

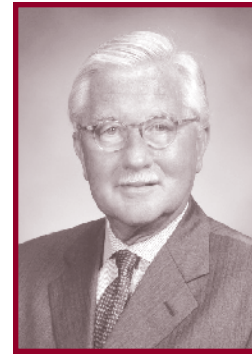


May 2009

## *Sermon on the Amount*

As I reflect on the sixth Commencement ceremony since I became President of Grove City College, I am struck by the changes that have occurred in our nation and world since last year's seniors graduated. Still, through these challenges, the position and resolve of our College, animated by the guiding principles of faith and freedom, remain unchanged. Grove City College continues to persevere, and this year we are presenting another remarkable class of young people highly trained in the arts, sciences and engineering, ready to make a difference in the world.

You, our alumni, have all shared in their education and preparation, and what you have done has given them the opportunity for the instruction and experiences that matter most. These experiences have equipped them to move on to the next chapter of their life's work. *And that matters.*



*Richard Jewell*

You may ask, "What have I done?" You are part of our history, our fabric. You walked the same hallways and sidewalks as these students have. You may have given gifts to support a particular project or scholarship, or given simply to help out wherever needed. You may have yet to give but are considering it because you know your gifts create vital opportunities for students to learn and grow. You may have spent time in a classroom on a discussion panel or as a business plan reviewer. Or you may have interviewed a student for an internship or for their first job. You may have helped a student appreciate your alma mater, and because of your example, they decided to attend Grove City College. Together we have created opportunities for our students. Instead of relying on a government agency or federal funding, we create these opportunities on our own and for our own. But they require real financial resources, and in this year's "Sermon on the Amount," I am again asking for your support and contribution.

A few weeks ago, at The Center for Vision & Values annual conference on campus, Trustee David Lascell, the lawyer who argued our Supreme Court case, delivered an eloquent talk on Grove City College's independence. In it, he presented the challenges and costs of being independent. And they are many. But we wouldn't change that stance for the world. *And that matters.*

This year marks the 25th anniversary of that Supreme Court decision. Mr. Lascell reminded us all that the stance we have taken in regard to government funding puts us in a position of necessity in taking care of our own. He reasoned that although it has been 25 years since that landmark decision, the battle to keep that independence is long from over. It is a difficult and continual weight to bear, but it creates unique opportunities for us to serve our students and our College.

For example, this year mathematics students worked with a professor to accomplish original research during their course of study, and they had the opportunity to present that research to colleagues and experts at a national conference. We could have received federal or state funding to send these and other students with similar interests on such a trip. The National Science Foundation would be more than pleased in most cases to fund such travels and expenses. But because we do not accept government funding – and the NSF is a federal organization – we must find an alternative way of providing those opportunities to our students.

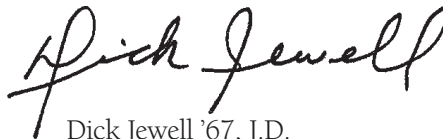
In late April, our annual Scholarship Luncheon brought together students and benefactors. During this fifth annual event, scholarship recipients had the chance to meet the donors who made their scholarship possible. At this luncheon, retired Professor of Physics Richard Leo talked about the importance of giving to scholarship funds. The scholarship named for him, to which many of you have given, makes it possible for at least one student to concentrate fully on her studies and the college experiences that make our time here so precious. Because of the Richard A. Leo Scholarship, students through the years could afford an education at Grove City College, as well as have time to learn in and out of the classroom, unencumbered by many hours of part-time work. This is another of the opportunities you have helped create for them.

These are only a few examples (there are many, many others) of the ways we must continue the battle to remain true to who we are. With your enthusiasm, with your involvement and with your gifts, we can continue to provide a world-class educational experience to bright, promising students who will bring incredible change to our world. ***And that matters.***

We are soon to complete our fiscal year (June 30, 2009). Our annual fund called *Full Circle* has seen a remarkable year, given all that has occurred in the economy. We are just very slightly behind last year's record pace of unrestricted giving. The numbers of individual gifts are down, but the average gift amount is up. So our alumni are continuing to support the College for the reasons and types of needs cited above, even in short-term perilous times. That says a lot about the College, I think, but even more about our donors. So in the five weeks before the end of this fiscal year, we ask you to please continue this wonderful trend and let's close out with another record. It is within our reach and for that we are most grateful. And so are our 2,500 students who will benefit from your generosity. Your gifts continue to help make Grove City College matter.

If you have already given, we have thanked you individually and I thank you once again. And if you have not already given, please consider joining the thousands of alumni and friends who have. With your help we can continue to do our best ***and that is a promise.***

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dick Jewell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "J".

Dick Jewell '67, J.D.  
President