

CONVOCATION WELCOME

SEPTEMBER 28, 2005

COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS, AND PARTICULARLY THOSE AMONG YOU WHO HAVE CONTINUED TO SUPPORT OUR ACADEMIC ENTERPRISE WITH YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DAVIS CAMPUS.

I AM PRIVILEGED AS CHAIR OF THE DAVIS DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE TO WELCOME YOU TO THE DAVIS CAMPUS AND TO THE BEGINNING OF THE 2005-2006 ACADEMIC YEAR.

THERE ARE LOTS OF EXCITING THINGS HAPPENING ON OUR CAMPUS THIS YEAR THAT WILL PROVIDE MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR COLLECTIVE ENGAGEMENT.

THE ACADEMIC SENATE IS CHARGED BY THE UC BOARD OF REGENTS WITH THE MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA. IN KEEPING WITH THE CHANCELLOR'S THEME FOR THIS CONVOCATION I WANT TO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO OUTLINE A COUPLE OF MY PRINCIPAL COMPASS POINTS AS I ATTEMPT TO STEER THE DIVISIONAL SENATE ON A COURSE THROUGH THE EXERCISE OF THE FACULTY'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN THE HIGH QUALITY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS THAT ARE THE HALLMARK OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AND TO INSURE THAT UC DAVIS MAINTAINS ITS PLACE AS ONE OF THE BEST OF THE UC CAMPUSES.

MOST IMPORTANT, AS I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO DISCUSS WITH MULTIPLE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY WHO AGREE, THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA'S SUCCESS IS DUE TO ITS FACULTY WHO CONDUCT THE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PROGRAMS FOR WHICH THE UNIVERSITY IS KNOWN. ONE OF THE GREAT STRENGTHS OF THE UNIVERSITY IS THE FACT THAT THE REGENTS HAVE ENTRUSTED THE FACULTY WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM.

IT IS THE INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY OF INDIVIDUAL FACULTY MEMBERS, OFTEN WORKING COLLECTIVELY WITH COLLEAGUES IN INTERDISCIPLINARY GROUPS, THAT HAS PRODUCED THE RESEARCH BREAKTHROUGHS -- BOTH BIG AND SMALL -- THAT HAVE PROPELLED THE UNIVERSITY TO ITS STATUS AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS.

RESEARCH BREAKTHROUGHS DO NOT COME FROM THE PURSUIT OF GRANT AND OTHER MONIES, WHICH ARE GENERALLY CREATED AFTER

NEW DISCOVERIES SET A DIRECTION. NOR DO WE ATTRACT RESEARCH AND OTHER FUNDS TO OUR CAMPUS BY FOLLOWING THE LEAD OF OTHERS. FUTURE INTELLECTUAL BREAKTHROUGHS ARE NOT DIVINED BY ACADEMIC PLANNERS IN TALL BUILDINGS. WE ACHIEVE SUCCESS BY SUPPORTING OUR OWN FACULTY IN THE PURSUIT OF THEIR WORK, BY PROVIDING THE RESOURCES, INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM, AND AN ENVIRONMENT THAT SUPPORTS EXPERIMENTATION AND THE QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE FOR THE JOY OF DISCOVERY. INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY, NOT GOVERNMENT DIRECTION THROUGH FUNDING, NOR TOP DOWN IDEAS ABOUT DIRECTION, IS THE REASON A PARTICULAR WOMAN EXPLORED WHY A PIECE OF MATERIAL IN HER DESK DRAWER EXPOSED A PHOTOGRAPHIC FILM, WHY GROUPS OF RESEARCHERS EXPLORED THE NATURE OF LIGHT EMITTED WHEN PARTICULAR PARTICLES WERE EXCITED, WHY SOME RESEARCHERS EXTRACTED AND REINTRODUCED SOME GENETIC MATERIAL TO MAKE SOME BACTERIA NECESSARY TO COMPLETE AN EXPERIMENT, WHY A RESEARCHER PURSUED THE REASON WHY SOME BACTERIA WOULDN'T GROW IN HIS PETRE DISH, AND PERHAPS THE MOTIVATION FOR A UC DAVIS DEPARTMENT CHAIR TO FIND A GROUP OF TALENTED REGIONAL ARTISTS TO BUILD A DEPARTMENT. AS A RESULT WE HAVE THE WHOLE SCIENCE OF RADIATION AND HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS, LASERS, RECOMBINANT DNA, PENICILLIN, AND FOR A PERIOD THE BEST ART DEPARTMENT IN THE NATION. AND OF COURSE THIS IS ONLY A TINY FRACTION OF SIMILARLY IMPORTANT EXAMPLES.

A SECOND GUIDING STAR IS THE IMPORTANT POINT THAT OUR FACULTY'S SUCCESS IS HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON THE QUALITY OF THE STAFF THAT MAKES THE WORK OF THE FACULTY POSSIBLE—THAT SUPPORT COMES FROM OUR HIGHEST LEVEL ADMINISTRATORS,

FROM THE PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL STAFF WHO CONTRIBUTE HUGELY TO THE ADVANCES MADE BY THE CAMPUS,

FROM ALL OF OUR ADMINISTRATIVE, CLERICAL AND SECRETARIAL STAFF WHO ARE TRULY THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE EVERYTHING ELSE WORK AND WHO ARE THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE TAKEN THE BRUNT OF MANY OF OUR BUDGET CUTS BY BEING ASKED TO MAINTAIN THE WORKLOAD WHILE THEIR NUMBERS ARE DECREASED,

AND THE STAFF WHO MAINTAIN THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH WE WORK INCLUDING THE GROUNDS KEEPERS WHO MAINTAIN THIS BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS AND THE BUILDING MAINTENANCE STAFF WHO MAINTAIN THE INTERIOR SPACES OF OUR CAMPUS.

THE FACULTY, OUR STUDENTS, AND THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO ALL OF YOU, AND I AM, FOR YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION TO OUR COLLECTIVE ENTERPRISE. AND I FOR ONE BELIEVE

THAT THE UNIVERSITY'S PRIORITIES MUST BE LESS ON RAISING FUNDS FOR SENIOR ADMINISTRATORS WHO HAVE TROUBLE LIVING ON THEIR \$350,000 AND ABOVE SALARIES, AND MUCH MORE ON FAIR AND COMPETITIVE SALARIES AND BENEFITS FOR THE PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO MAKE OUR ACADEMIC ENTERPRISE POSSIBLE. AS A PRINCIPAL OF COMMUNITY I PUT THAT VERY HIGH ON MY LIST.

AGAIN WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU ALL AS WE SET OUR COMPASS TO MAKE UC DAVIS AN EVEN BETTER PLACE THAN IT IS TODAY.