

**President's Remarks
New Student Welcome
Aug. 25, 2006**

New Students, families and friends:

On behalf of the many Heidelberg alumni who honor this campus with their service and achievements as graduates; on behalf of our dedicated College staff who are committed to helping you achieve your dreams; and, especially, from my distinguished faculty colleagues who will be your teachers, advisers and mentors, from all of us: welcome to Heidelberg College!

Today, your countdown to college ends. It began when you learned your A-B-Cs, and ended with your acceptance letter from Heidelberg. Today you are launched as college students, and the countdown to commencement begins.

I promise it will be an exhilarating ride. It will last about 120 weeks on campus, and they will pass with remarkable speed. I know, because I can't believe that my daughter, Adrea, is starting her senior year here at Heidelberg. Those thousand days you'll have at college may sound like a long, long time. Today, graduation seems far distant and I'm sure it did to my daughter as well a few years ago.

But consider this: Only 1000 days ago, you were listening to Beyoncé's "Crazy in Love." Now it is Gnarl Barkley who thinks you're "Crazy." Then you were trying to find Nemo. Now it is those stranded airplane passengers who are "Lost." Then, Katie Holmes was on "Dawson's Creek." Now surrounded by Tom Cruise and paparazzi, she is "up a creek."

One thousand days ago, "Pirates of the Caribbean" was on the big screen, Justin Timberlake was on the pop charts, and Napoleon Dynamite was on a roll. A thousand days later, there are still pirates in the theatre; Justin is still making hits, and Pedro is still getting a lot of votes.

These next 1,000 days will be magnificent and memorable, filled with fun and friends. They will also demand a lot of you. You will have to manage your time, your money, your course load, your assignments, your social life. Some days will seem "Fast and Furious." Sometimes, it will feel like "Mission Impossible."

But we have worked hard to be sure there are no surprises. You are ready for Heidelberg and we are ready for you! I can assure you that our faculty and staff are on your team. They are at Heidelberg because they share your goal of achieving a Heidelberg diploma. Like your families, we want you to leave here with the knowledge and skills needed for success in a career - and in life.

We know - and I hope you will soon learn - that students who become connected to the college and are engaged in their in-class and out-of class education are more successful. So, I hope you will ask yourself, "How do I become connected?" Here are a few ideas.

First, I ask you to get to know your professors and our staff. It won't be hard because Heidelberg is just the right size for a personal education. You will run into us at a movie at the Cinemark Theatre, at the Ace Hardware or at the Wal-Mart. You are likely to find our faculty and staff just about anywhere - soccer games, football games, Rock Creek and even on TV.

Yes, one of our faculty members was featured on a network television program this week. No, Dr. David Bush was not on "America's Got Talent" or "So You Think You Can Dance." Dr. Bush directs our Center for Historic and Military Anthropology. His work at the Johnson's Island Civil War Prison was featured on the PBS series "History Detectives." Students, you can get involved in archaeology projects and get your hands dirty through his summer field work opportunities.

Dr. Amy Berger is another faculty member who will give you an opportunity to get your hands dirty. Dr. Berger, who is known around campus as "The Rock Lady," is an Associate Professor of Geology who truly does "rock." She was named Faculty Member of the Year and has won the Distinguished Teaching Award. She has led students on field trips to the Rocky Mountains, Belize and Scotland. You will get a taste of her classroom skill when she speaks to us shortly.

What else can you do to get connected? In addition to getting to know us, I ask you to get involved. Not only will you have a good time, but you will increase your chances of being successful both at Heidelberg and beyond. There are hundreds of ways you can get involved. Participate in a study abroad program so you leave here ready for leadership in an interdependent world. Find a co-op or internship opportunity so you can apply what you are learning here to the world of work. Develop leadership skills by taking responsibility for some initiative and seeing it through. We have more than 60 campus organizations. Join at least one. Or if you don't see one you like, create a new one. Choose a service activity and give back to the campus and the community. It is your responsibility as educated men and women to do so.

Finally, I ask that you not only find a way to be connected here, but that you also find a way to stay connected to home. The parents and step-parents, siblings and grandparents, spouses and sweethearts, old friends and new who are here today have done more than carry boxes to your room. They have lifted your spirits and carried you on their shoulders through good times and bad. They will still be there throughout those 1,000 days. But they will not be here. Email and call. Keep them near you.

Family members please know that I look forward to seeing you along the way and to being here with you in 2010, sharing your pride and applauding these students on their graduation.

The Heidelberg College Alma Mater is "Sweet Alma Home." This is your new home. Jennifer Ingalls, a senior education major, wrote in her Orientation Leader profile that the longest time she spends at home these days is Christmas break, so, quote, "I just say I live in Tiffin now."

Soon, this will feel like another home to you. A place where you can be yourself and become the person you want to be. Today, the thousand days begin. To our students and your families and friends, best wishes for a successful and joyous journey.

And, welcome home!