

COMMENTS TO THE DUKE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES BY PRESIDENT NANNERL O. KEOHANE

December 13, 1996

I am pleased to welcome you back for the winter meeting of the board and to have this opportunity to report briefly on a series of exciting activities at the university since I sent my written report to you a few weeks ago.

RHODES AND MARSHALL FELLOWS

John Sauer, a senior in the School of Engineering, has won a Rhodes Scholarship. Sauer, a varsity wrestler with a double major in electrical engineering and philosophy, and an A.B. Duke Scholar, is from the St. Louis area. Continuing his interdisciplinary bent, at Oxford he plans to pursue a degree in theology. This past summer he spent several weeks at Oxford studying the 18th century novel. This is the fourth consecutive year that a Duke student has received a Rhodes Scholarship and the 26th time that a Duke student has been selected. Armando Chapin Rodriguez, a Duke senior from Greenville, TN, won a British Marshall Scholarship supporting two years of graduate study. Rodriguez is the 14th Duke student to receive a Marshall Scholarship since 1970.

A chemistry major, Rodriguez will attend Cambridge University, where he will pursue a master's degree in structural biology. Rodriguez also is an A.B. Duke Scholar, and has won the national Barry Goldwater Award for Excellence in Science and Math, and a National Science Foundation Achievement Award. He served as editor of Vertices, the student science magazine, and was a member of a planning committee that organized a two-day symposium at Duke on biotechnology and human values.

Both John Sauer and Chapin Rodriguez exemplify the kinds of students that James B. Duke envisioned in founding this university.

FOUNDERS DAY

Yesterday we celebrated the founding of Duke University with a stirring speech by Duke alumnus and broadcast journalist Charlie Rose, and the presentation of a number of awards to outstanding alumni, faculty, and staff for distinguished service to the university. Vice President Emeritus William J. Griffith, a 40-year university administrator and staunch champion of student interests, who is well known to the trustees and generations of Duke students, and Professor Emeritus Dr. Eugene Stead, longtime chairman of the Department of Medicine and an architect of the nation's first physician-assistant program, were awarded the University Medal for Distinguished Meritorious Service, the university's highest service award. Craufurd D.W. Goodwin,

James B. Duke Professor of Economics and former dean of our graduate school, received the University Scholar/Teacher Award in recognition of his "inspiring teaching...his exceptional command of material...entertaining clarity and rigor and...his approachability. In every facet of his professional life, Craufurd exhibits the integration of scholarship, instruction, and artistry." Like Gene Stead and Bill Griffith, he has made contributions to Duke that fully justify this singular recognition.

Also honored for outstanding service by the Alumni Association were ACC Commissioner Eugene Corrigan ('52), author and foundation leader Margaret Taylor Smith ('47), and Professor John Younger of the Duke Department of Classical Studies. Younger received the Alumni Association's top undergraduate teaching award. Corrigan, who in 1995 was the first collegiate commissioner ever elected to the presidency of the NCAA, and Smith, a Birmingham, Michigan, civic leader, received the 1996 Duke Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award.

The Humanitarian Service Award, presented annually to a person who has served as a role model for Duke students as they consider the moral implications of their chosen vocations and lifestyles went to 20 year Duke employee Frances Honeycutt, a secretary in the Division of Plastic, Reconstructive and Oral Surgery. Ms. Honeycutt has been called a "one woman social service agency" for her work in collecting and distributing food and clothing to poor and disadvantaged members of the Durham community. Ms. Honeycutt exemplifies the very best in service to others, and it was a genuine privilege to present this well deserved award to her.

I also was particularly pleased to present the Charles A. Dukes Award in recognition of outstanding volunteer service to Trustee Spike Yoh who, beyond his service on the Deans Council in Engineering and as a member of this board, has served an unprecedented three terms as national chair of the Annual Fund. More about Spike in a few minutes.

MAJOR GIFTS

This truly is the season for giving, and I am pleased to report several major gifts that will strengthen Duke in important ways. First, I am most pleased to announce that Randy Tobias and his family have pledged \$1 million to help build our new West Campus recreational and fitness facility. Randy and Marianne have once again stepped up to the plate to help Duke educate the whole student, and we are deeply grateful for their leadership and generosity. Improved recreational facilities are among this board's highest capital priorities and Duke's most pressing needs. Randy has made previous gifts to provide scholarship support for students who have demonstrated leadership through extracurricular activities. We will be honoring Randy and Marianne at an appropriate event some time next year, but I wanted you to know of this latest significant gift.

We have three other reasons to be thankful today. In the latest issue of this month's Duke Magazine, which I'm told should be home from the printers today, we are announcing the first three matching gifts as part of the \$40

million initiative that Bob and Anne Bass made possible in September with their \$10 million challenge gift. The three gifts are from close friends of the university-J. J. Kiser ('65), chairman of the Board of Visitors of Trinity College, and his wife Joy, also Duke parents; Trustee Sally Dalton Robinson and her husband, Russell ('54); and the ubiquitous Spike Yoh and the Yoh family. It is fitting that these leaders are the first to step up to the Bass Challenge. That challenge gift is distinctive, as you know, for permitting each donor to name the chair he or she endows. The Basses provided a 1:3 match for at least 20 chairs. We are most grateful to Sally and Russ, to Spike and Mary, and to J. J. and his family for this latest evidence of the commitment to excellence in undergraduate education at Duke.

I do want to commend to you the article by Bob Bliwise in the Duke alumni magazine on the balance between teaching and research. It's a very thoughtful piece.

HOLIDAY TREE

Traditions at a place like Duke may seem permanent when, in fact, like everything else, they must occasionally be nurtured and renewed if they are to endure. The annual lighting of a holiday tree on the Main Quad is a case in point. The ceremony has withstood the death of two trees and the proclamation of an American president, and it still survives.

The holiday tree was one of the victims of Hurricane Fran; but we knew of the importance of this tradition for many Duke students, faculty members and alumni. So last week a vigorous new cedar was planted outside the Flowers Building, where its predecessor was planted in 1988 to replace the original holiday tree. We don't know for sure when the original was planted, but it was there long before the ceremony began in 1972.

The presidential proclamation was part of the campaign to reduce energy consumption during the oil crisis in 1973. Some of us will recall that folks were asked not to use any electricity that wasn't absolutely essential, including holiday lighting. This led to a brouhaha on campus, with students all for lighting the tree despite the energy drain the lights represented. In the end, Terry Sanford took the position that the Duke tree would be lighted no matter who said what!

These days, the ceremony is an occasion to begin the holiday season on campus, not only by lighting a traditional Christmas tree, but as a reminder of the cycle of the seasons, showing faith in the return of light, reflecting festivals of lights in many different times and cultures. It can have meanings for people of many faiths and traditions while preserving its special role as a tradition for this university community.

I want to thank the folks in the Grounds department, particularly Joe Jackson, who found the tree, and Laney

Funderburk and the Alumni Association, who provided the funds to move and plant it. Tallman Trask invited the alumnus who had been the student who first lit the tree back in 1972, Peter Coyle, to trip the switch turning on the lights on our new tree for the first time. Thus are traditions renewed.

Newcomers to campus think every tradition dates back 100 years, when, in fact, some things that seem deeply rooted are relatively recent in origin. And in that vein, let me close by quoting a recent editorial in the CHRONICLE about plans for improving the Bryan Center and West Union. The first sentence reads as follows: "With a little work, West Campus may soon have a sense of community already present on East Campus." For those of us who recall a very recent time when the lack of identity and purpose on East Campus was generally lamented, this is a wonderful indication that a new tradition has, indeed, begun.

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