

theGēDUNK

GROVE CITY COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE
Fall 2017

—a special—
PLACE

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Your feedback is very important to our editorial staff and we encourage you to register your comments, questions, concerns, and, hopefully, compliments. Our mailing address is The GēDUNK, 100 Campus Drive, Grove City PA, 16127-2104, but there's no need to put pen to paper or stamp to envelope, we'll be happy to hear what you think via email at alumni@gcc.edu. Please use GēDUNK in the subject line and indicate if your letter is intended for publication.



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fall 2017

THE THEOLOGY OF PLACE

What are some of your favorite places in the world? A vacation spot with wonderful family memories? An awe-inspiring vista in a national park? An iconic tourist destination? Most folks would just say home, wherever that may happen to be. One of my favorite places is Ocean Drive in Acadia National Park where the powerful Atlantic surf unrelentingly attacks the massive rocky coastline. Brenda and I discovered this special place on our honeymoon, and we have returned with our family many times over the past 36 years.

For countless Grove City College alumni, our campus is one of those favorite places. The striking beauty of the Gothic brick buildings and lush landscape of towering trees and expansive green lawns reminds graduates of an extraordinary time of personal transformation. The College is indeed a special place where aesthetic and functional excellence undergird an even more remarkable enterprise. Our alma mater is one of the most distinctive institutions in higher education. We refuse federal funding and award real scholarships to our students rather than discounting an artificially high tuition sticker price. We faithfully teach the humanities from the canon of Western Civilization and promote the virtues of free enterprise and the essential foundations of a flourishing society.

Our College leaders have always understood that place matters. The connection between life and location goes back to the very beginning. In Genesis 2 we learn that God formed the first man and woman in his image and set them in a garden filled with "trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food." Their subsequent rebellion did not change God's regard for the importance of place. In accordance with His plan of redemption, God promised Moses that He would rescue the people from bondage in Egypt and bring them "into a good and spacious place, a land flowing with milk and honey." (Ex 3:8) He then established the tabernacle as a special meeting place with the chosen nation of Israel.

The significance of our temporal place is best seen in the Incarnation when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. (John 1:14) In this world, Christ had "no place to lay his head" (Matt 8:20), but he promised his disciples that he was going to prepare a better place for them. "I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." (John 14:3)

This theology of place can inform our thinking about our campus grounds and facilities. It explains why Joseph Newton Pew said, "Make the campus beautiful for that, too, is an education." He understood that through splendid grounds and facilities students would gain a clearer understanding of our calling to be cultivators of creation. Living and learning in an exceptional place has inspired generations of Grovers to care deeply about excellence and beauty and to be devoted to the well-being of their own communities.

We hope this Special Edition of The GēDUNK will rekindle your appreciation for the amazing place we call Grove City College. You will see many familiar images of structures built and maintained with unusual intentionality and self-sacrifice in the pages that follow. From the historic Quad and landscaping designed by the world-famous Olmsted Brothers firm to the singular magnificence of the Harbison Chapel windows, our campus is a place of unquestionable distinction.

In this issue, you will also learn about the significant revitalization and restoration opportunities before us. For the College to continue to equip students for their unique callings, particularly at a time in history when the world desperately needs people with the values of our students, we will need extraordinary vision, determination, and financial investment. Please enjoy the outstanding imagery and learn more about important initiatives that promise to contribute to our renaissance.

Take time to remember your unique connections to these places and, please, consider the extent of your continuing relationship to this special place. Future generations of students will be greatly blessed by your generous support of the renovations and construction projects we envision for the future. Send me a note at pjmcmnulty@gcc.edu if you want to be a part of one of our exciting future projects.

May the Lord richly bless your holiday season with many joyful moments in the special places of your life.



A handwritten signature in black ink.

Paul J. McNulty '80
President