

This issue of the College Magazine features our new improved and transformed D. Justin McCarthy College Center. Our students, who have faced crowded conditions in the dining areas, now have double the space to enjoy their meals and meet with friends. The entrance and lobby area, with its Starbucks Cyber Café, provide a comfortable place in the middle of campus where students can study, chat about what they are learning, and collaborate on projects. Once again, as with our unique and innovative Wireless Laptop Program, Framingham State College is at the forefront in terms of architectural thinking in the academic world. Our glass-framed entry and additions to the Center provide connective tissue uniting dining space, meeting rooms, game room, and an art gallery. As students walk along the open corridor and use these spaces, there is a kind of perpetual motion going on, vibrant and alive, at the heart of our campus. To create more space for student life, the Counseling and Wellness offices will join Health Services in the recently renovated Foster Hall, and eventually the office of Residence Life will be located in Towers. The Forum will be ready in November with a dramatic and beautiful new stage. All in all, the College Center with its gleaming tower will, day and night, illuminate and point to a hub of busy activity for student life and academic and cultural activities throughout the year.

In addition to the College Center, other capital projects are either completed or under way at the College. This summer, \$35M was spent on ongoing projects, either in study, design, or actual construction. The next major project will be Dwight Hall. The Business Office and Financial Aid areas will be renovated, and Dwight Auditorium will become a state-of-the-art Technology and Performing Arts Center. Funding for renovations to Hemenway Hall has been included in a Capital Supplemental Bill signed by Governor Romney, who recently visited our campus to review science education and related facilities needs.

Last spring, the Board of Trustees approved a budget which keeps the College “the best bargain in the system.” Still, we have



been able to provide enhancements in three important areas: faculty positions, academic support, and financial aid for students. Through the Senate Task Force on Public Higher Education, we have made progress regarding equitable formula funding, a longstanding need of our College. I am happy to report that a rational and fair funding formula is now firmly embedded in the recommendations of the Senate Task Force.

Many new initiatives have been undertaken to connect freshmen more closely to the campus: a First-Year Writing requirement, an E-Portfolio project, and a marked increase in weekend activities for students. On the programmatic side, we have our first new major since the 1980s, Business and Information Technology. Plans for an Environmental Science major are also underway. You may already have noticed the large FSC on top of Corinne Hall Towers, on one of the highest spots in the town of Framingham. Clearly we are sending a message to the world about our College.

Perhaps one of the most important achieved objectives in recent months is the resolution of our differences with the Independent Alumni Association. This past June we had a unified Alumni Reunion, and just a few weeks ago a unified Homecoming Weekend.

As I prepare for my retirement in January, I feel well satisfied about the College and its future. While I will be officially leaving, I plan to stay involved in several ways. I hope to continue the President’s Book Club, which has been my connection to literature and “teaching” for several years. And I will remain on the Board of this Magazine, which has become an important link with our alumni and friends. ■

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President Heineman talks with students in the lobby of the renovated College Center.