

Founders Hall Rededication

October 23, 2009

President Thomas Kepple

On behalf of the entire Juniata family it is a pleasure to welcome you to a milestone in Juniata's history – a milestone that could not be accomplished without the generous support of everyone here today. I would, however, be remiss if I did not specifically thank John and Irene Dale. Without your one million dollar lead gift we would not have had the momentum it takes to succeed.

One hundred and thirty-three years ago our founders created a college based on the Brethren concepts of peace, community and service. As Founder James Quinter noted, “Juniata is an uncommon college.” Unlike almost every other American college and university of the time, it was co-educational from the start. In fact, so co-educational that we believe Founders may have been the first co-ed dormitory in the nation. Women lived on the third floor, the same floor where Principle Jacob Zuck had his bedroom and office (I don't think that would work today) and the men lived on the fourth! For the Brethren, always practical, and without the funds to build two buildings, a co-ed dormitory in the upper floors of Founders was both their logical and only choice – at least until 1890 when Ladies Hall was added to Founders.

When Founders was completed it comprised the entire campus —offices, classrooms, dorm rooms, chapel, library, laundry and cafeteria. Beautiful in its Brethren simplicity, Jacob Zuck commented on Founders, “We aim at plainness but do not wish to ignore correct taste or architectural skill and beauty.” It was built in nine months at a cost of about \$10,000. (It was rebuilt today at a cost of \$8.5 million over seventeen months.) Over time electricity, indoor plumbing, central heating, a porch facing Moore Street, telephones, and computers, among other things, were added.

But as forward thinking as the founders of Juniata were - they carried the Brethren tradition of simplicity just a little too far when constructing buildings. Only Founders remains from the original five structures of the college and Founders was built with a major structural design flaw — perhaps the \$75 architect fee for the design was not actually a bargain! Thus for nearly thirty years the top two floors have been unused. By 2008 we had reached the tipping point — renovate this building or perhaps lose it. Founders Hall is rare in that few colleges today have their original building still standing. Indeed, every Juniata student has touched Founders' walls.

We challenged our architect, Baird Dixon, with many goals including:

1. Preserve the past by saving what could be saved but create a facility that would serve us well far into the future.
2. Make it sustainable.
3. Reorient the building to establish a major entrance toward the central quadrangle.
4. Make it the true memorial for the founders of Juniata - the individuals who by their generosity and perseverance made it possible not only for Juniata to be founded but to prosper.
5. Include a history room and places to honor our most significant friends and benefactors.
6. Create a building encouraging interaction between students, faculty and administrators.
7. Finish the area around the building to blend into and enhance the campus.
8. Create more visibility for the core humanities programs of English and History.
9. Return the President's office to its original location on the third floor.
10. And, finally, make it accessible.

In a sense today's Founders is a symbol of Juniata – maintaining our values but ever changing to become better.

Along the way, as Earl Martin (the person here who over saw the project) knows, we ran into a few surprises. Some were fun – for example, the opportunity to see the glorious views from the fourth floor for the first time in thirty years. And to read the inscriptions on the windows which provide an interesting history of Juniata and some fun and inspiring words for our current students.

Finally, two quotes sum up this project — at the beginning when John Dale presented his and Irene's million-dollar gift for Founders he said, "Well, good luck." A recent graduate, while touring the completed Founders Hall, said, "You performed a miracle!"

Indeed, it took not one but two campaigns and a great deal of luck to accomplish the miracle. Welcome to the miraculous Founders Hall!

To speak on behalf of our donors & volunteers is Linda Wachsmuth McKOnly '73, Juniata Trustee who served as Chair of the second Founders Hall Campaign.

Linda McKOnly

Sometimes, I hear of people "reinventing" themselves. They may make a drastic career change or find a new focus for their lives – or even engage in an extreme makeover physically. In this case,

reinventing was great in concept, but required a certain amount of cash to get on with the process. We, along with numerous others, have participated in the reinventing of Founders Hall. Irene and John Dale's wonderful gift provided the impetus for this campaign, and I can't thank them enough, but there were also gifts to previous campaigns, which were designated to Founders Hall. Those gifts allowed the project to begin, providing funds for architects and technical planning. There were many donors to the Founders Hall campaign; just look at the plaques on the rooms inside and outside the building to see the names of some. We actually had to add naming opportunities to this campaign to accommodate all of the people who gave their generous support. There were thousands of gifts, large and small, recent and not so recent, and I would like to thank each and every donor.

I need to acknowledge the great work that was done in the first Founders Campaign, which was chaired by Steve Holsinger and Warren Groff. The work that they and the first committee did laid a solid foundation for the second campaign.

Chairing a campaign of this magnitude was new to me, although I do a lot of volunteer work for a number of causes. The volunteers who helped with this task were tremendous. The committee consisted of Betty Ann Cherry, Henry Gibbel and Eric Jensen. Many other volunteers, in my opinion the true heart of Juniata, talked to friends and acquaintances, spoke with classmates and generally kept the momentum going. The Trustees were extremely generous in their individual financial support and they also voted to go ahead with the renovation to begin with! The outstanding professionals of the Development Office were truly dedicated to seeing this project through and I appreciate all of them. So as you listen to the bell ringing, stand on the named bricks, walk through the building, climb the stairs or enjoy this lovely plaza, think of the people who made this possible, who gave of their resources to make this happen.

While we were working on the campaign, we heard the most wonderful stories of students courting future spouses on the steps of Founders while waiting for meals, or attending chapel here or talking about life-changing classes with professors who are part of the Juniata legend. This building stands as a record of all who have attended Juniata, save only a few of the very early students. As Dr. Kepple said, all who have come to Juniata have touched these walls. Now those walls are solid again and we have the privilege of being present when an old building is made new.

Finally, a group which I have yet to mention - the reunion classes of the 1950s. These classes adopted this project and each competed against the other to raise funds, in honor of their fiftieth year reunions, each other and Juniata. Their support made the final difference in reaching our goal.

To speak on behalf of the Classes of the 1950s is Henry H. Gibbel '57, member of the Class of 1957 Fiftieth Reunion Committee & former Chair of Juniata's Board of Trustees.

Henry Gibbel

Thank you, President Kepple, for the history of Founders Hall, and we are thankful that we have the opportunity to celebrate the restoration of this hub of the campus. President Tom (as I like to call him), we also thank you for your leadership that you took in this major project, turning the impossible to the possible in restoration.

We thank Linda McKonly for her uncommon commitment of leadership in raising the dollars for this project, along with former staff member, Erik Evans, who kept us all focused on the job at hand.

It's worthy to note that in the 1950s, attached to Founders Hall was Brumbaugh Hall, where many of the women resided, along with a lounge that was off limits to the male sector. Also attached to Brumbaugh was Oneida, which was our dining hall – Helen Adams, a member of the Class of '57, shared with me that the women sunbathed on the flat roof of Oneida – something that I was oblivious to during my four years on campus (if only we had known).

The campus was small but served our needs well. Besides Founders, Brumbaugh and Oneida, we also had the Carnegie Library, Oller Hall, Science Hall, Cloisters, Memorial Gymnasium, the Students Hall and the Girls Gym, where Totem Inn was located ... all beautiful memories.

The 50s were referred to as “the Golden Years” of Juniata College football, due to their incredible success. Those Golden Years are commemorated with two attractive plaques at the entrance to the football stadium. They were not only Golden for football, but they were Golden and valued years for all students.

When we arrived on campus during the Fifties, our first stop was Founders Hall and the first door on the right was the President's office. Our leader in that decade was President Ellis. He was a man of vision and he had a mantra that “real life begins with a vision.” It was at Juniata that our lives were changed as we began our own life's vision. We also made many new friendships, which remain today.

Tuition back then was \$600 a semester or \$4,800 for a four-year education, a bargain compared to today's prices. Enrollment was approximately 600.

We also give thanks for the leadership that we received from many wonderful administrators and faculty, who also became friends. To name a few, Dr. Ellis, Harold B. Brumbaugh, known as “Mr. Juniata,” Morley Mays, John Fike, Bill Engle, Esther Doyle, Dr. Binkley, Dr. Dubbel, Toby Henry, Don Johnson, Clyde Stayer, Dr. Kiracofe, Dr. Will, Dr. Blaisdell, Dr. Hertzler, Ken Crosby, Tom Nolan, Jack Oller, Mike Snyder – just to name a few of our favorites.

The Classes of the 1950s we all qualify as “seniors” today – all in our seventies or early eighties – all receiving Social Security, but our hearts remain at Juniata, as demonstrated by class members' gifts totalling over one million dollars, plus many substantial individual gifts bringing the total to several

million dollars. We are grateful for this generosity for their “joy in giving” to Juniata College for the Founders project.

I will close with an expression that goes something like this: “time is not measured by the years that we live, but by the deeds that we do and the joy that we have in giving ... to Juniata College.” Thank you for allowing me to share.

To speak on behalf of the faculty is Dr. David Hsiung, who holds the Charles & Shirley Knox Professor of History. Dr. Hsiung has been teaching at Juniata since 1991.

Dave Hsiung

What is it like being in Founders Hall? Teaching in Founders is like getting upgraded to first class after having always flown in coach. Every previous Fall semester I have taught courses in the basement of Good Hall, in a room with little windows –just like on an airplane –and with an air blower on steroids. This huge heat register sat right in front of the blackboard, blasting air straight up into my face. Each day I had to cover the vents with my coat, briefcase, and some students’ backpacks so that we did not freeze, so that I could hear the students, and so that I could write on the blackboard without my eyeballs drying out. To show a film I had to pull the screen down in front of the blackboard . . . and right into the register’s jet stream. It is hard to watch a film when the screen ripples like a flag on a windy day.

So imagine my delight when I stepped into the Founders Hall classrooms this fall. Big windows with gorgeous views. A quiet air-conditioning system, boasting responsive controls. A screen that stays put. Speakers in the corners of the ceiling that provide quadraphonic sound. As I said, “first class” all the way. I almost expect a flight attendant to bring me a warm towel so I can freshen up. The architects must have had an airplane in mind when they designed the building because they equipped the rest rooms with hand dryers that roar like jet turbines. My hearing is shot, so it is a good thing the classroom has four speakers!

At other times, Founders Hall resembles a busy airport terminal. People are always coming and going—students, administrators, facilities and other personnel, more students, faculty, tour groups . . . and even more students. For the last eighteen years I have had my office in I. Harvey Brumbaugh House, set there on the far edge of campus like the long-term parking lots at O’Hare or Dulles. My English Department colleagues who had offices in Quinter House were in the same situation. The only people who came by were those who had to come see us, and that certainly did not include tour groups.

So, I have had to get used to having other people around all of the time. Occasionally, I work in the office at night. Imagine the setting: Founders is quiet and the lights have dimmed, just like in those

deserted airport terminals when you're waiting for a red-eye flight or a late connection. These are the times when I think Founders is haunted. I will be sitting at my desk and suddenly the lights in the hallway will flicker on, but no one is in sight. Is it the ghost of Ken Crosby? Philbrook Smith? Esther Doyle? No, it is yet another student triggering the motion detectors, coming to study in our "first class" student lounge.

To tell you about the students' experience, I will make way for Sarah Davis, Class of 2012, who has a POE in English and Secondary Education. But before I go, let me remind you to grab some refreshments at the reception. You are going to need them, because Founders Hall has "taken off" and although the flight is going to be smooth, it is going to last a while—at least another 133 years.

Sarah Davis

Those of us who were here last year remember watching Founders Hall being rebuilt from the ground up. As we walked by the chaotic and unsightly construction site, we wondered to ourselves when the work would finally be finished. As the months passed, annoyance at the ongoing construction turned into admiration of the beautiful building that had begun to take shape. We started to realize that Founders would be an important part of the campus again, and we eagerly awaited the chance to see it completed.

Although the doors only opened to the Juniata community again nine short weeks ago, the building has already fulfilled its historic duty and has once more become central to the campus. It is the first thing you see as you come on campus, and what a great first impression it makes. As the location where many of the offices have been consolidated, particularly those of the President, Provost, Dean, and Academic Student Services, Founders is undoubtedly the center of academic life at Juniata, and it stands as a symbol of our college's traditions as well as our promising future.

Founders Hall has also gained special significance for the History and English POE's, like myself. In gathering into one place all the offices of the History and English professors, Founders has given the long separated History and English students a chance to come together as a community. Now we can badger our professors and study together at all hours. Just as the science students study together in Von Liebig, we now have the opportunity to study together in beautiful new student lounges that provide a magnificent view of the campus we love so much. And I should know, because I practically live there. In Founders we can be with people who understand our devotion to history and literature, and don't laugh at us when we talk about how *Middlemarch* has changed our life. We can discuss how much we love Judy Katz, how we admire and sometimes fear Amy Mathur, how David Sowell entertains us with stories of

his hippie past, and how Alison Fletcher's adorable accent makes her lectures so much more fun to listen hear.

Founders Hall is important to the students for these reasons and so many more. It is a gathering place in the center of the campus that we can be proud of every time we pass by it or walk through its doors. As the oldest building on campus, it represents everything in Juniata's history that has made it one of the best colleges in the country. But with its expansion, Founders has become a place that belongs particularly to the students. It is not just some relic of the past but a living, breathing part of campus life. It is truly the center of Juniata.