

**President's Remarks**  
**Alumni Weekend June 16, 2007**  
**Saturday, June 16, 2007**

Good afternoon and welcome home!

In keeping with the theme, maybe I should say: Welcome to Victory Lane! You are champions for your alma mater, and we are delighted that you "raced back" to your alma mater.

Even a casual fan recognizes that NASCAR is a phenomenon! A regional favorite is now the nation's largest live spectator sport. You can't escape the marketing of drivers like Jeff Gordon and Dale Earnhardt Jr. Walk through any parking lot and you'll see decals with No. 8 or No. 24 on cars and trucks.

I want to extend a special "thank you" to Kathy Venema and her "Pit Crew" for a great reunion weekend. I hope you have sensed the forward momentum, the energy on the campus.

This morning we celebrated Barbara and Gary Bryenton's support for the Honors Program, which is so important to recruiting high-ability students. The program integrates learning and life experience, consistent with our mission to develop the total student – intellectually, professionally, and personally.

We continue to build a curriculum in support of our vision to integrate the liberal arts and professional preparation. This year, we have added academic programs in forensic science and in biochemistry.

The Business Department is poised for growth thanks to the largest single donation from a living alumnus in the history of Heidelberg: a \$2 million dollar gift from John Q. Adams. It will help us expand the academic program in business and renovate one of our landmark buildings, Laird Hall, as its home.

A Heidelberg treasure, the Octagon House, has been purchased by the college thanks to a gift from Jim Dicke II. The house was designed and built by a Heidelberg founding faculty member, Dr. Jeremiah Good, in 1852. The Octagon House adds to our signature portfolio of historic buildings.

As we implement the mission of preparing students for lives of purpose with distinction, new or renewed facilities support a curriculum that continues to grow in quality and collaboration. The interaction between the fundamentals of the liberal arts and the practice of the professions allows Heidelberg to develop the ethical, compassionate leaders so needed in our world.

Our three graduate degree programs -- with two more at the Board of Regents for approval, create opportunities for our students and meet the needs of the public and

private sector employers in the region and beyond. In fact, with these graduate opportunities and our expanding curriculum, we look more like the Heidelberg University we were from 1890 to 1928 than Heidelberg College.

We are, in fact, considering again becoming a university to better reflect our vision and mission.

It is, of course, not only programs and places that energize the campus. It is our remarkable people. It is you. . . and the faculty and staff who are entrusted with your legacy each day on the campus.

And speaking of legacy, I now have the great pleasure of recognizing a very special alumna. When she graduated from Heidelberg Herbert Hoover was President, Babe Ruth was leading the Yankees to another World Series Championship, and Amelia Earhart was the first woman to fly solo over the Atlantic. Today we welcome back a member of the class of 1932! I don't think she would mind me saying she is 97 years young. Please welcome back to her alma mater, Alice Rohrer Ramsey.

Since we last met in reunion, we have welcomed several new members of our leadership team. Professor David Weininger is a twenty-two-year veteran of our faculty and a native of Seneca County. As Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College, he has an insider's familiarity with the college's history and a keen sense of the needs of today's students.

Dr. Stephen Storck joined us last summer as Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer. He comes to Heidelberg after serving with distinction for eighteen years at Otterbein College. The loyalty of you, our alumni, has helped us attract an experienced new Vice President for Institutional advancement. Next month, Rita Locke comes to us from the Arizona State University Foundation.

Our new Vice President for Enrollment, Thanda Maceo, came from Bethany College in February. Thanda is an experienced enrollment management professional who will lead us toward our strategic goals. With Alumni Relations and the Alumni Council, he is reaching out to you through the Heidelberg Alumni Recruitment Team initiative. I have heard you speak enthusiastically about your college and career experiences. We want you to tell those stories to prospective students and their families. From hosting events in your region to telephoning prospects, you can help Heidelberg attract well-qualified students.

Dr. Jim Troha is continuing his excellent leadership as Vice President for Student Affairs with an expanded portfolio. The Athletic Department under Interim Athletic Director Duane Sheldon reports to him. Of course, you already know Duane as our men's basketball coach, a position he will continue during this interim appointment.

Another important new member of the Heidelberg family is Football Coach Mike Hallett. Coach Hallett has quickly earned the confidence of his players and brings with him an

outstanding coaching record. He was a two-time All-American at Mount Union College, so he knows a lot about winning. We are excited for the 2007 season.

We take great pride in the Heidelberg student-athletes whose teams won the OAC championships in baseball and wrestling in 2007. For the second year in a row, Greg Tyson Jr. is the NCAA Division III National Champion in the long jump.

Beyond athletics, there are many ways to measure the success of Heidelberg. One is through the accomplishments of the outstanding alumni we honor today. Another important measure of success are the faces and futures of the almost 300 graduates at last month's commencement. These women and men are prepared to lead their communities and their alma mater.

While our graduates crossed the finish line at commencement, for the college and for the rest of us, there is no checkered flag. The race is never over. The spirit in this room fuels our continued efforts on behalf of Heidelberg. It strengthens Heidelberg and inspires our faculty, staff and me.

On behalf of all of us, I thank you for your support and again welcome you back to your Sweet Alma Home.