



## *A Moment for Grove City College*

March 2004

*“A Moment for Grove City College”* is written to both comment on issues raised and of interest to alumni, and to periodically share with all of you some insight on current College programs and the future of our great alma mater.

This “Moment,” accordingly, will briefly cover two programs that impact the vast majority of our students—music and athletics.

We all know from our personal experience as students, and as a result of numerous national rankings, that education at Grove City College is about scholarship and character. It is faith-based and ethically centered with rigorous academic standards. Our outstanding student body is up to the tough challenges we set. I marvel at the talents of these young people. I count it a true blessing to see great things daily.

There are two broad areas of interest that cut across the experience of our student body and those two—music and athletics—are areas that we enjoyed and were challenged by in our days on campus. But what are these areas like today? You may be surprised and heartened.

Today, under the leadership of Department Chair Dr. Ed Arnold and his colleagues, the music offerings are extensive and reflect the remarkable musical interest and talent of our students. On the instrumental side, more than 28 percent of our 2300 students play in our symphonic orchestra, bands, special ensembles and numerous quartets. On the vocal side, we have Chapel and Touring Choirs in addition to numerous ensemble singing groups.

We also have almost 90 students who are music majors. The majority are studying to be music educators while others are studying music as a business, music specifically related to religion, and music and the performing arts.

Our student body and magnificent facilities are well positioned to compete in the marketplace with the other music schools we find in our nation.

In addition to the hundreds who perform and study music as a major or minor, hundreds of additional students take music lessons as part of their college life. This year we will give more than 9,000 individual lessons in the voice and instrumental areas. The result of all of this is truly magnificent recitals, band, symphony orchestra, and ensemble performances on an almost weekly basis. Dayl and I attend many. I continue to be in awe of the talent, art and skill of the performers. Their abilities are something of which we all can be proud. The music program will continue to prosper and grow, and that **is a promise!** If you are in the area, stop by and see for yourself. Make sure you also see the \$4.2 million addition to the Pew Fine Arts Center (all paid for—thank you very much—a lot of alumni helped!). It was desperately needed and is constantly in use. The musical arts are indeed thriving at our alma mater.



Another area that affects a large portion of our student body is athletics. Close to 400 men and women compete at the NCAA Division III level. That's almost 20 percent of our student body. We have 10 men's and 10 women's varsity teams. These students are true amateurs as no scholarship money is given in Division III for athletes. They play for very old fashioned reasons – for the love of the game and the honor to represent our College. Year in and year out we have had the dominant program in our conference and have produced numerous All-Americans. Not surprisingly, our athletes have won numerous awards for their academic performance in the classroom. Just a few weeks ago, we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Basketball at Grove City College and many alumni players returned to celebrate.

Intramural opportunities also abound. And here the number of participants is impressive. Between 1500-1600 men and women participate in 13 separate sports for women and 15 for men. It's a great way to ease the stress of academics and join in the fellowship of team competition. We also have club sports in lacrosse, volleyball and rugby.


On the physical education side, our curriculum has drastically changed. Remember when we were taught the rules of a few games, ran some laps and played touch football, dodge ball, etc? No more. Today under the guidance of our Department Chair and Athletic Director Dr. Don Lyle, and his fine colleagues and coaches, we teach fitness and wellness. We help educate students in nutrition and exercise to obtain and develop skills that will help with fitness for life. We also offer numerous skill classes and lectures.

I can also report that our facilities are satisfactory, and we have some upgrades in the works. The Athletic Program remains an integral part of our educational experience. It too, like music, provides opportunities to all and skills for life. Athletic opportunities will also continue to prosper and grow and this too **is a promise!**

It happens more than once. I try to attend as many events as I can on campus. I look at the schedule and see an athletic contest and a musical performance (or play) at the same time. Those who know me, know I love sports but as I leave my office in Crawford and walk up campus I don't always turn left to the athletic building (known today as the Physical Learning Center), but I often turn right to the Pew Fine Arts Center. It's great to have so many choices and to be blessed with such great student talent as taught and or coached by such fine faculty men and women. It's challenging but fun being a college president and what I have just shared with you today is one of the reasons why.

As we enter the season of Lent, I wish for all of you in this time of reflection a renewed and strengthened relationship with our God who has blessed us and continues to bestow on us His blessings as a College, as a people and as a nation.

Yours for Grove City College,



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