



September 2006

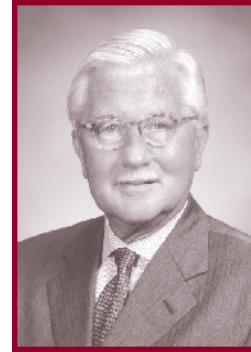
A Moment for Grove City College

As I write this “Moment,” the summer break is almost over and by the time you receive this communiqué, 2,450 GCC students will have begun fall semester classes. Thanks to copious rain the campus still has a spring-like appearance. Our students have spent their summers working and studying elsewhere in jobs, internships and in mission work both in this country and across the globe. Our faculty, likewise, spent their summers studying and researching, many in far away places. But, while the faculty and students were away, much was being readied. Allow me to share some news and insight from the summer with you.

First, a number of significant projects have been completed this summer. On lower campus, the new Colonial Hall Apartments (for our seniors) are finished. This new facility will do a number of great things. First, it gives our seniors a “step up before they step out” – a chance to experience a more independent style of living, to include kitchens in each unit. We have been careful to say throughout, and say again, that our traditional student life values will be observed in the new facility as those values are observed throughout our residence halls. Also on lower campus, we have put lights on Thorn Field and replaced the grass with an all-weather, state-of-the-art Pro-turf surface. Historically, Thorn Field was only used four to five fall afternoons a year for varsity football. The field upgrade will not only assist our varsity programs, but also as importantly, it will make that space available for club sports, intramurals and general student athletic use every day and into the night. So instead of using this facility for 18 to 24 hours a year, we will be able to use it for hundreds of hours. Next, we have transformed and upgraded our MAP West dining facility (including a slight enlargement). We will significantly upgrade our Hicks Hall dining facility next summer. When both projects are complete, we will have two attractive, modern facilities with new ways to prepare and deliver our food services to students and guests.

I turn now to that subject you hear about a lot from me – you guessed it – fundraising. I start by using my favorite word, and one I use in a heartfelt way all the time – thanks! Our Annual Fund campaign “Full Circle” set a fundraising and participation level record in the first two years of my administration, and in this third year (fiscal year end June 30, 2006), we did it again. Almost 6,000 of you (mostly alums and a few friends of the College) contributed a total of \$1.2 million in unrestricted money and \$4 million in restricted money. The percent of eligible alums who participated exceeded 25 percent. This is a great improvement over the mark of 16 percent participation just four years ago. In the last three years, alumni unrestricted giving is up 72 percent in total dollars and in percent of number of givers, a 52 percent increase! Put another way, with the last number, 2,000 active new donors have been added to our giving column over the last three years. Again, I send my heartfelt thanks to each of you who gave this year.

As I have written to you before – I have told our Board that we have turned the corner on gift giving from our alumni base. Thousands more are stepping up with their time, talent and treasure to benefit our alma mater. And this is a factor in our ability to thrive as we are doing today – as one of our nation’s most respected colleges. I believe, in the next few years, if we continue to make our case to you, and you continue to respond as you have, that we can exceed the 30 percent threshold in participation. That range is actually quite good on a comparative basis and well above what has been



Richard Jewell

our norm. So, many thanks again. We can all be proud of this outcome. The unrestricted donations will be used this year for special lectureships, cultural programs, scholarship aid, special high-end laboratory equipment, and additional funds for club sports, etc. – in other words, for addressing the direct needs of our students!

You should also know that as a result of careful planning during the last few years, (beginning under President Moore's fine leadership), to include adding faculty, academic and residence hall space, we have been able to grow our student body size to just under 2,500. That is a number that will probably be one we will maintain for some time to come.

There is one other outcome that I would like to share. Over the last three years, we have looked hard at accepting as many alumni legacy applicants as possible. Our philosophy is that those legacies we accept should be "in the ballpark" of the academic profile of other incoming freshmen (this year's class will have an average SAT of 1281, ACT of 28 and a GPA of 3.75 unweighted and 3.98 weighted). I can report that as a result, while our overall class acceptance is in the 40-50 percent range (on average) of those who apply, we have accepted more than 90 percent of our legacy applicants (meaning a son or daughter of an alumni parent). The sons and daughters of our grads are important to us and will continue to be so.

As I begin my fourth year as our eighth President, I want to share some very personal thoughts with you. I am truly blessed to have this great opportunity of service to our alma mater. Grove City College, along with my faith and my family, has had the greatest impact on my life. It is the opportunity of my lifetime, and my wife, Dayl, and I are truly grateful. Although I served as a trustee and in other volunteer capacities at our alma mater for many years, being President gives me the ultimate vantage point to see how the blessing and grace of the Lord, in conjunction with a brilliant and dedicated teaching faculty and staff, have shaped and molded our College to be a beacon of higher education in our nation. That platform is built on all of the experiences of our alumni and the leadership of the past. Our heritage and faith are a strong foundation for a bright and vibrant future. Our alumni have led the way, and we will continue to hold you close, and **that is a promise.**

In closing, I offer you a personal invitation to return this year for Homecoming the weekend of October 14 and 15, 2006. If you haven't been here for a while you will be amazed at the vibrancy of the campus with its new buildings and upgraded athletic venues. You will see the impact of careful and integrated planning as the new strategic plan is implemented. Last year, more than 4,000 alumni and friends came back for Homecoming – what a great time they had seeing old friends and walking our beautiful campus again. The activities are incredibly varied – much fun is to be enjoyed! I encourage you to come back for a great experience, you'll have a great time – **and that, too, is a promise.** See you then or when Dayl and I travel around the country visiting many of you in your home areas.

Yours for Grove City College

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Jewell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".