



*Convocation
Fall 2008*

Welcome back everyone!

Today I will be speaking for only 20 to 30 minutes and then for a few minutes take questions. It seems to me, that given the events of the summer, and the number of people we have lost, – Fr. Joe Schell, Tim Russert, freshman student Marcel Jeffries, and most recently Teddy Grazko and Miles Coburn, there is a need for us to be in community. I want to be sure that we have time today to visit with each other and remember.

I will spend my time previewing what I see happening across campus this year. All of us know what is happening in our own areas but I hope to give you a sense of the broader picture.

I suspect that I have identified more than we can cover, but let's get started.

Academic Initiatives

- First-Year Seminar Learning Community
- Graduate Studies Restructured
- Residence Hall floors for Entrepreneurship and for The Honors Program
- New Majors: Cell Biology and Environmental Science



Our First-Year Seminar is off to a great start. We have managed the enrollment process and created five learning communities. I am excited about the themes. The more focused collaboration by faculty from different disciplines is a wonderful model.

This year I may be in such a picture. I will be team teaching with Professor Tom Kelly. Tom and I have had some great starting conversations, I suspect that Tom will be doing more than his share.

The restructuring of the Graduate Studies area has proceeded smoothly and Mark Storz has accepted the role of associate dean for graduate programs in Arts & Sciences.

And our residence halls will have floors dedicated to students interested in entrepreneurship and The Honors Program. We are making progress in integrating student life and academics – the whole person, *cura personalis*.

This fall, we introduce two new majors: Cell Biology and Environmental Science. I see this as the beginning of a number of new academic initiatives.

New Academic Opportunities



- Seed money for new curriculum initiatives
- AACSB reaccreditation
- Continue review of the departments

I would like to follow up that recognition of the two new majors with an announcement: I will commit funds from a donor's gift to seed curriculum development for majors and programs that enable us to respond to the academic interest of potential students. This seed money, coupled with summer faculty course development stipends, and possibly some Grauel Fellowships with a curriculum focus, should strengthen our ability to create new offerings. The procedure to apply for these internal grants and the guidelines are only in the infancy stages. The AVP's Office and deans will develop a process in consultation with Enrollment.

The AACSB team will be here in October to evaluate the Boler School for reaccreditation. I welcome the process to help us strengthen the Boler School and its offerings.

I am also glad to see that academic programs and departmental reviews are continuing, I see that as a process that will strengthen our offerings as well as identify new opportunities.

My continued thanks to all the faculty who have invested their time in these processes.

Campus Master Plan – Engage Our Neighbors



Goal: Provide for the University and all interested parties an overall vision that remains flexible enough to react to developing situations.

We continue to refine our ideas for the Campus Master Plan. As you have heard from me before and have seen, we sent two letters to homes in the neighborhood.

These letters are another avenue for us to communicate and educate the community about our needs.

The letters talk about:

1. Creating a variety of student housing options.
2. Addressing parking needs.
3. Providing playfields for more sports.

There will be two additional letters, which I will also share with you as they are sent out.

This process is not without its ups and downs.



When I came to John Carroll, I knew that Rodman Hall had been a Jesuit residence. I find it hard to imagine the days when that huge building was filled to capacity with Jesuits.

As many of you may sense, John Carroll is on the verge of changing its physical plant and footprint, changing its curriculum but still grounded in its liberal arts tradition, and as you will see shortly, changing its people.

These changes remind us of how important it is that we give our attention to everyone's understanding of our vision, mission, and core values. They bind us together, and in spite of the changes, preserve our unique identity and community. They also remind us of the importance to create opportunities, such as today, when we can get to know people from across the University.

Of course these changes would be easier for us if we were not experiencing financial challenges. As I said in my May announcement to the campus, the exact numbers can only be determined after we know our actual enrollment and retention rate and have calculated in the discount rate.

We will look to the budget committee, chaired by John Day, to help the community better understand our financial challenges and how we might collectively address them.

I will continue reaching out to our supporters for help. Just this week, I asked a friend of 5

Enrollment

- Record 3,481 applications
- 79% acceptance rate
- Freshman Class of 805
 - 70% from Ohio
 - 27% family legacy
 - 25% first generation
 - 12.5% students of color
 - 77% above a 3.0 GPA
 - 59% in top 1/3 of class
- Retention 90.2%



Prospective students see great things in us – as they look at the changes. They have voted to join us. Over 800 this fall, well over our 25-year average.

Our fall enrollment is up and that reverses a trend, but it is too early to tell if we have started a new trend. Certainly we have developed a new approach to both recruitment and retention. I think we are all discovering that it is everyone's job.

With that said, we should be cautiously optimistic and celebrate the successes of our Enrollment Division and the role we all play.

I have included some numbers on our freshman class. The number of applications is at an all-time high.

Our freshman class looks strong. As you can see, our students are again exceptional.

In demographic breakdown, it looks somewhat similar to last year's class.

Retention is great. 90.2% of last year's freshmen are expected to return and 95.8 % of our Ohio Access Initiative students are returning. These are numbers to celebrate, although Brian wants me to hold off until the third week of the term. We look like we will be in a good place!



Emerging Enrollment Philosophy

- Campus-wide responsibility
- Focus on the individual
- Balance between need-based aid and merit
- Strategic use of scholarships

As you may recognize, there is a new philosophy of enrollment taking root.

More and more people are beginning to understand that it is not just the Enrollment Division that is responsible for attracting students to John Carroll.

My thanks to everyone for helping in this endeavor.

We are also providing more attention to factors influencing each individual. I have appreciated our new approach to individual counseling sessions for families regarding financial aid.

Our scholarships are also being thought about in a strategic way to recruit students who share our value and mission.

For example, the vice presidents of academics, enrollment, and student affairs have been meeting to better refine one major new scholarship program, our Leadership Scholar Program. This will be one more piece of the puzzle.

Advancement Plans

- Building long-term relations
- Supporting faculty and students
 - Endowed Chairs
 - Scholarships
- Cash and pledges:
 - \$11 Million 2006
 - \$15 Million 2007
 - \$12 Million 2008
 - \$14 Million Goal 2009



In advancement, we are focusing on developing long-term relationships with a number of key constituencies. We once again had a successful Reunion Weekend, but we must have more and regular contact with alums – through communications and through opportunities to participate more deeply in the life of the University.

This need to communicate and to invite participation in the life of the University holds true for friends and supporters, for residents in the surrounding neighborhood, and for all we wish to reach out to.

Scholarships and endowed chairs continue to be the focus of requests. Whenever I am with friends of the University, I look for opportunities to describe the good things that are happening.

As to our 2009 goal, in this market and with rebuilding the team, this is an aggressive goal.

In the last 18 months, I have asked for five endowed chairs (\$12.5M).

Student Campus Life Experience

- **Dorm occupancy at 92%**
 - Freshman residency requirement
 - Sophomore residence requirement
- **Apartment properties used**
- **Themed housing and learning communities**
 - Entrepreneurs Floor in Murphy
 - Honors Floor in Campion
 - Three Fraternity and Sorority Floors
 - Substance-Free Floors



Our new two year residency requirement has created a very different environment. This is an exciting time to be on campus. We have an opportunity to engage our students in very different ways when they are with us 24/7. It also places a greater responsibility for programming and developing recreational opportunities.

Including singles, we are at capacity in our dorms – our students want to be here – this is wonderful! Last year we were at 82%.

As some of you know, we began to use some of our apartments on the Circle for students. Our apartment use is likely to grow. We need to begin the conversation of how we might use some of that space more creatively and to integrate student life more.

We have increased our themed housing and learning communities:

- A floor for students from all majors who are interested in innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship.
- Fraternities and sororities whose national mission focuses on philanthropy, scholarship, and community involvement have been given designated floors.
- The Honors Floor will accommodate 25 first-year Honors Program students in addition to the current JCU honors students.
- There will continue to be substance-free floors: for the many students who elect to live on substance-free floors.

Student Campus Experience

- Renovations to Schott Dining Hall: Fresh Foods Concept
- Carroll Counts: Vote 2008
- Diversity initiatives



Our new food service will offer the fresh foods concept. That means no steam tables, food prepared when the student is ready, and reduces waste.

A committee of faculty, administrators, and students has been created to engage students in this year's presidential election. We need to encourage our students to vote.

A three-part diversity initiative was launched in spring 2008. Student leaders began engaging in leadership opportunities to assist them in the development of their intercultural competencies.

The new incoming class will participate in a half day of educational and community building activities that focus on our University's values of diversity and inclusivity.

We have established a University-wide campaign entitled: "I THINK, I RESPECT."

Diversity Initiatives

Internal

- **Understanding who and where we are:**
 - Faculty Tenure Study
 - Women’s Faculty Review of Practice and Culture
 - Compensation Study
- **Investigating needed changes:**
 - Diversity Task Force
 - Ombuds Task Force
- **Hiring:**
 - Staff Hires
 - Faculty Hires

External Outreach

- Project ¿Qué?
- Boys Hope Girls Hope
- Saint Martin de Porres
- Expansion by better coordination



In addition to the student initiatives, we are doing a number of things internally and externally to become a more inclusive community.

Internally we have conducted a number of studies to help us better understand the issues.

I have also created a Task Force on Diversity to suggest ways that we might respond to individual concerns and see that the appropriate follow-up is conducted.

I will be announcing the ombudsperson committee shortly.

In honor of Miles Coburn, we are also making a five-year commitment to support Project ¿Que? (“Kay”). I hope that we coordinate that program with some of our other initiatives to engage a larger community.

JCU sustainability



- **Incremental steps**
 - Real-time monitoring of all University buildings
 - Replace University vehicles with diesel, hybrid or electric vehicles whenever possible
 - Include passes for public transportation as part of fee structure
 - More bike racks around campus; provide an incentive for off-campus students to walk, bike or car-pool
 - Work with local communities on circulator buses

The text of this slide is from a presentation on sustainability that Dr. Miles Coburn used during Reunion Weekend.

Jonathan Smith has been in discussion with a number of people about coordinating and organizing our sustainability efforts. He will be meeting with the Department of Biology shortly to consider how we might best honor Miles' work and efforts.

As some of you know, we already do a number of things. For example:

- We have begun investigating offering discount RTA passes to students, staff, and administrators.
- In recycling and disposal of waste, we are ahead of most other organizations. In regards to schools and universities we recycle all but wet materials.
- As we replace lights, we are using more energy efficient bulbs and this requires us to also replace the ballast in some instances.
- Trays in the dining room – We have placed the trays in an area so students must choose to get a tray. We have already seen that being tray-less reduces food waste.



New People on Campus

- VP for Academic Affairs: Dr. John T. Day
- VP for Student Affairs: Dr. Mark D. McCarthy

There are a number of personnel changes on our campus. August 4 was a big start day. Our new Academic VP, Dr. John Day, assumed his leadership role that day.

Dr. Mark D. McCarthy also joined us on August 4 as the new Vice President of Student Affairs.

Also joining us that day were Ms. Carol Dietz, Associate VP for Facilities and Mr. Bud Stuppy, Director of HR.

I was just with the new faculty at their initial orientation session. I will ask them to stand and be recognized.

There are also new people for all the divisions and offices. Would they now stand and be recognized.

I wanted to do this so that we all might know who you are and welcome you at the reception that follows.

 John Carroll
UNIVERSITY



In closing, let me thank you for all you do for John Carroll University. Many good things are happening. We have our challenges, but we have much to build on. It is an honor and a pleasure to be your president.