

# theGēDUNK

GROVE CITY COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Spring 2018

## ADVANCING THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT

College's values inspire alumni and students

KEEHLWETTER RETIRING

E+I AWARDED

TRUEMAN, ROBBINS JOIN FACULTY

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### A LEGACY OF FAITH AND FREEDOM

When Pine Grove Academy first opened its doors in 1876, America's experiment in self-government and ordered liberty faced an uncertain future. The centennial celebration of that year was only a decade removed from the ravages of the Civil War and our nation, "conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal," as President Lincoln so eloquently stated in the 1863 Gettysburg Address, was still facing a test of "whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure."

The precariousness of American ideals in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century undoubtedly motivated founder Isaac Ketler to believe that the mission of Grove City College was to produce great citizens and not just great minds. Education was vital for the success of the American republic because "an uneducated people can, at the best, only delegate the government to some individual, and the republican form is a sham," according to W.M. Ramsey, an early 20<sup>th</sup> century English scholar who wrote a fascinating review of Ketler's career. Ketler, observed Ramsay, was committed to "the immediate work of making men fit for the American world, and likely to leave the American world a little better than they found it." He understood that a Christian liberal arts education produces men and women equipped for preserving and advancing our free society.

This dual-purpose vision was extended and nurtured by Isaac's son Weir. In one of his first speeches as the new College president in 1916, Weir Ketler insisted that "the aim of our College should be to send out young men and women who not only have well-trained and efficient minds but who possess well-rounded personalities, who respond to high motives and who follow high ideals. We believe in constructiveness, in men and women who have courage, who believe in right and who are not afraid to make a stand for the right in moral and civic issues of life."

One of these unafraid men who graduated from Grove City College and made a stand for the right was J. Howard Pew, class of 1900, the long-time chairman of the College Board of Trustees. In a 1964 speech, Mr. Pew, quoting the Irish patriot John Philpot Curran, said, "The condition under which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance, which condition if he break, servitude is at once the consequence of his crime and the punishment of his guilt."

As you will see in the pages that follow, Grove City College has produced many other men and women who are currently committed to advancing the freedom movement and the ideals upon which this nation was founded. Isaac, Weir, J. Howard and countless others from earlier decades, would be proud to see the immense contributions of these thought leaders. Their writings and advocacy are superb examples of the College's great mission of equipping our students with an understanding of the foundations of free society as they pursue their unique callings in this world. I trust you will be encouraged and inspired by their service.

They are engaged in what President Lincoln, as he reflected on the battlefield where thousands died to preserve the American republic, called the "great task remaining before us." Their efforts are aimed at ensuring "that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."

Also in this issue, you'll see examples of how our alumni, through scholarship, service, and sacrifice, strengthen the common good that undergirds our American republic – from research that points to a way forward for hard-pressed communities, to the story of Erik Burkett '98, a Marine veteran who lost his legs but not his spirit, and, finally, to a profile of retiring professor Dr. Bruce Ketler '71, whose lifelong connection to the College is a tribute to a great family's enduring legacy of faith and freedom.



Paul J. McNulty '80  
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