



# theGēDUNK

GROVE CITY COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Summer 2015

## LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP

Grove City College builds on a legacy  
for the challenges of the 21st century

THE INAUGURATION OF  
PAUL J. MCNULTY '80

GROVE CITY MATTERS  
CAMPAIGN SURPASSES GOAL

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YOU WEAR A DINK?

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Growing up in Western Pennsylvania, I viewed rancorous labor-management disputes as another unpleasant part of life. In my senior year of high school in 1975, a five-week-long teachers' strike left us starting school on Oct. 6, and this was followed by a school bus driver and cafeteria worker strike later in the year. A little research on these events unearthed a disturbing quote from one union leader who bragged that the ensuing chaos for parents and students trying to get to school was a sign of success for their cause. Really?

That must have been part of the reason why I became interested in the story of Wayne Alderson and the "Miracle of Pittron" when I was student at Grove City College. Mr. Alderson, the late father of my friend Nancy (Alderson '78) McDonnell (profiled in this issue), is the subject of the book *Man of Steel* written by R.C. Sproul. It documents Mr. Alderson's courageous success in demonstrating the redemptive power of the gospel and a transformed management style in the turbulent world of a Pittsburgh-area steel factory during a time of heightened labor-management strife. Through his Value of the Person program, Mr. Alderson employed the virtues of love, dignity and respect to change the way management treated plant workers. As he stood at the factory gate at the end of a shift and thanked tired, lunch-box toting laborers for their day's work, he communicated an invaluable truth: You matter.

I attended a Value of the Person prayer breakfast in downtown Pittsburgh. I read Sproul's book. I formed a conviction about this simple, common sense truth: Christian leadership requires valuing everyone in an organization. A leader is called to love those with whom he or she works, to treat others with unfailing respect. When people know they are valued, they are far more likely to serve with dedication and excellence and promote the best interests of the organization.

In this issue you will read a lot about leadership. This past year has been a unique opportunity for the College community to focus on our extraordinary legacy of leadership from our founding to the present. We were also blessed by the wisdom and experience of special guests, including John Ashcroft, Ken Starr and Frank Wolf. They challenged us to be faithful to our core convictions and be ready to face courageously our future challenges. These and other lessons in leadership are presented in the pages that follow. Allow me, therefore, to offer this first thought as you make your way forward.

When I became the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia in the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, I was entrusted at an extremely challenging time with the management of a large group of public servants on the front lines of our criminal justice system. Remembering the leadership lesson I received three decades earlier, I established a new motto for the office: "People Matter."

Our mission in the months ahead would require remarkable dedication and self-sacrifice (little did I know how true that would be.) Every person on our team, from star prosecutors to clerical personnel, needed to know they were appreciated. And while words are important, this sentiment needed to be backed up with tangible actions of support and encouragement. I learned that an effective leader must be tirelessly devoted to the work of affirmation, especially of those who faithfully serve behind the scenes so that others may succeed in more visible positions.

I guess it's pretty basic. Christ calls us to love our neighbors as much as we love ourselves. Yet how often are we tempted to let our zeal for success override our regard for the well-being of others engaged in the pursuit of this success. When Wayne Alderson convinced labor and management that they needed each other to be successful, Pittron reached new heights of profitability. At the core of Christian leadership is the call to trust God for the outcome of our efforts and focus instead on the means employed for achieving positive results. Let this be the Grove City way of doing business.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul J. McNulty '80". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a dark ink on a white background.

Paul J. McNulty '80  
President