

MONICA WHITE: Greetings from the faculty and staff will now be delivered by Dr. James Hurtgen. Dr. Hurtgen joined SUNY Fredonia's Political Science Department in 1971. He has held a variety of administrative positions on campus, including chairperson of the Department of Political Science and Dean for Liberal and Continuing Education. However, teaching remains his abiding devotion. In 2007, he was promoted to the rank of SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor. Dr. Hurtgen.

JIM HURTGEN: Good afternoon. Students, alumni, community members, friends, emeritus faculty, honored guests, Chancellor Zympher, members of Dr. Horvath's family, and my fellow members of the faculty and staff, I am honored to welcome you to the inauguration of Dr. Virginia Schaefer Horvath as Fredonia's thirteenth president. For those of you have travelled from elsewhere, welcome to our beautiful campus and to western—I say western—not upstate —New York.

I want to begin by thanking all the members of the committee who planned this event and the entire inauguration week. A difficult task and they carried it off beautifully. Thank you all.

On becoming president one hundred years ago, Woodrow Wilson quipped that he would not only use all the brains *he* had, but all he could borrow. Pretty good advice. The job ahead, President Horvath, will take all *your* brains and all you can borrow. We are not worried. This is the advice you have given yourself since arriving as Vice President in 2005.

I was privileged to serve on the committee that recommended Ginny Horvath as our next president. We urged your selection, Ginny, not simply in recognition of your accomplishments as a senior administrator, scholar and

teacher—I might add Ginny taught at least one course every year as a member of the English Department during her years as vice president. We urged your selection not only for what you have done, which was considerable, but who you are. The person is beneath the accomplishments.

What we saw as members of the search committee is, truly, what we have seen during the seven years of your vice presidency. We saw in you:

- A passion for learning that binds us to our long past
- A vision of a strengthened community of learners—more diverse, with widely differing talents and aptitudes
- A demonstrated willingness to explore with us new paths of learning, not because of any certainty of success, but because this is how we renew ourselves as teachers
- Nimbleness in identifying the challenges and opportunities awaiting us
- Humility in the face of it all

I ran into President Horvath during the summer. I commented that she must be excited by the opportunity to put her vision forward as president. She corrected me. Not my vision, she said. Ours. Our vision.

So, President Horvath, lead . . . and borrow freely. We who make Fredonia's work our work are delighted and honored to join you in the journey ahead.