



May 2005

A Moment for Grove City College

Since becoming the eighth President of Grove City College last year, I have been privileged to write eight of these “Moment” letters. This “Moment” is a brief retrospective that reviews our progress and outcomes on a number of the subjects previously discussed.

First, in my most recent “Moment,” the subject was our **academic program**. Provost Bill Anderson discussed the breadth and depth of scholarship at the College. An important arm to that area is our academic leadership. In early April, we were excited to announce the selection of Dr. Stacy Birmingham (see picture to the right) to the position of Dean of the Albert A. Hopeman Jr. School of Science and Engineering, succeeding a wonderful leader over the past 36 years, retiring Dean Joe Goncz. Dr. Birmingham left a tenured faculty position to join us in 2003 after 15 years at the University of Michigan. She brings great experience and vision to her new responsibilities. I am reminded daily of the talent of both our faculty and students. Their scholarship in the classroom translates into careers marked by success, leadership and caring.



Dr. Stacy Birmingham

Earlier this year, “Moment” focused on the **Career Services** program and the work of Dr. Jim Thrasher '80. Jim and I (and the College) asked for your help in identifying employment or internship opportunities that may be available at the business/enterprise you lead or in your workplace. Your response was terrific! More than 250 of you responded with potential opportunities, thoughts and constructive guidance. Of course, our students are the true beneficiaries. Thank you from them and all of us. Our more than 22,000 alumni are the key resource for our future. And, while we often ask for your treasure, in this case we asked for your time and talent. You were most generous.

You'll also recall that I have written about the state of our **Greek system**. What I shared, among other observations, was that this administration would constructively engage with Greek members to ensure there was alignment with the mission, vision and values of the College. I also pointed out that such alignment was essential for the Greek system to be a part of the College and, frankly, to remain of interest to today's students. My administration – including new Vice President for Student Life and Learning Dr. Jean-Noel Thompson as well as many others – has engaged with Greek students to make this system strong, vital and consistent with the values of the school. Accordingly, all sororities and all but one of our fraternities are operating and making contributions to campus life. In fact, sorority and fraternity pledges were up 30 percent from last year. How each organization will fare, of course, remains to be seen, but we will work hard with them to help build a positive and constructive experience for their members. We also want to see our Greek organizations, along with our many other outstanding extracurricular groups, continue to be a positive force on our campus and in the community.

The very first “Moment” addressed **legacy applications**. Among other things, I wrote about how we would (and should) approach this subject. In a nutshell, our policy is that all legacies (sons and daughters of alumni) will be handled directly by Director of Admissions Jeff Mincey. I review with Jeff any legacy applicant that is preliminarily deferred or denied, but the final decision is his. That edition listed our general admissions profile, indicating where legacy applicants should be academically (i.e. “in the ballpark”), and noted a few majors (due to space and number of applicants) that are highly competitive and above our usual admissions gauge. I can report from last year’s admissions figures that this current freshman class saw a 94 percent acceptance rate of the 81 legacies who applied. Thus far, we have also accepted 94 percent of the 71 legacies who applied in our new class entering in the fall of 2005.

Finally, a year ago, I wrote to you about **giving**. This area of alumni giving is a subject close to the hearts of all college presidents, and for Grove City College, it is our very lifeblood. A quick recap begins with a heartfelt thanks to all and a big WOW! Our *Change & Commitment* Campaign (mainly alumni driven) chaired by alumnus Fred Fetterolf ’52 totals close to \$59 million and we hope to complete it by exceeding our goal this calendar year. The Campaign has provided donated capital to build the striking Hall of Arts and Letters, the terrific new Student Union, as well as a wonderful addition to the Pew Fine Arts Center. Plus, your generosity added up to \$25 million in direct scholarship aid. Our final project of the Campaign will be a retrofit and improvement of the Carnegie Alumni Center. Plans for this will be announced very soon.

To parallel the above Capital Campaign update, we saw a record fiscal year in annual giving between July 1, 2003, and June 30, 2004. Previous marks were surpassed in unrestricted donations by 38 percent and in the percentage of alumni donors – up 29 percent. The 10-plus alumni in our 10x10 program (each giving \$10 thousand) are acting as pacesetters as more consider joining this innovative program. We have begun to turn the corner in this vital area. I can report that, as of the end of March (three-quarters through the fiscal year), we are ahead of last year’s record pace. To continue to do great things in the future, we alumni bear the primary responsibility. As all should now know, we aren’t supported at the level we once were from the Pew interests. And, because we value our independence above all else, we don’t take direct federal or state aid. Accordingly, alumni and friends must lead the way to growth and opportunity at Grove City College.

As you can see from this retrospective look at our alma mater, we have made great strides in many areas and are nationally recognized for who we are, what we stand for, how we educate and how our students perform. ALL of you as past students and supporters have played a role in what we stand for today.

At this moment, I have one very direct request. If you haven’t given or finished your pledge to *Full Circle*, the Annual Fund for Grove City College, please do so before June 30, 2005. It will be appreciated and well-used. And that is a promise.

Yours for Grove City College,



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