



A Moment for Grove City College

October 2004

The new academic year has begun at Grove City College. In our 129th year we welcomed to campus a record 2,344 students, hailing from 46 states and many foreign countries. They are a truly great group of young people: well qualified, fun to work with and eager to learn. I can also tell you, just like all of us they are here to learn about themselves, from each other and from our superb faculty. They are eager to begin to add expertise in a major and they are eager to understand God's calling for their lives' work. So in that most fundamental way, today's student differs not a bit from those of us who have come before.



Each academic year begins with a convocation address from the President. It is an opportunity to chart the course and share a view or two over the horizon. I would like to share with you some of the announcements made at that time.

First, I was pleased to announce, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, two major projects concerning facilities:

1. **Student apartments**

The building of additional student housing in the form of apartments to be constructed on lower campus will soon occur. The apartments will house 200 students and retain our traditional student life philosophy and values. The primary rationale for the decision was that for a number of years we have turned away hundreds of highly qualified students who could not be admitted because we didn't have enough living space. Accordingly, we will be able to add 160 or so to our student body size and accommodate more outstanding young people. If you do the math, you'll see that while we will add 160 or so to the student body, we will be adding room for 200 in apartments. The difference of 40 or so will be students in rooms that are now "triples" (three in a room) that will be returned to "doubles" (two in a room). This announcement is a real positive for our students. The new units will be available first to those in the senior class and will give them a "step up" before they "step out" and graduate. By placing the new apartments on lower campus, we both return to our historic roots and place the facilities at the doorstep of a soon-to-be-revitalized downtown. The air-conditioned apartments will also be available for alumni program uses in the summer months, giving us an added dimension of alumni and visitor services. We will also investigate the opportunity and ability to upgrade Carnegie Hall adjacent to where the apartments will be located in concert with the student apartment project. The apartments will be built and ready for fall 2006 at a cost of about \$10 million. We do not have the money to pay for this from our *Change & Commitment* Campaign. We will instead use borrowed capital for the investment. Payback will come from the charges received from the students living in the apartment facilities. The money to upgrade Carnegie, however, will be the capstone of our current *Change & Commitment* Campaign. You will hear more on the plan to wrap up the *Change & Commitment* Campaign soon.

2. **Food service upgrades**

The College will dramatically upgrade our food service with an investment of almost \$4 million, in part gifted by and in part advanced by, our food service supplier. Both dining halls will be transformed. New kitchens will be added, food offerings will become more varied and nutritional choices will be expanded. This work will be done over the next two summers and perhaps part of the third. When finished, a variety of food will be available in a dramatic food court setting with restaurant-style seating.

Both the above actions are consistent with the objectives of the College, but also based in part on suggestions we gleaned from conversations with students and alumni. Listening to our students, alumni and other friends is a hallmark of our Board and this administration. And that will continue to be a promise.

Next in my convocation address, I was privileged to announce a whole new program for international studies at the College. In an age when commerce is instant and borderless and where the boundaries of most countries are open and inviting, the opportunity for study abroad (meaning at least a semester) is critical to student learning. Accordingly, we have created and staffed a new Office of International Education dedicated to developing incentives and opportunities for our students to study abroad. You will hear much more on this during the next year or so. International studies will be an increasingly important component of our educational preparation, as it should, and that is a promise.

I also announced the formation of a think tank called “The Center for Vision and Values at Grove City College.” The formal roll-out, which will have national coverage, will be April 4, 2005. This Center will present commentary, invite speakers and present papers on issues related to public and social policy. Its purpose is to take part in the national debate and to contribute to the “marketplace of ideas.” It will be comprised of professors and students from the College and a few other scholars serving as fellows. Again, you will hear much more about this in the months ahead.

Finally, I announced the commitment of the College to presenting our three-fold mission to persons of every race and ethnic origin. We desire to create an indiscriminate and dynamic learning community of gracious and sensitive people that is reflective of God’s intention for his spiritual kingdom on Earth. Accordingly, we will be seeking in our admissions process qualified young women and men of diverse ethnic backgrounds to join us as students. I pointed out in my remarks, also, that our program has no quotas or timetable, nor is it being pursued for some external mandate. It is the heartfelt belief of our Trustees that it is a good thing for our campus. We will continue to communicate with you about this subject.

So much progress – so many fine people helping (Trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, alumni) – we are truly enriched and blessed. With God’s help and your help we will soar! Don’t just witness this; be a contributor – play a part!

Yours for Grove City College,



Richard G. Jewell '67, J.D.