

# Reflections



## Legacy For Succession

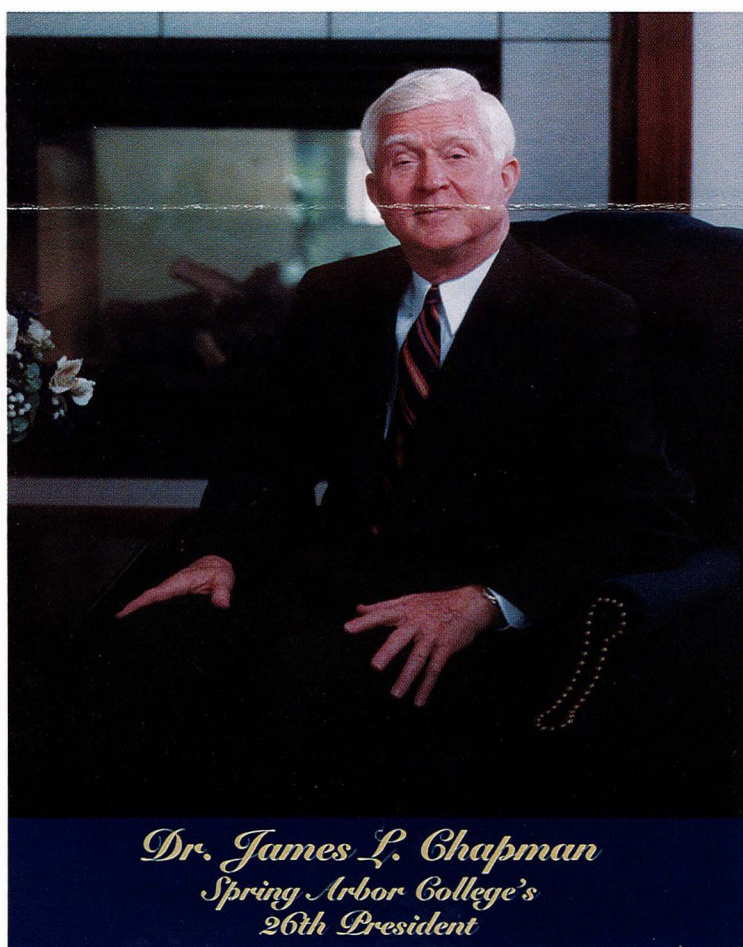
by David L. McKenna

**A**t the present time, I am writing a book entitled *Succession: The Ultimate Test of Leadership*. The text is developed around the theme of The Succession Principle. Simply stated, it is that "A leader is a person who builds upon the past, gives momentum to the present, and leaves a legacy of a better future for those who follow." In other words, the quality of leadership is to be judged, not just by achievements while in office, but ultimately by the legacy of a foundation upon which the future can be built.

James Chapman has achieved as much in four years as any president in the history of Spring Arbor College. Those achievements are worthy of wide recognition and high honor. But if The Succession Principle is applied to these achievements, they will gain in value over time, and especially as they become the base upon which President Chapman's successor can build. I invite us, therefore, to look at his achievements in this light.

### Obedience to God

Spring Arbor history is filled with legendary stories of persons who heard the call of God to make sacrifices in order to serve Him in the ministry of



*Dr. James L. Chapman  
Spring Arbor College's  
26th President*

the College. E.P. Hart leads that cloud of witnesses. At one time, freshman orientation always included the story of Bishop Hart

getting off the train with his wife at the Lime Lake whistle stop, peering into a snowstorm in the dead of winter, and declaring, "As

long as there's a track, I'll never turn back." Out of that pioneering call, Spring Arbor College was born.

Now, the story of the Chapmans can be added to the legend. In 1996, a national search for a new president came to a dead end. The choice was to start the search again or appoint an interim president. Exhaustion and despair clouded the meeting of the Search Committee which had the decision to make. As they weighed their options, information came that James and Mary Chapman had just arrived in town in their RV to visit family. After years of service in business and higher education, including the presidency of West Liberty State University, the Chapmans had retired to Florida with the freedom to travel each summer to Spring Arbor to escape the heat. On a flip sheet, the committee had listed the criteria for the selection of an interim president, including experience in the presidency, a reputation for Christian leadership, knowledge of Spring Arbor College, and especially, a commitment to its mission as expressed in The Spring Arbor Concept.

James Chapman was put to the test. On every count, he excelled. But would he consider the position? With a prayer and a dare, Chairman Glenn White was urged to talk with him and his wife about stepping out of retirement for a year and assuming the position as interim



*"When I look at this place,  
it must be forever  
committed to the Person  
and Work of Jesus Christ,  
or there is absolutely no  
reason for us to exist  
otherwise."*

James Chapman

## Chapman Welcome Center *A Lasting Imprint on the Campus*

Spring Arbor College President James L. Chapman leaves a lasting mark on the College campus and community. Friends and associates recalled the past four years of Chapman's presidency at a retirement dinner Friday, May 5, 2000, saluting the institution's progress and celebrating Chapman's own style as leader.

Since Chapman assumed the office of president in 1996, enrollment has increased 20 percent, and more than \$8 million in construction and renovation improvements have been completed or are underway. Students give high marks to spiritual growth experience on the campus, student retention rates are among the top in the nation, and curricular programs continue to expand with new majors, additional graduate studies and online courses.

While Dr. Chapman will retire at the end of the academic year, June 30, his name will live on at the campus. Trustees named the College's newest building in his honor, the Chapman Welcome Center. The Welcome Center, which houses the offices of Admissions and Financial Aid, was planned and constructed during Chapman's tenure. It is a symbol of the progress Spring Arbor College has made under his leadership, said Dr. David McKenna, chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Chapman's passion for the mission of Spring Arbor College sets him apart, community members and College officials agreed. He has raised the standard by insisting that all educational activities, campus life, community



President James Chapman and Board Chair, Dr. David McKenna  
at the Chapman Retirement Dinner.

relations and other endeavors maintain their focus on the Spring Arbor Concept. "When I look at this place, it must be forever committed to the Person and Work of Jesus Christ, or there is absolutely no reason for us to exist otherwise," Chapman said.

The Board of Trustees also conferred upon Chapman the title of President Emeritus. When he leaves office in June at the end of the academic year, Dr. Gayle D. Beebe, currently Dean of the Haggard School of Theology at Azusa Pacific University, will become the College's 27th president.



President while the Search Committee went through its process once again. Someplace between the room where the Search Committee was meeting and the place where the Chapmans' RV was parked, the Holy Spirit intervened. When Chairman White met with the Chapmans, their lifetime love for Spring Arbor College



The Chapmans and their now "famous" RV.

merged with the call of God. As Christians, they knew that they could retire from their career, but never from ministry. So, as they were asking God how they might continue to minister in retirement, He answered by calling them to serve in the interim presidency at Spring Arbor

College. Hearing that call, they answered "Yes" with a verve that has become the trademark of their administration.

The Chapmans took little time warming up to their task. Soon, the campus echoed with the words of James Chapman affirming The Spring Arbor Concept in every speech and the grace of Mary Chapman welcoming guests into the President's home. Sometime during the months, the Board of Trustees saw what was happening, disbanded the Search Committee, and asked James Chapman if he would accept election as the 26th President of Spring Arbor College. Once again, after conferring with Mary and counseling with friends, he answered "Yes." Now, for the rest of the story.

## Passion for Mission

Beginning with his inaugural address, President James Chapman began, as they say, "Plucking one string on his banjo." His message was the mission of the College as defined by The Spring Arbor Concept. On one occasion, a proposal came to his desk to modify in future publications the key words of the Concept – Involvement, Commitment and Participation. Chapman looked at the alternatives and said, "No. There are no better words to describe who we are." We are not surprised, then, to learn the power of his consistent message. Whether on or off campus, meeting with donors or the media, he invariably came around to the

reason for the existence of Spring Arbor College. Yet, his words never had the sound of empty rhetoric. From the depths of his being, he spoke his Christian convictions. Passion, based upon a lifetime of love for the College, then sealed his words with both feeling and authenticity. Consequently, wherever James Chapman touched down on his travels, he is remembered as an effective ambassador for Spring Arbor College.

## Penchant of Fund-raising

When reporters have asked me to describe President Chapman's greatest achievement during the short period of four years, I have invariably answered, "I have never met anyone who is more gifted for raising funds and friends than James Chapman." College presidents are few and far between who will say that they love to raise money for their institutions. For most, it is a chore, and for only a few, is it a gift. President Chapman, however, came alive with animated voice and gestures as he talked about new opportunities to raise funds for the College. The best example is the challenge grant which he inherited for building the library. A foundation pledged a million dollars to the campaign if Spring Arbor could raise a matching three million dollars by the end of 1998. As a friend and trustee, I urged him to go back to the foundation and plead for a touch of reality. He didn't take my advice. Instead, he went out and raised the money from foundations, individuals, and members of the Board of Trustees. This is why I turned the first shovel of dirt over to him and his wife Mary at the library groundbreaking. His hard work and their common sacrifice deserved first position in that historic moment.

Of course, James Chapman didn't stop with the library. Like a warrior with many arrows in his quiver, he also raised funds to change the face of the front campus. In contrast with the old front wall which provoked comments ranging from the look of a high school to a prison, is now graced in the collegiate setting of the White Auditorium, Welcome Center and Smith Music Center. Each time we drive past the new face of the campus, we will remember the name of James Chapman.

## Persistence for Excellence

In his path as a student through Spring Arbor College, Greenville College and Michigan State University, Chapman learned the disciplines of academic excellence. Later, in his career as Dean of Students, Management Consultant, University President and Real Estate Broker, he added the expectations for academic accountability. These disciplines and expectations then came together in his role as a Commissioner for the North Central Accrediting Association. When he assumed the



Dr. and Mrs. Chapman turn the first shovel at the library groundbreaking ceremony in March 2000.

presidency of Spring Arbor College, he brought these same disciplines and expectations with him. Not without significance, Spring Arbor College received unconditional ten-year accreditation for the whole institution from the North Central Association (NCA), and more specifically, five-year accreditation from the National Council for Teacher Education (NCATE) during his four-year tenure. The faculty does the lion's share of the work for this kind of recognition and to them goes the credit. But the President creates the climate for their work by holding high expectations, supporting their efforts, and applauding their achievements. James Chapman served well in that leadership role.

## The Gift of Succession

The Succession Principle can now be applied to the tenure of James Chapman. On July 1, 2000, he will turn more than the title and position of President over to Dr. Gayle Beebe, his successor. The legacy of James Chapman will be the continuation of leadership responsive to the call of God, affirmation of our mission under The Spring Arbor Concept, renewal of the campus centering in the new library, and recognition of academic excellence throughout the institution. What more could we ask of an itinerant retiree driving an RV into Spring Arbor at a providential moment? James Chapman has served us well and leaves us a solid foundation upon which to build for the future. To him, our thanks; to God, the glory!

# James L. Chapman: Through The Eyes of a Friend

by Bob Briner



"He is the quintessential friend." These were my words in 1971 to describe James L. Chapman as he assumed the presidency of West Liberty State College. Now, in 1997, as he embarks on what can only be called his God-decreed destiny as president of Spring Arbor College, I find no better description for him. He continues to epitomize what a Christian friend, a true brother in Christ, should be. Because our friendship began as undergraduates in 1955, I can safely paraphrase the well worn, but useful title, and say he is a friend for all seasons – all seasons of life.

A now famous picture of Jim Chapman in our senior yearbook shows him kneeling by his bed in his dorm room. It is not a posed picture. As much as a single visual image can, it captures so much of what you should know about him. His commitment to and dependence upon prayer has been constant in his life. This reflects the heritage he has as the son of a godly, even saintly, mother. A product of the tradition of a dedicated and hard working father and of a mother completely sold out to Christ. Hard work, a life of prayer, putting God's Kingdom first, a commitment to his friends ... this is Jim Chapman.

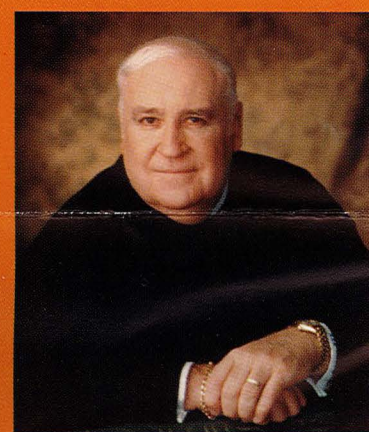
When we met in 1955, I had no concept of a fully integrated life in Christ. Jim modeled it for me. In him, for the first time, I saw a nationally ranked athlete, a serious and successful scholar, a delightful companion I loved to be with, committing every aspect of his life to conformity to the likeness of Christ. What a revelation for a 20-year-old college student! What an inspiration! What a challenge! It was a life-changing, life-enhancing watershed experience for me.



Now, as he performs on the larger stage as president of this great institution, my prayer is that many faculty members, alumni, and most importantly, students will be inspired by, challenged, and changed, not so much by the style of his leadership, but by the life he leads.

All that has gone before seems to me to be a prelude for what Jim Chapman has now been called to do at "such a time as this." He has been tried, tested, and seasoned. He has spent his time in the desert. He is ready. His years as president of Spring Arbor College will be the capstone of his life of service. I believe that God will honor his dedication and his servant's heart, and that many in all the College's publics will say: "I have been blessed. Jim Chapman has been my friend. I now know more about who Jesus is and why He came." This is certainly my testimony.

This article reprinted from Spring Arbor Journal, Spring 1997.



Bob "RAB" Briner  
1938-1999

Spring Arbor College celebrated the life and mission of Bob Briner - author, lecturer and friend - with a Roaring Lambs Tribute on October 29, 1999 hosted by Dr. Chapman and Christian recording artist Michael W. Smith.

Before Bob's death, Bob and Marty (Jacobs JC '55) Briner established the Roaring Lambs Scholarship "to enable students committed to the creative expression of the Christian faith in the visual arts, journalism or communication fields, to receive the financial assistance necessary to further their education and hone their creative skills."



# Clear Thinking in a Confused World

by James Chapman, President



This article reprinted from the Spring Arbor College Journal, Spring 1997.

A recent Harvard graduate, speaking at his own graduation, made the following observation: "There is one idea, one sentiment, which we have all acquired at some point in our Harvard careers, and that, ladies and gentlemen, is, in a word, confusion."

Reading this anecdote in Steven Garber's new book, *The Fabric of Faithfulness*, made me glad to

be part of Spring Arbor College and sad to think the outcome of higher education in our society has possibly come to this. It especially made me appreciate the Spring Arbor Concept, an ideal which has guided and continues to guide our College. The Concept states our purpose and defines our mission. But it does more than that. As the new president I am grateful for the clarity, conciseness, and cogency it provides in a world where circular reasoning is so prevalent, particularly with regard to moral virtues.

An education lacking the teaching of moral virtues is like peeling back the layers of an onion until you have nothing at all. Our Concept prevents us from engaging in such an enterprise. For example, our focus on the liberal arts calls us to examine what Matthew Arnold calls "the best which has been said and thought in the world." In the classical tradition this included grammar, logic, rhetoric, arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy, and although the content of a liberal arts education has changed somewhat, we still value the balance between knowledge and skill this list implies. We are committed to a liberal arts curriculum because it provides students the foundation needed to think coherently, speak cogently and write concisely. What could be more practical?

But our commitment to Jesus moves us beyond that, providing a moral framework by which even the liberal arts are judged. A thoroughly Christian education helps students eliminate other alternatives, and in doing so eliminates the confusion that this young Harvard graduate experienced. Ultimately our history and our traditions, as followers of Jesus, bring focus and meaning to all we do.

On this we will not give up. We are tenacious. And we are committed.

But the Concept requires more from us than just studying and evaluating the liberal arts from a Christian perspective. It calls us to action, to critical participation in the world.

This means we want students to have a desire to meet needs, but we want that desire to be accompanied by some depth of understanding. The action we call for is not merely ethereal. When people are hurting or are hurting each other, when the human condition has been fractured to the point of despair, we want our students to bring healing to a bruised and broken world. We want them to do so with both cognition and

compassion.

The Concept is at the heart of my vision for Spring Arbor College. I like the way the president of Case Western described the success of that institution to his successor: "We captured an idea and we made it redundant," he said. And at the start of my tenure as president I'm not afraid to restate the obvious. The Concept is at the core of what we have done and what we plan to do.

It is the basis on which we evaluate and expand our curriculum. Do we feel comfortable about where we are right now with the liberal arts? Do we have the depth and breadth we want? Do we take our Christian commitment seriously enough? Do we not only view the liberal arts from a Christian perspective, but do we *infuse* them with a Christian perspective?

To do this we have to ask ourselves constantly the hard questions, questions about the God of creation and the purpose of life. Transcendental questions must be raised by professors who speak from their own commitment to the person and work of Jesus, professors who provide encouragement and counsel as students raise questions and confront doubts. It is simply unacceptable to raise issues and not provide the support students need to think and act Christianly.

There is much I like about what we do in this regard. Our CORE program and our cross-cultural requirement are important aspects of how we work out the Concept in our curriculum. Personally, I'd like to see us strengthen the "critical participation" aspect of the curriculum by including a service component.

Over the next few years we should develop a program through which every student spends 40 to 60 hours a semester serving people in the greater Jackson community.

I will push us at the level of our Concept in every way I can. And as president I will support the Concept in any way I can, including and especially by helping to provide the resources we need to carry out our mission effectively. For example, we have inadequate and antiquated facilities. Without being ostentatious in design and construction, I want us to move quickly to construct the new library as well as a much needed classroom and office building. We need a new welcome center and admissions office. E.P. Hart Chapel and Sayre Hall need to be renovated. One of my own dreams is to eventually see a chapel-auditorium constructed. In the meantime I want to work toward a "village concept" for student housing, with groups of 75 to 90 students living and working together in service and community.

All this will take time and money. But if we stay focused and move ahead, students will come and donors will give. That's because there is a hunger for clear thinking in a confused world. To help satisfy this hunger, we have every intention of increasing campus enrollment to 1,150 students over the next four years.

At the same Harvard commencement exercise where the undergraduate spoke of his confusion, a graduate student also described his frustration with education today. He said, "The freedom of our day is the freedom to devote ourselves to any values we please, on the mere condition that we do not believe them to be true."

At Spring Arbor College we believe the truth itself sets us free. The Concept makes that very clear — as did Jesus when He stated the same.

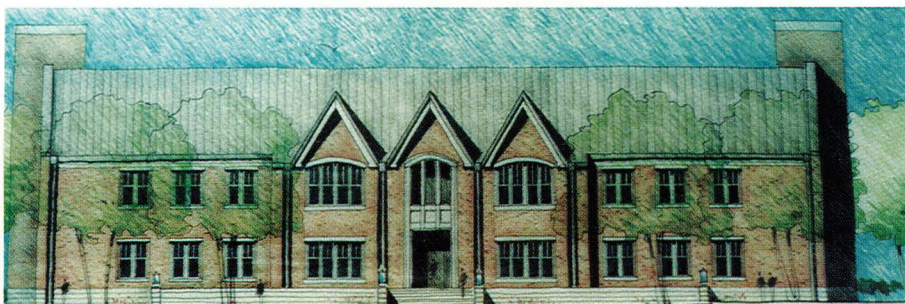
For nearly 125 years Spring Arbor has been committed to these ideals, although the statement containing the Concept is slightly more than 30 years old. But it is a long legacy, one which reminds me of a group of Quakers who left Europe long ago in search of religious freedom and vital faith. It is said, "They gathered sticks, lit a fire, and it burns forever."

The fire which ignited Spring Arbor College is still burning, and it will burn brighter still as we add the sticks God places in our hands. The Concept calls us all to be gatherers of sticks and guardians of the flame. If we do this, others will be drawn to the warmth — and to the Light!





Under Dr. Chapman's leadership and with the faithful support of alumni and friends, total giving to the College has more than doubled over the past five years.



Front



Back

An architect's rendering of the new Hugh and Edna White Library.

## Professionalism and Persistence

Dear Friends of Spring Arbor College:

I am very pleased to be allowed to write a few remembrances of Dr. James Chapman on the occasion of his retirement as President of Spring Arbor College.

During the spring of 1996 while Peter Weatherwax, Co-Founder and Trustee of the Weatherwax Foundation, was disabled from performing his duties due to a terminal illness, and Jim Chapman was interim president of Spring Arbor College, our paths first crossed.

Jim was the first prospective applicant for the attention of the acting trustees of the Weatherwax Foundation whom I met. He was persistent in his attempts to meet me. Fortunately for him, I was handy. His second or third drop-in visit found me in my office, and we had our first conversation. I quickly learned of his love for, and devotion to, Spring Arbor College.

Following Mr. Weatherwax's death and my then official status as trustee, Jim continued to keep me informed of various projects and plans for the College. The Weatherwax Foundation has been a steady contributor to the College during Mr. Weatherwax's tenure as trustee. Therefore, we were very receptive to Jim's attention and very interested in plans and projects for improvements to the plant and academic program of the College in which we might participate.

We were very pleased when Jim shed the interim designation and became president. We continued to be in contact, and more and more Jim turned to me not only for possible grants, but also for advice and counsel on various matters, fund-raising and otherwise. It is flattering for one to be chosen as an unofficial ad-hoc advisor to the president of the College. It is also a credit to a president to recognize those contacts whom he has and further to know upon whom to call in any given set of trying circumstances.

I particularly remember working closely with Jim, when through a misinterpretation of the terms of a grant, a very sizeable donation hung by a thread. I was extremely grateful to have been able to be of help in removing the misunderstanding and assuring the gift.

I salute Jim in his hard work toward the realization of the library project. The Weatherwax Foundation is pleased to have made one of its largest grants ever in support of this project. The efforts of Jim in pushing this most necessary project to its present status of full funding and as an active work in process is my favorite memory of him.

The library program, together with a myriad of other physical and academic improvements at the College shall stand as a fitting legacy for this dedicated (and persistent) educator and administrator, Jim Chapman.

I wish Jim and Mary all my best for a long, healthy and happy retirement.

Sincerely,

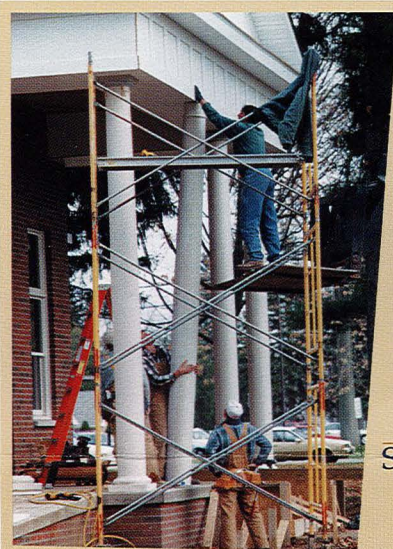
*Lawrence L. Bullen*

Lawrence L. Bullen, Trustee  
Weatherwax Foundation

## The Building President

Dr. Chapman began his task with a clear vision in sight. One of his primary goals was updating inadequate and antiquated facilities. Many of those plans have become reality:

- Two large lecture halls in the **Whiteman-Gibbs Science Center** were refurbished and technologically advanced teaching stations installed in 1996.
- In June 1998, bulldozers and construction crews moved onto the front lawn of campus and work was started on a new **admissions and welcome center**. Lauded as a new "front door" to campus, the building was completed in early 1999, and the admissions and financial aid departments moved in.
- A gift from the White Foundation provided necessary funds for the renovation of the former E.P. Hart Auditorium. SAC said farewell to Hart Auditorium in February, 1997, and it was closed, gutted, and completely refurbished over the next two years. It was rededicated in the fall of 1999, as the **Glenn and Ruth White Auditorium**.
- The College's **Fieldhouse** expanded as well. A 5,000-square-foot addition was built and opened in 1999, housing a new health and fitness center, and the previous fitness area was converted to classroom space to meet the academic needs of students.



SPRING ARBOR  
COLLEGE



Since James Chapman assumed the office of president in 1996, more than \$8 million in construction and renovation improvements have been completed or are underway.

- A project in the planning stages for 10 years begins construction this June. The new **Hugh and Edna White Library**, will be a 40,000-square-foot facility and will double the current library's size for shelving of books, and provide state-of-the-art technology and instructional media resources.
- The Board of Trustees has given approval to plans for the first unit of a **village housing complex** to house 24-28 students. New housing has continued to be an issue as enrollment on campus increases. In the summer of 1999, **Muffitt Hall's** lower level was renovated for residence hall use.

Additional improvements include:

- Colonial columns and a pediment at the entrance of the **Smith Music Center**.
- New student mailboxes were installed on the lower level of the **Kresge Student Center**, and the **College Bookcellar** has expanded.
- New front on the **Adult Studies** and **Physical Plant Building** will prevent deterioration. The Adult Studies Building was renovated and remodeled as well.
- The west parking lot of the **Fieldhouse** and the student parking lot behind the library were paved and painted.



# Pastoral Reflections on James Chapman's Ministry

Dr. Darold L. Hill,  
Senior Pastor,  
Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church

During the last four years I have appreciated the ministry of James Chapman as President of Spring Arbor College. Specifically, Jim has a tenacious insistence on faithfulness to the stated mission of Spring Arbor College with its "commitment to Jesus Christ as our perspective for learning." The local church is fully supportive of

the College's mission. Dr. Chapman's heart is for excellence in academics, faithfulness to biblical values, all rooted in a personal commitment to Jesus Christ. His devotion to Christ has been lived out in the Spring Arbor community these last four years. His life in Christ has been intensely and purposefully expressed through faithful

participation in worship at the Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church.

The positive relationship with the chief administrative officer of the College has encouraged the church in its mutual ministry with the College. Recently, with Jim's encouragement, we employed Doug Blume as the church's Director of College



The College's chapel services, led by Chaplain Ron Kopicko, received a tremendous response after the format was modified to increase student participation. The change has renewed excitement for the chapel program and made it a drawing point for students exploring Spring Arbor College.



Spring Arbor has also been recognized as the number one school in all the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities for students indicating they were growing spiritually while on campus.

Ministries. Furthermore, the church is pleased to continue to host the College chapel worship twice a week. Our Board of Ministry believes so deeply in the value of the chapel worship, that it gladly makes the church available. We are also pleased to make the sanctuary available for baccalaureate, graduation and other related activities.

A College-church coordinating committee meets at least once annually to make certain the flow of communication between church and College is clear. As a member of that group, Dr. Chapman has always been most sensitive and responsive to any concern of the church.

About one year ago the congregation made a major shift in morning worship by changing the time

of the traditional and contemporary services. With the College family in mind, the contemporary worship was moved from 8:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. This change has resulted in increasing numbers of the student community being involved in worship.

On a recent Sunday after Dr. Chapman spoke in the morning worship services on the subject, "Truth in a Society of Unbelief," a large group of Spring Arbor College students came forward, standing at the altar, surrounded by the members of the congregation. We prayed for them. What an awesome scene! We are together in mission. James Chapman has affirmed the value of the local church as a participant in that mission. For that, I rejoice!

## A Faculty Perspective on Dr. Chapman

By Dr. Wallis Metts Jr.  
Professor of Communications

College presidents and college faculties don't always get along. They have different needs, responsibilities, perspectives and tasks which sometime result in different goals and approaches.

But at Spring Arbor College there is a shared mission, and faculty members agree that Dr. Chapman has made that mission more visible and more viable. He did that by asking tough, often uncomfortable questions. He did that by raising major gifts to renovate and equip existing spaces and to build new ones. And he did that by being passionate and uncompromising in his love for Spring Arbor College and what it stands for.

Dr. Charles Dillman, professor of religion, says "I have appreciated the powerful ways James Chapman has clarified and projected the vision of Spring Arbor College for people beyond the College community. Under his administration the trumpet has not given an uncertain sound. He stands squarely within the ethical and biblical tradition on which the College was founded."

And it is Dr. Chapman's love for

the College that enabled him to be such a powerful spokesman. Dr. Larry Ort, a professor of adult studies who is currently on a sabbatical approved by Dr. Chapman at the American-Russian University, says "I was always impressed by what I saw as a deep love and commitment for Spring Arbor College. I may not have always agreed with every position that Dr. Chapman took, but it was a comfort to know that he really had the institution's interests at heart."

This perception is widespread. Dr. Terry Darling, professor of psychology, says, "His interest in this place is not just a generic interest in being a part of a Christian higher education institution, but he has passion for SAC." Assistant professor of communication Mary Darling agrees: "I've always been moved by Dr. Chapman's love for the College, which is always so apparent when he speaks about Spring Arbor."

Apparently this passion is contagious. Donors have responded by providing the funds for many needed campus projects. Closest to the faculty's heart, of course, is the new library, scheduled to be completed next year. As Terry Darling observes,

"We have talked about a new library for many years but it is only due to Dr. Chapman's leadership and passion that this project is finally going to become a reality."

This passion has affected students as well. Dr. Dillman says "Students, particularly, have a clearer view of the reasons for a college such as ours; and there are some ways in which our work is easier because of Dr. Chapman's clear commitment."

Dr. Chapman's passion for the College has caused him to be a tireless supporter of many important institutional and individual goals. Dr. Craig Hayward, professor of exercise and sports science, coordinated the College's successful bid for accreditation of its teacher education programs from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. He says Dr. Chapman's support was essential. "Not once along the way did I ever sense anything but his total support for the effort," says Hayward. "He provided the release time for me to do the job and the resources to ensure it happened."

Other faculty members have felt this support at an individual level. When Rhonda Hurst's tenure

application got off track Dr. Chapman became her ally. "He was very gracious, listened carefully to my argument, agreed that I had met all the criteria for tenure, and promised to go to bat for me," says Hurst, an assistant professor of English. "I appreciate the openness and respect Dr. Chapman offered me during this experience and the way he supported me as a faculty member."

Assistant professor of English Dr. Charles Morrissey had a similar experience. "I'm grateful for Dr. Chapman's support of my progress toward the Ph.D. degree, and especially for facilitating the sabbatical that enabled me to get over the hump to complete my dissertation. I remembered him as I received the degree at Purdue this May and in my prayers as he prepares to retire this summer."

Morrissey's sentiment is shared by many who give Dr. Chapman credit for getting Spring Arbor College over a hump of its own, a more beautiful and efficient place because of his service and love.



# Fruits of His Labor

By Garnet Hauger  
Professor of Mathematics

As Jim Chapman leaves the presidency of Spring Arbor College, he can be assured that he has left a lasting legacy of which he can be proud. There are at least three areas in which I see this legacy. The first area is the physical plant of the campus. One does not have to look far to see the fruits of Jim's vision. During his tenure, the campus has received face-lifts in several areas. The student center is not the same place it was when Jim arrived on campus. The renovations of Ralph Carey Forum, Cougar Den, offices of the President and the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the game room area, and Student Development and Registrar's Office all speak to his efforts and concern for the appearance of the campus. Others, of course, did much of the actual design and hard work to make this happen. But it would not have received the support of the President if Jim had not cared very much for making the Student Center look attractive and inviting.

Similarly, the building of the Welcome Center, the renovation of E.P. Hart/White Auditorium, and the establishment of premier office and classroom space for the Business Department stand as further testimony of his concern for the physical appearance and official-looking capacity of the campus. One of the first acts of his presidency was to make sure buildings had proper signage. That has made a big difference in making our campus look official and to make visitors feel welcome. I have appreciated that emphasis of his presidency.

The second area in which Dr. Chapman leaves a legacy is his work with our constituencies. In particular, I have been impressed with Jim's ability to work with a variety of groups "outside the bubble" both to represent SAC and to raise money for the college and other worthy causes. He has served with my husband on the Jackson County United Way campaign and I have seen him interact with that group around this important community cause. I have been proud to say, in these situations, that he is my boss (well, ok, the boss of my boss) and the President of the company where I work. He has a distinguished appearance (ok, he's downright cute!) and speaks articulately and has something worthwhile to say. Whenever I hear him speak in the greater Jackson community, I know that he is going to make me proud that I work at Spring Arbor College.

Related to this is his ability to raise money for the college. He finished the fund-raising efforts for the library so that just recently we had the groundbreaking ceremony for that building. I know he, and others, worked very hard to make this a reality and I want him to know those efforts are appreciated. He also was instrumental in raising money for other renovations on campus and the general budget. His efforts here have paid off and I hope he continues to serve the College in this area. He has a gift for this.

The third area of legacy for Dr. Chapman concerns his love and devotion to the College. He has a wonderful story to tell about Spring Arbor and its role in his own development as a person and as a Christian. When he tells this story I see that people are touched by his recounting of experiences and people that changed his life. We need more graduates like Jim Chapman who are willing and able to tell the Spring Arbor College story. He has done much to make our College the kind of place where young (and not so young!) men and women can have the kind of experiences that change their lives. And he has worked hard to make Spring Arbor College the kind of place where students can continue to have life-changing experiences.

- The 1997-98 school year saw the birth of two business-oriented programs, **Entrepreneurship and Ethics and Corporate Partners**, which brings well-known business leaders to campus or to the Jackson area to teach and speak.

- Spring Arbor College courses are now available for students to take in their homes, via the World Wide Web. The first **online courses** were offered in the summer of 1998, and later expanded through a grant from Christian University GlobalNet. Visit [www.arboronline.org](http://www.arboronline.org) for more information.

- Technology's influence in the business world helped spawn a new degree program, **Management Information Services (MIS)**, offered for the first time in the fall of 1999. The MIS degree brings together the areas of computer and business education.

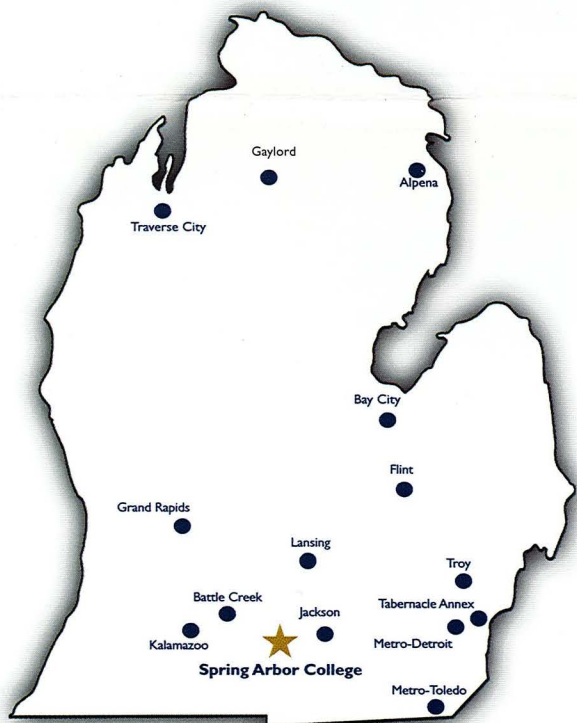
- The School of Adult Studies began offering a new master's degree for business leaders, the **Master of Arts in Organizational Management (MAOM)**, in 1999. With a growing number of graduates from the Management and Organizational Development program, school officials saw a need for a graduate program geared toward business leadership.

- Spring Arbor College and **Jackson Community College** have joined with articulation agreements allowing students to take their first two years of study at Jackson Community College, then complete their last two years at Spring Arbor, with assurance their course credits will transfer.

## Drawing Accolades

Spring Arbor College has been recognized for its character and outstanding family programs. The College was named to the **1999-00 Honor Roll for Character Building Colleges**, the third time it had been honored by the **Templeton Foundation**.

Drawing accolades from the **Templeton Foundation, Focus on the Family** and the **National Council on Family Relations**, the School of Adult Studies undergraduate program in Family Life Education (FLE) continues to be an exemplary educational opportunity for the school's adult learners. In 1997, FLE met the standards and criteria required for the Provisional Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) designation from the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR). The CFLE designation recognizes broad, comprehensive ranges of issues comprising family life education. In 1998, the Focus on the Family organization endorsed the FLE curriculum. According to Dr. Kenneth Ogden, Vice President for Counseling and Educational Outreach, Focus on the Family, the program "is comprehensive, academically credible and provides an excellent foundation to pursue a career in family studies..." In 1999, Family Life Education was recognized for leadership in the field of student character development in The Templeton Guide: Colleges that Encourage Character Development. It was profiled amongst the outstanding Faculty and Curriculum Programs section of the Templeton Guide. Family Life Education has been offered through the School of Adult Studies since 1991.



Spring Arbor College's School of Adult Studies has consolidated administrative functions under a new regional format, as the classes continue to expand. The 14 sites for School of Adult Studies programs have been organized under four regions providing centralized administrative services while attempting to improve our commitment to our adult students.

## Where Credit is Due

In March 1998, the **North Central Association's Commission on Institutions of Higher Education** notified the College that its accreditation was renewed for 10 years, the maximum allowed, and with no qualifications. This means that the College has met the Commission's criteria for institutions of higher education, and that it will continue to meet those, helping to ensure the standard of educational programs offered. This achievement capped three years of comprehensive evaluation of all the institution's programs, resources and facilities. Both internal personnel evaluated the College, as well as a visiting team from North Central. It has been used not only to gain the accreditation but also as a planning device to help identify areas of needed improvement in the future.

Hours of dedicated effort by the School of Education paid off as SAC again gained accreditation from the **National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)** for its undergraduate and graduate professional education programs in the fall of 1999. Accredited schools must meet rigorous standards set by the teaching profession and the public. Colleges must do an extensive self-study of their teacher education programs, and an NCATE team reviews and examines all areas. Graduates from accredited colleges and universities have added credibility to their degree, since NCATE is the only nationally recognized standard. NCATE standards help institutions prepare students for new, more rigorous licensing standards in many states.

The College's undergraduate social work program in July 1999 gained an accreditation renewal for eight years from the national **Council on Social Work Education**. Social Work faculty went through a two-year, self-study process to renew that accreditation, initially received in 1995. The accreditation benefits students in many ways, assuring a quality education. Those continuing on in graduate study are eligible for advanced standing M.S.W. programs, making the length of their graduate studies shorter.



# He's Old School, But Still Cool

by Glenn J. White '00

Dr. James Chapman has been an integral part of Spring Arbor College for nearly half his life. As both student and administrator, Dr. Chapman's heart has been with his alma mater since its high school and junior college days. His involvement has been instrumental, leaving a lasting mark over five decades.

After a relatively short tenure, 1997-2000, Dr. Chapman announced his retirement as President of Spring Arbor College, effective June 30, 2000. Many remember these years and the impact Dr. Chapman has had fondly, especially his influence on students. Students recognized Dr. Chapman for his vision, admirable character and personable demeanor.

Since his start as interim president in 1996, Chapman has had a clear focus for Spring Arbor College. "He wanted to enforce The Concept, promote growth, and bring more students in," according to Jeremy Norwood, student body president and junior from Tawas City, Mich.

Dr. Chapman was dedicated to improving the quality of the campus, and he sought God's will for guidance and direction, said recent graduate Jaime Taylor, from Ann Arbor, Mich., who was a member of the Student Association.

"His goal was to see students grow spiritually and also be challenged

academically; to go the next step," said Shane Prielipp, junior from Britton, Mich.

## Attention to details

Chapman influenced not only students' lives, but he made a lasting impression on the landscape of the campus, with many significant changes in campus buildings and facilities. He has done a great job fund-raising, said Norwood, bringing the College new buildings, such as the Welcome Center, new library in the works, and proposed townhouses.

Chapman is also known to be meticulous, wanting the very best for this place he loves. That attitude is

expressed in his concern for the smallest detail, even for the campus grounds. Dr. Chapman is renowned for being alert to excess trash lying around. One day, while driving by the Fieldhouse,

Chapman noticed some paper on the grounds and called to inform one of the workers to pick it up.

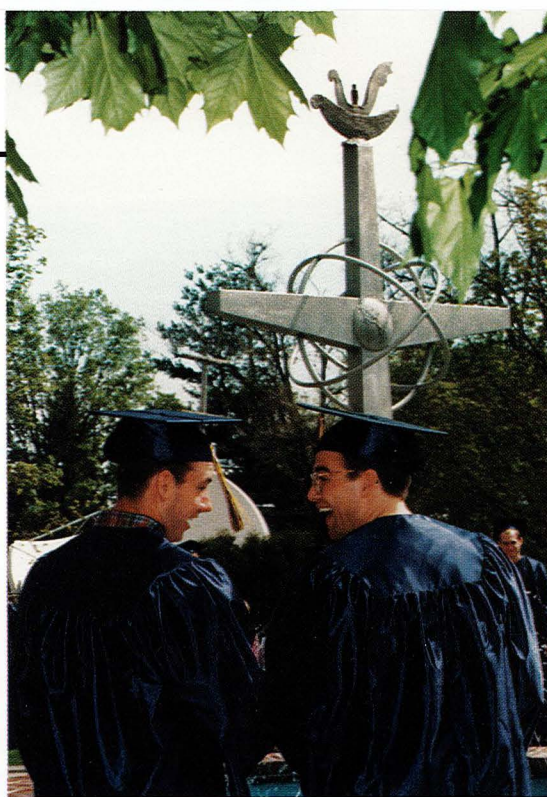
## Student involvement

Many of his interactions with students showed his more lighthearted and humorous side, along with a deep commitment to each student's development. Dr. Chapman could be seen all around the campus. He talked with students, dined with them, attended their activities and games, and welcomed them into his home. He took the time to get to know students by name, taking an active part not only in their college career, but in their lives.

"He [Chapman] has a passion for Jesus. He has the heart of a servant," said Robert Pene, senior and native of American Samoa.

"He listened to students," Taylor said. "He spent time with them, like eating in the DC and attending basketball games. He had a genuine interest in the student body."

To Prielipp, he was friendly and helpful during her time at the campus switchboard. "He has always been friendly. He knows my name, asks about my music, and is helpful when I am at the switchboard."



For many, the home-like atmosphere left them with fond memories.

"The Chapmans were good hosts, and they made us feel right at home. He was like a grandpa," remembers Pene.

Presidential cabinet members are often invited to the President's home. "It was a nice, warm atmosphere. We were treated well, and the food was good," remembers Norwood, student representative to the Cabinet.

Students have always held a special place in Dr. Chapman's heart. Likewise, his legacy will remain positive in the minds of those who matter the most: the students.

Dr. Chapman still found time to have some fun with students as well.

Dwight Beavers, a freshman from Detroit, remembers Chapman participating during Hoops Happening, a basketball event in the D.C. "He decided to take me on, but I still beat him, of course," said Beavers.

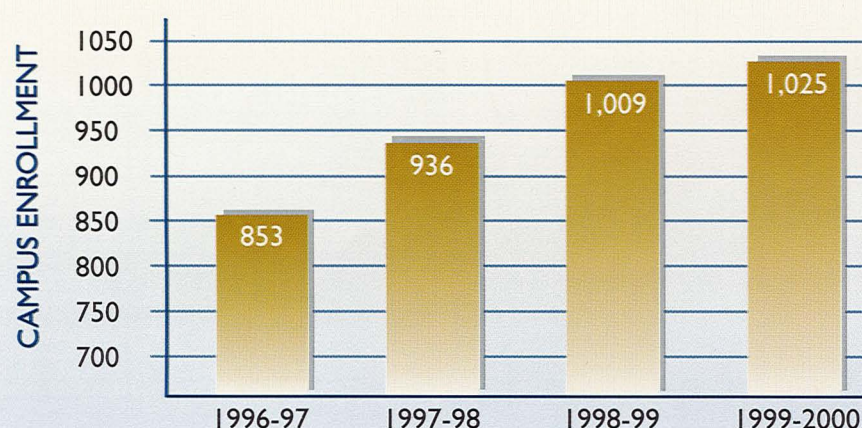
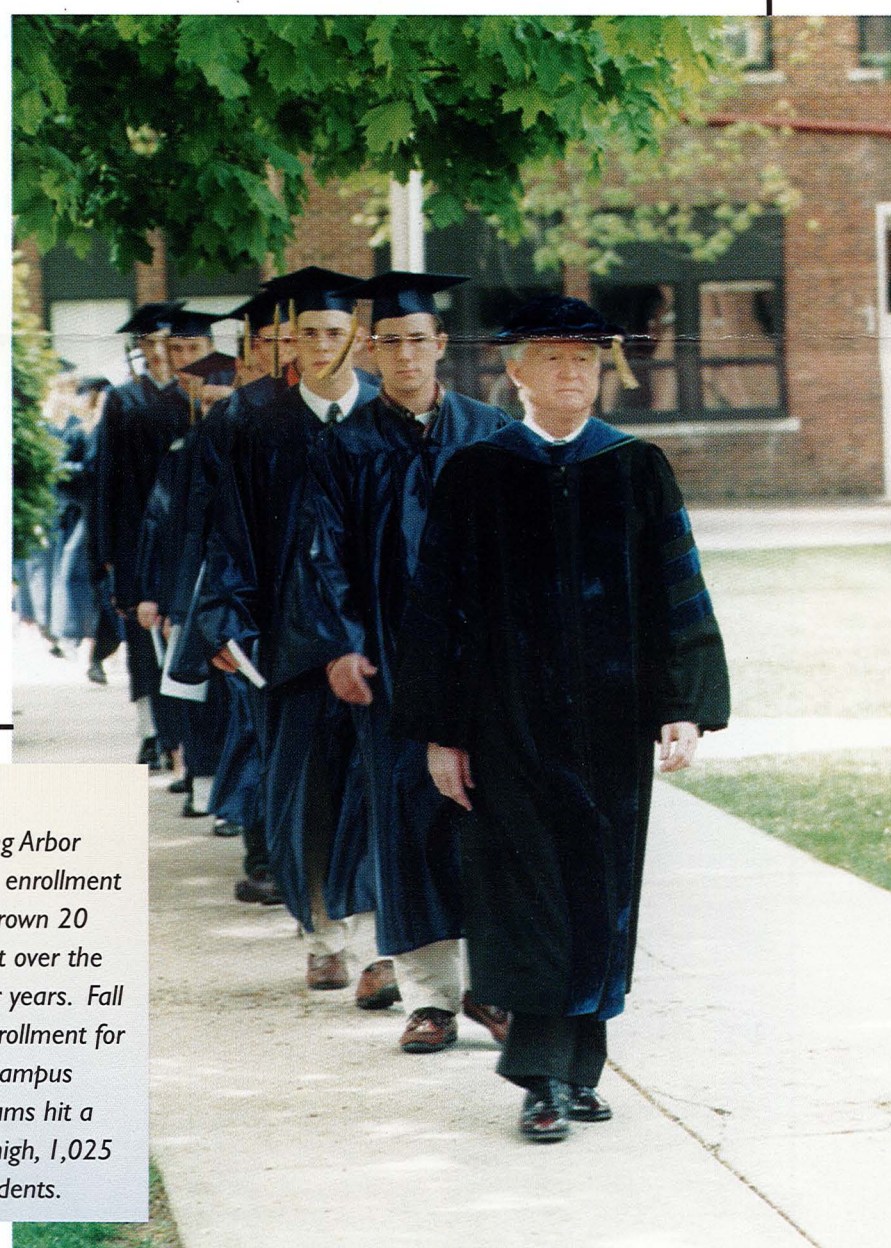
Pene noticed Chapman's initiative to be up-front and personable, always greeting students with a "Hi."

## Close to the heart

Many students have been invited over to the President's home and heard tales of his own days as a student and time starting out his educational career here, when he and wife, Mary, were working on campus. "He would tell us about when Mary was a nurse, so he would always go in pretending to be sick," said Taylor.



Sophomore, Gregory Elford, from Mississauga, Ontario summarized Dr. Chapman stating, "He's old school, but still cool."



Spring Arbor College's enrollment has grown 20 percent over the past four years. Fall 1999 enrollment for on-campus programs hit a record high, 1,025 students.



# Reflections

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SPRING ARBOR  
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A special look  
 back at the  
 Chapman years  
 and the success of  
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Spring Arbor College is a  
 community of learners  
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 application of the liberal arts, total  
 commitment to Jesus Christ as  
 our perspective for learning, and  
 critical participation in the  
 contemporary world.



## Dr. Chapman Answers Dr. Laura's Challenge

Spring Arbor College **President James Chapman** drew national attention in the summer of 1999 from syndicated columnist and radio personality Dr. Laura Schlessinger. In one of her nationally syndicated columns, the well-known "Dr. Laura" laid down a challenge to college presidents to address many of the questionable courses being offered across the nation. Dr.

Chapman's letter was the only response received, although it by no means endorsed the "teaching of trash" that Dr. Laura cited.

"The lack of a response is due in large part to the fact that too many college and university presidents, who might agree with you, cannot



afford to go contrary to what is happening on their respective campuses," wrote Dr. Chapman. "To do so would be interpreted by their faculties as interfering with academic freedom."

Chapman went on to explain that relativism is the mode of the day in this postmodern era, and that recent reports state up to 80 percent of college

students today believe there is no right or wrong on any issue, but it all depends upon one's interpretation of an issue. Chapman believes this will lead to a catastrophic societal crash, slow and seductive in nature.

Dr. Chapman's letter continued: "We at Spring Arbor College make no apology, as a quality liberal arts college and as an institution of higher education in the evangelical Christian tradition, for our position and that of Plato that 'there is no contradiction in the search for truth and the worship of the divine.' We further affirm that all truth is God's truth and accept that there is right and wrong. We want our students to have the capacity and commitment to see and determine the difference between the two as a major part of living, being and doing in our society!"

Dr. Laura read Chapman's response in its entirety on her broadcast, which reaches 18 million listeners a day. After reading the letter, Schlessinger praised Dr. Chapman.

"Does he sound like some right-wing fundamentalist crackpot to you, or a very highly educated, thoughtful man?" she asked. "This is what higher education should sound like."

**"This is what  
 higher education  
 should sound like."**