Title
Founder’s Day, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah

Permalink
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Publication Date
1983-03-01

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DAVID P. GARDNER

FOUNDERS' DAY SPEECH

Thursday, March 10, 1983
Olpin Union Ballroom
7:30 p.m.
This occasion, as you may imagine, is stirring tender and tangled feelings in me. This is my first public goodbye, and I do not find it to be easy. So I am especially grateful I can practice on this group of close friends.

Although Libby and I were never, in a traditional sense, students here, the University of Utah is our alma mater, as much as any. Our ten years here constitute a relatively long span of time to spend on a single university campus in the jobs we have had. We feel entitled to care forever about the needs of our school and joyously to celebrate the achievements earned for her by those we honor on this Founders' Day and others like them in earlier years.

A university, you may have heard me say before, belongs to all who will make it theirs--who will give it a place in their lives. Over the years, the fortunes and futures of nearly 250 thousand individuals have become bound up with this school. Hundreds of thousands more have made themselves part of the University by sharing in its offerings of concerts, exhibits, lectures, sports and theatre. All of these are, in a very real sense, founders.
Teachers, students, staff, alumni, friends, public officials, businesses, foundations and others here and elsewhere have engaged their collective influence, interest and means to make this university a vibrant entity, with dreams and memories worth holding, and with a future as great as that for which we care to reach.

Libby and I will not be privileged any longer to be an active, daily part of that future, but you will be, and you may be sure that we will be watching and helping as we can. You and others who care about the U have the obligation and pleasure not only to maintain, but also to further the achievements that have been so heroically attained here in the 133 years since a handful of visionaries risked establishment of a university in a barely settled desert community.

We have been privileged to serve during ten years of dramatic change for the University:

1. The improving education for Utah's young people that has come from the University's decision to increase its admissions standards, beginning with the fall of 1987;

2. The national standing the University enjoyed in the last ranking of the quality of the
graduate programs within the United States, with math and biology being the most improved departments and chemistry the second most improved over the last five years.

3. The growing strength of the Liberal Education and Honors programs.

4. Major physical growth, such as completion of an expanded Medical Center, helping to bring it to world class standing; completion of the College of Law Library; construction of the Alumni House; remodeling of the Fieldhouse, Union and Stadium; construction of a major energy research laboratory, including the old Bureau of Mines Building; construction of the new Student Services Building; and ground to be broken next month for the construction of a new Chemistry Building--and others totalling, over the ten years, more than $100 million, only half of which came from the general funds of the State of Utah.

5. The growing beauty of the campus.

6. The strengthened commitment to equal educational opportunity for all young people in Utah who prepare themselves for it.
8. The Tanner Lectures on Human Values.
9. Improved relations with our community.
10. Improved student/faculty ratios, growing student body, quality of faculty, etc.

I look with particular expectation and hope to proven leaders, such as those who are this evening to receive the Distinguished Alumnus and Honorary Alumna awards. These are the highest honors the Alumni Association can bestow. They recognize in you qualities reflective of the best that education can hope for: excellence at many levels, high standards of performance, and caring hearts and valiant spirits.

It is a great pleasure to express my admiring appreciation for what you add to the stature of the University and the well-being of our society. My warm thanks go out to each of you--to Harry Guss, J. Willard Marriott, Jr., Helen Z. Papanikolas, Sterling W. Sill, George Winder and Enid Cosgriff. We draw strength from you and are keenly aware of the ways your interest and involvement expand the University's capacity to rise to--and beyond--what would otherwise be within reason for us to expect.
May I close by making reference to what I said at the news conference in California immediately following my appointment there: "For my own part, I can only pledge to do the best that is within me, to work openly and honestly with all those whose lives touch this institution, both within and from without, and to hope that when my service here is completed I will be as personally happy and as professionally encouraged as I have been these past ten years in proudly serving the University of Utah."