

FROM THE PRESIDENT

MARK SCHULMAN



Earlier today, I hosted a community meeting (remember those?) at which we celebrated and engaged in a dialogue. For the majority of our readers—Goddard grads—that sounds familiar, I’m sure. At least you are familiar with the dialogue

- The campus looks better than it has in years, giving us a collective sense of improvement and (at last!) a reduction in the deferred maintenance.

- Speaking of the campus, the Greatwood Gardens have won a prestigious award from the Cultural Landscape Foundation. Log onto the foundation’s website, www.tclf.org, and see “Landslide 2006.”

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part. Sometimes in our past, either there have been too many challenges to make us feel like celebrating or we have just been too ... what’s the right word—maybe distracted ... to celebrate healthily.

The days of dialogue remain. I’m sure you would agree there will never be a Goddard without dialogue, some of it difficult.

But now I also want to insist that we pay attention to celebrating as we reinvent Goddard. What to celebrate? To name a few things:

- The New England Association of Schools and Colleges, our accrediting agency, has determined that we are an essentially sound institution and reaffirmed our accreditation until 2010.

- An anonymous donor gave us the largest single gift from an alumnus/a in Goddard’s history, \$500,000 in honor of board member (and Tim Pitkin’s daughter-in-law) Clo Pitkin.

- Our enrollment continues to grow steadily, and we have an ambitious growth plan to increase our full-time-equivalent number to about 1,000 over the next several years.

- We have made organization-wide strategic and tactical planning a clear institutional priority, with an integrated planning process to make sure all the puzzle pieces fit together.

- The Board of Trustees is at its largest size and steaming ahead at full speed as the policy-setting and oversight entity of the college.

I hope you will join us in this celebration, and I know you will join us in the continuing, albeit occasionally difficult, dialogues. You, as alumni and alumnae of this unique institution, are, after all, the best evidence that we have reason to honor our past, celebrate our present and anticipate our future.

Let’s not forget history, even the troubled and troubling times, but let’s also express joy that at this moment we are thriving, and doing so with integrity and élan.