

President's Remarks
Class of 1958 Sculpture Dedication
June 21, 2008

I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to Dave Drake for his leadership and passion as the class resident. And I want to thank the Class Gift Committee and all of you who contributed to this magnificent work.

During our time at Heidelberg, Lisette and I considered it important to make improvements to the aesthetics of the campus through the use of landscaping and art. This was not just to make things look good, but to assist with important strategic enrollment and educational goals.

First impressions are important to students and to parents because enrollment decisions are made based on whether a campus feels and looks right.

But beyond enrollment goals, art of any kind adds warmth to a campus and by simply being present for our students to see, it enhances their education and their growth, development and appreciation of different ideas.

Regardless of whether this sculpture is ever discussed in a classroom, I believe it will become one of the most important reminders for our students of why they are here because it speaks to the power of a liberal arts education.

Almost every day they are here, every Heidelberg student will walk by this site. Over time I know these panels will help them to capture the emotions and warm feelings that so many of you developed for Heidelberg while you were here.

They will ponder the meaning of different scenes and in doing so start to develop their sense of pride in being a part of Heidelberg history.

On a daily basis students will also have a powerful reminder of the richness and complexity of their education. My hope is that they will come to understand that they are not just here to get a degree or to get a job, but, in the spirit of a true liberal arts education, to become informed and contributing citizens of the world.

As with most art, everyone that views this piece will take a different interpretation from it. For me, I can't help but connect the four panels to the four strategic goals of the college:

- * academic excellence
- * student experience
- * resource enhancement
- * community engagement

And the globe is a wonderful metaphor for the hope reflected in our newly adopted vision statement which says we want to prepare our students to be global citizens who communicate effectively, think critically and serve thoughtfully.

Dave, you and your class set out to create a visual time capsule of your time at Heidelberg. You did that and so much more.

You provided us with a powerful statement of our past. You add immeasurably to the present beauty of our campus. And you gave us a monument that will inspire faculty, staff and students to create an even a brighter future for Heidelberg.

You did all of this and at the same time you endowed us with an important educational resource.

And so, on behalf of all of all of us at Heidelberg now, and those yet to come, thank you for a magnificent gift and a wonderful addition to the aesthetic and educational resources of our campus.