

May 20, 2009

## **THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE – A BRIEF ESSAY**

We claim at North Park that students who study with us will experience an education that **“values each student for who he or she is and who they will become.”** This is the last of our seven educational ideals.

Students are the heart of North Park University. They are the good of this place. We care for students in who they are and in who they will become.

We admit prospective students on the basis of who they are—the experiences they've engaged, the talent they've developed, the accomplishments they've achieved, the grades they've posted in school. We also admit prospective students for their potential—to learn, to stretch, to grow, to thrive, to mature. We value who our students are and who they will become.

This is an act of faith for faculty and staff at the University. Students hold promise, they have potential. We count on this, as uncertain and unproven as it may be. And we don't realize until years later the ends to which our faith has reached as our graduates mature into their adult lives.

This is also an act of faith for students. In coming to North Park they express trust in us—in those who teach and instruct, those who coach and mentor, those who counsel and direct. We say they can count on us for their education, but this promise must be measured against the standard of each student's experience over years to come.

We expect our students to change, to become more tomorrow than they are today. With students at the center of this University, our aspiration is to be a place of formational and transformational learning, shaped by our commitment of faith, our setting in the city, and our relationships across cultures. To form and transform, to affirm and change, to mold and metamorphose – this is the student experience.

We care for our students today – how they do justice, love kindness, and walk with God in the present. And we care for our student's future – how they will do justice, love kindness, and walk with God in every tomorrow. This place where students learn to know must also be a place where students learn to be (who God intends for them to be) and to become (who God intends for them to become). We teach more than facts; we form the person, we transform the individual.

North Park University is small enough to know the individual yet large enough to offer a community. Each student is part of, and each student lives within, a community of learning—a place of people of energy, imagination, reflection, care, and commitment. Our students are, and will become, people who contribute to the broader social community – at home, at work, in the neighborhood, at church.

Our aim is to be with students but for a while. To be with them today, as they are today, and for what they bring to this place today. And then to set them free, to send them on their way, to shove them (gently, of course) into the years which follow, toward who they will become. To have hold of them today, so we can send them forth tomorrow. To serve them today, so they may serve the world in every tomorrow.

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## **KUDOS – new books**

Two more books have been published recently by members of the North Park community. Our congratulations to Bob Hubbard and Wes Lindahl for the books noted below:

- Robert Hubbard – *Joshua* (a volume in The NIV Commentary Series), published by Zondervan
- Wesley E. Lindahl – *Principles of Fundraising: Theory and Practice*, published by Jones and Bartlett Publishers.

## **KUDOS – national recognition**

Congratulations also go to members of the staff in the External Relations Office. A few months ago this group developed a series of three print advertisements, designed for publications directed to high school students interested in selecting a college. The three-ad series was based on themes from Micah 6:8 which reflect the spirit of North Park – “do justice,” “love kindness,” and “walk with God.”

The three-ad sequence was recognized as a Bronze Winner in the Magazine Advertising/Series competition in the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Admissions Advertising Awards sponsored by Admissions Marketing Report.

## **KUDOS – faculty development grants**

As the academic year came to a close, several faculty members were awarded annual grants from the University for their professional development. The recipients and the topic of each grant proposal are noted in the following list:

- Theodora Ayot, “The December 2007 Elections and the Price of Democracy in Kibaki’s Leadership in Kenya”
- Elizabeth Gray, “Stability and Change in Young Adulthood: Personality, Cognitive, and Spiritual Growth”

- Robert Hostetter, “Streams in the Desert: A Stage Play with Music”
- Leona Mirza, “Helping Faculty to Use Spreadsheets Across the Curriculum in Content Area Courses”
- Paul Priester, “Development and Validation of a Farsi Version of Religiosity of Islam Scale with an Iranian Shi’ite Sample”
- Kurt W. Peterson, “Seeking God and Vocational Direction Mid-Career: A Visit to the Monastery of Christ in the Desert,” and “The State of the Field in American Religious History and the Evangelical Covenant Church in the Twentieth Century”
- Matthew Schau and Justin Topp, “Molecular Characterization of *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the Causative Agent of Lyme Disease”
- Rachel Schmale, “You Say Ball and I Say Bowl: Does Exposure to Foreign-Accented Speech Facilitate Early Work Learning Across Talkers with Different Accents?”

### **KUDOS – Faculty Tenure and Promotions**

On recommendation of the Faculty Personnel Committees, the Provost or Seminary President and Dean, and the University President, the Board of Trustees voted to tenure and/or grant promotion in faculty rank to the following individuals:

- Joan Andrea (nursing) – promotion to associate professor
- Rachelle Ankney (mathematics) – promotion to associate professor
- Michael Paul Avramovich (business) – tenure
- Angelyn Balodimas Bartolomei (education) – promotion to associate professor
- Stephen Chester (New Testament) – tenure and promotion to professor
- Jim Dekker (youth ministries) – promotion to associate professor
- Gianfranco Farruggia (business) – tenure
- Karla M. Fogel (nursing) – tenure
- Alice S. Gorguis (mathematics) – promotion to associate professor
- Rajkumar Boaz Johnson (biblical & theological studies) – tenure
- Max Lee (New Testament) - tenure
- Barbara Levandowski (education) – tenure
- Soong-Chan Rah (church growth) – promotion to associate professor
- Mary Adams Trujillo (communications) – tenure and promotion to professor

Early in the coming school year we’ll look forward to celebrating these accomplishments at the annual Academic Convocation on Monday, September 14.

## **SUMMER WORK ON CAMPUS**

The long-planned and long-awaited riverbank restoration project (behind Anderson Hall and Magnuson Campus Center) is scheduled to start early in the summer. It will take all of the summer, and then some, to complete this project. Funding for the project is shared in part by North Park, with the project directed by the Army Corps. It is important to note that this project is not related to the flooding of the river this past fall. This project has been planned for nearly eight years. It will restore the riverbank but it will neither improve nor deteriorate flood protection.

Work is nearing completion on our efforts at flood recovery in the Magnuson Campus Center with the project to be fully completed in early July. University expenses related to flood recovery will total \$2.4 million. Fund raising from friends of the University has provided some support for these expenses. We also initiated an application for a FEMA-based Small Business Administration loan but this has proven to be a non-starter. We have also applied for a Department of Education disaster relief grant for approximately \$300,000—and just this week we received news that this grant has been awarded to North Park. More recently we also have collaborated with staff members in the office of our newly-elected District 5 Congressman, Michael Quigley, in an effort to secure appropriations funding toward the flood recovery expenses. It will be some time before we receive a response on this potential funding through the Congress.

## **SPRING MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

As is our custom, the Board of Trustees met for a spring meeting during two days immediately preceding commencement weekend.

The primary attention of the Board was devoted to two topics. (a) The Board reviewed the University's financial environment, including a report on the projected outcome of FY '09. In considering the challenges associated with developing a budget for FY '10 the Board affirmed the administration's effort to establish a balanced budget for the coming year and noted that the budget will need to be reviewed carefully in September and February when enrollment counts are available for each semester. (b) The Board also received an update on work-to-date on the quiet phase of the University's proposed next fund raising campaign. The quiet phase likely will continue over the next 18 months or more.

Several other items are noted from the Board's agenda:

- The Finance Committee received a report from the University's investment managers, approved an identity theft prevention policy consistent with federal mandates, received an update on flood recovery progress, and reviewed pending challenges with endowment appropriation.

- The Seminary Committee received a report on the listening tour completed in several locations with the Covenant Church nationally.
- The University Mission Committee heard from a panel of six international students.
- The Committee on Trustees endorsed orientation materials to be presented to and discussed with prospective members of the Board.
- The Academic Committee received presentations from the School of Education and the Office of Distributed Learning. This committee was also introduced to the current draft of the Planning Model for Academic Programs which has been developed in collaboration with the Deans' Council. The Committee also reviewed the current draft of changes to the promotion and tenure sections of MAPP.
- The Board approved formation of an Audit Committee.
- The Board approved tenure status and/or promotion in rank for 14 members of the faculty, as noted earlier in this communiqué.
- The Board approved a recommendation to name the President's Residence at 5258 N. Spaulding Avenue as the Hawkinson House. This action provides a means to recognize the life and service to North Park of three couples: Eric G. Hawkinson S'25 (1896-1984) and Lydia (Myhren) Hawkinson (1900-1986), Zenos E. Hawkinson A'41, C'43 (1925-1997) and Barbara (Gustafson) Hawkinson C'43 (1924-2006), and James R. Hawkinson A'47, C'49, S'55 and Alyce (Larson) Hawkinson C'53. A naming ceremony and reception will be planned in the fall during Homecoming weekend.
- The Board approved a survey instrument to be implemented as one part of the annual performance evaluation for the University President.
- The Board named Stan Helwig to the status of Emeritus Trustees.
- The Board also elected a slate of officers for the coming year:
  - Chair – David Helwig
  - Vice Chair – Mark Lindberg
  - Secretary – Tomas Ivens
  - Treasurer – David Hanson

As is my custom, I will distribute to faculty and staff a copy of my written report to the Board of Trustees.