



January 2005

## *A Moment for Grove City College*

This “Moment for Grove City College” has a single topic – Career Services at the College – and a simple request – we need your help! So, while I often ask you for your money – that tendency springs from being a College President – today I ask for your talent, your wisdom and your help. Let me explain.

Last May we graduated 554 very talented seniors. What are they doing a few short months later? About 20 percent are in graduate and professional schools, about 20 percent are serving as teachers and 60 percent are performing in the broad category called working in the job market. It is that 60 percent about whom I want to communicate with you.



The College assists that significant group through its Career Services Office, ably led by Dr. James Thrasher '80. Jim is pictured above in the beautiful new offices in the Physical Learning Center. He has two full-time professional assistants. In most colleges it's called a “placement office,” i.e., seniors show up (sometimes at the last minute in a panic) and say, “get me a job.” What we do today at our alma mater is much more than that. We pursue a four-year engagement strategy with the overarching goal of helping our students realize and pursue their God-given calling. This “transforming calling” is identified through self-assessment of gifts, talents, abilities and transferable skills and is an integral part of the academic advising process. We begin in the freshman year with testing and counseling to assist in self-assessment. The next two years (sophomore/junior) is a myriad of actions to promote career exploration, reaching a point in the students' junior year when they narrow and refine their career decision. Along the way, career fairs, counseling, testing, internships, etc., have helped provide informed guidance.

In the senior year, the strategic job search is initiated by the student and closely supported by the College. We had 153 corporate visits last year by some of the finest companies and organizations in the country. A few examples of the types of companies are: Bayer, GE, the Heritage Foundation, Honda Research & Development, Pfizer and Westinghouse. Grove City brings an exceptionally high number of organizations to campus in comparison to much larger colleges and universities.

According to on-campus recruiter surveys, employers return each year to recruit our students because of their work ethic, initiative, leadership qualities, interpersonal skills, integrity and intellectual abilities.

With that in mind, here is where you can help, and it's a two-way street. We can help you and your workplace by providing terrific young people for entry level positions and internships. You can help these soon-to-be graduates by considering them as future employees or providing an internship opportunity for them.

First, because our country's marketplace is made up of 70 percent "small businesses," those of you as owners/entrepreneurs or employees in these enterprises can find great young people to hire at your alma mater (engineering, finance, accounting, communication, pure liberal arts majors, etc.). And for those of you at larger businesses, if you are aware that your company is already scheduled to recruit on campus, please support those efforts. You may also visit your human resources manager and encourage him or her to recruit at Grove City. The Career Services Office would be delighted to provide recruiting materials to make this easier, and your willingness in this important component of creating superb business leaders is greatly appreciated. Another way you can help is to complete the enclosed card and return it to my office so we can better aid our students in networking with our alumni.

Please call Dr. Jim Thrasher direct at (724) 458-2200 or e-mail him at [jtthrasher@gcc.edu](mailto:jtthrasher@gcc.edu) to inquire about hiring a Grove City College intern or graduate or to speak to him about having your organization recruit Grovers.

One thing I can tell you in closing, if you hire a Grove City College graduate – just like we all were once – you will be getting an outstanding (in every way) future employee. And that is a promise.

Yours for Grove City College,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Jewell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "J".

Richard G. Jewell '67, J.D.  
President