

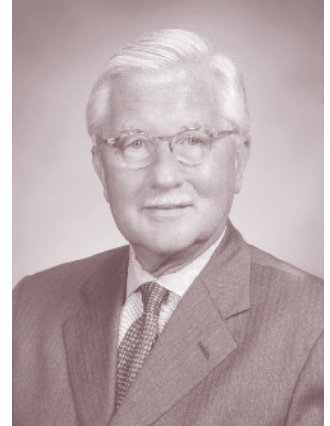


October 2005

## *A Moment for Grove City College*

Now that another academic year has begun here at Grove City College, I want to address two topics. One is new - our College's strategic plan - and the other is not new, but it is one that should be familiar to all. Yep, you guessed it - alumni giving (great news here also!).

I spent much of my Opening Convocation address on Aug. 30 talking about the implementation of our new strategic plan. The plan is a comprehensive road map to guide and illuminate our next five years. It was prepared over the last 18 months by our Trustees under the leadership of Chairman David Rathburn '79. Alumni, students, faculty and administration all had a significant role. The 37-page document is comprised of eight strategic objectives with many strategic initiatives and more than 89 specific action steps for implementation. Its purpose is to advance our existing level of achievement to an even higher level. Our mission, tested over 130 years, remains unchanged. We have, however, adopted a going-forward vision as follows:



**“To be one of America’s premier liberal arts, science and engineering colleges, where scholarship combines with Christian principles.”**

Therein, are many highlights. A brief sample:

- In academics, we will investigate adding new programs in languages, chemical engineering and additional minors.
- We will consider adding a number of master's level programs, in specific, “niche” areas of the College.
- We will measure all we accomplish in both academics and other areas against a group of predetermined “best” cohort schools in America.
- We will consider constructing a new science building (contiguous to and complimentary to our Rockwell and Hoyt venues) and also look at other complimentary program-supporting construction.
- In student life, we will begin a number of programs to impart transitional life skills (a practicum on living as an adult). We will now treat our residence halls as places of learning instead of just places to eat and sleep.
- Consistent with our expanded overseas study objectives, we will look at establishing two overseas venues (Pacific Rim and Europe) as sites for semester-long residence study.

While there are many other areas for attention and action, I thought the foregoing would give you an interesting flavor. It is important to keep in mind, however, that certain components of the entire plan or even some of the above sample action steps may not occur; a careful feasibility analysis will be necessary as to each part. Some of what we will be doing will not require funding, some will require redirection of existing revenue streams and some will require targeted fund-raising.

Make no mistake, the path will be hard, not easy, and it will require much work on the part of many (including alumni). In the end, our great and unique American College will provide

an even better educational experience to our students, as well as an even stronger education paradigm for all schools in America to see and for educational consumers to value. We will continue to climb the mountain of American educational excellence. We will do it together and reach the summit. **And that is a promise.**

My final subject is one that has a familiar theme to alums and may cause some to think, “Oh no, we’re not going to talk about alumni giving again.” But sure enough, as Ronald Reagan said about Jimmy Carter in one of their presidential debates (on another subject of course), “There you go again!”

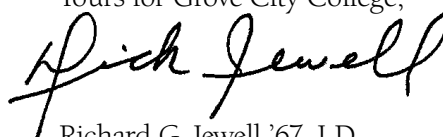
As I often say, for a school that values its independence by refusing direct federal and state funding, alumni giving is our lifeblood; it is our future. First, I continue to pass on a great, heartfelt thanks from the College to all of you. In the past two years, alumni unrestricted giving in our annual *Full Circle* campaign is up 63.4 percent in total dollars. This is a **very significant advance, very meaningful** and a **welcome trend!**

In July, after the fiscal year ended, we were able to direct almost a million dollars of your gifted, unrestricted dollars to such uses as student need-based scholarships, visiting scholar lectures, chapel program support, “big ticket” scientific instrumentation for science and engineering teaching and research, new exercise equipment in the PLC, support for additional student life programs, money for some of our ongoing physical plant renovations and money to augment our Guest Artist Series, as well as support other alumni programs. Your gifts from generations past to today’s student needs and interests will have an incalculable affect and, most importantly, make a great difference in the student life and learning of our campus. Let’s keep it up - you’ll hear more throughout the year about giving (as you’ve probably guessed).

As to the current *Change & Commitment* capital campaign, we hope to finish this year by breaking through our \$60 million goal. We’re very close. When we are through, we believe close to 65 percent of the monies raised will have come from alumni. This percent is much higher than usual for campaigns of this size.

If we work together by giving back through annual support - each and every year - by aiming to meet the goal of the capital campaign and by committing to deferred giving through estate planning, realizing the Grove City College strategic plan and advancing our alma mater to a level of national recognition and respect as an educational treasure will be assured. **And that is a promise.**

Thank you, as ever, for all you do for our alma mater.

Yours for Grove City College,  
  
Richard G. Jewell '67, J.D.