

## **New Student Assembly**

Thursday, August 21, 2008

Thank you Thanda and thank you to all of our faculty and staff who worked to bring us to this historic day. This event is indeed historic in that we are welcoming our largest freshmen class since the opening of our doors on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1850 with 5 students and a faculty of two brothers, Jeremiah and Reuben Good. We certainly celebrate this day for what it means historically but be it 5 students or nearly 1200 students, the spirit of Heidelberg is in its mission and that mission is ultimately about learning. It's about personal growth. And it's about community, which you are now part of.

We are very pleased that you are all here with us today as we all embark on another academic year. Another year of tradition; another year of opportunity and challenge. Most of all, we begin another year of learning. Together. And we could not do that without our distinguished faculty, the very core of our existence. Please join me in recognizing and thanking them for their many talents and contributions and for being with us today.

For the parents in this room, well, you made it. Today is a day that you have either anticipated with a certain sense of celebration or with a degree of apprehension or some of both, which is probably the case. Wherever you are on this continuum, let me say this. We recognize, and embrace very seriously, the responsibility you are handing to us today. You have raised, nurtured, and educated your son or daughter for over 18 years and this afternoon, we, Heidelberg College, will officially become part of who they are and where they go.

Students, this time together, in this room, is an important beginning to your educational journey. These next four years are not an endless road, although it may certainly seem that way at times. This place, and these people around you, are a bridge to a place full of promise and infinite possibility. But students, you must walk that bridge. The opportunities and rewards are available but it does take effort and an enormous amount of courage and endurance on your part. And this is where the road splits for some. Some students simply are not willing to put forth the

effort or simply may not be ready for the challenges that are in front of you. The choice is indeed yours of how hard you will want to work to achieve your dreams.

The dreams are here for the taking. And while we will do our very best to help you realize those dreams, the responsibility is yours. And I urge you to take care of and nurture the educational opportunity that is before you. Reach out. Ask questions. Stretch your mind, your comfort zone. Challenge yourself. Choose not to be a four-year spectator; rather, be a player and play the game the right way.

I would hope that all of you will be good citizens of this College and the City of Tiffin. As a community of educated men and women, it is my sincere hope that you treat others with simple kindness, respect, and politeness and that you will take care of the campus that is now your home.

In closing, I intend to work with you in making your Heidelberg experience an extraordinary one. I will make every attempt to be visible and accessible to you. You deserve and should certainly expect that from me as your President. My office in College Hall is truly open to all of you and I would enjoy the opportunity to know you and learn about your experiences.

Thank you for your attention and I wish each of you the very best as you begin YOUR walk through the doors of this great College.

It is now my distinct honor to introduce to you the Mayor of Tiffin and Heidelberg alumnus, Mr. James Boroff.

Thank you Mayor. Before we hear from our Student Senate President, I want to briefly introduce the College's Vice Presidents that are seated behind me. First, our Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Dave Weininger; Our Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Rita Locke; Our Vice President for Enrollment and Marketing, Thanda Maceo; our Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, Reetha Perananamgam; and our Vice President for Administration, Rick Raymond.

