called the “Sermon on the Amount,” fundraising was addressed. Your response to both the late stages of the capital campaign and the Annual Fund *Full Circle* has been astounding! We are fast approaching a successful finish to the *Change & Commitment* Campaign. In regard to the Annual Fund (fiscal year ending June 30, 2004), alumni donated unrestricted monies of \$785,000, an eye-popping 38 percent increase over last year. Almost 5,000 of you gave to the College (many who had never given or had not given in a long time). In fact, the number of givers was 32 percent higher than last year. All of this year’s numbers were new records for the College. To those who gave – a heartfelt thanks from all the College family. Please continue to give so we can repeat this year’s performance and build out even further. (This past year, 22.21 percent of all alumni donated – again, an all-time record.) I now believe that with lots of hard work on our part and continuing efforts to make the case to you, we can be close to 30 percent participation of alumni and more than \$1 million in unrestricted giving within the next two or three years. If we are to continue from the breakout year we had this year, we will begin to reach parity with many other great schools in America. Again, it’s in our hands – no one else’s. As I have said and will often repeat, with your help we will continue to prosper; without it we are diminished.

It was also a busy year for Dayl and me in visiting alumni across the country. We attended more than 40 events and saw more than 4,000 of you personally. Our conversations were candid, far-ranging and a lot of fun! We will continue to reach out with personal visits and responses to you when you write or e-mail. Lots of informative coverage of both alumni activities and College happenings will continue to be the norm in The GeDUNK Alumni Magazine.

Finally, there was another group with whom I spent a lot of time this past year – our students. They are, as Senior Director of Alumni and College Relations Jeff Prokovich ’89 calls them, “alumni in residence.” I am the first President to have weekly office hours in the Gedunk (Wednesday from 4 to 6 p.m). I had more than 30 sessions and learned a lot. These conversations helped bring change where change was needed and better explain policy when clarification was necessary. I also met monthly with a group of the school’s senior elected or appointed student leaders (just me and them). At our unique and nationally recognized institution, our Board and this administration are dedicated to communication and a commitment to all of our constituents. We do not take you for granted but ask you to join us to help us take our 129-year-old college to an even greater level of success.

God willing, and with your help, the path of excellence will continue to be followed.

Yours for Grove City College,



Richard G. Jewell '67, J.D.