

R. Barbara Gitenstein
President's Report
Board of Trustees Meeting
December 3, 2013

Every time I report to the Board, I am struck by the energy and excitement that permeates the campus but the recent months since the last Board meeting have been particularly stunning in the richness of the experience.

While it did not always reflect accurately in the win/loss column, our student athletes and their coaches showed exceptional talent, courage and fortitude in the fall semester. We had some stunning wins and a couple of heart breaking losses in football, hockey, soccer and basketball, but in every case, I was proud of the character as well as the athletic skill manifest by the athletes.

Students entertained and challenged audiences in theatrical and musical productions ranging from *Cabaret* to *Lysistrata* to Mozart's "Impressario." There were remarkable concerts of demanding music performed by the College's Chorale, Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, and Percussion Ensemble. Students and faculty performed in solo concerts and students exhibited their art work throughout the semester. We were visited by musicians and artists from across the world. A major exhibit, Video Cubano, brought artists and lecturers to our campus. In addition, schools and departments hosted lecturers including a Nobel Laureate in economics, a lecturer from University College of London, two professors who spoke of the intersection of race and crime and the view of race and culture by young people of color. National and international experts spoke to the community about why people protest, the principles of art criticism, the impact of art in inner city elementary and secondary schools, the protests in Egypt and Syria, online privacy and data security law. We celebrated our exceptionally talented alumni during Alumni Weekend (October 18-19) and learned a great deal from our young alumni about their experiences working internationally.

Many of us spent significant time developing material and making presentations to the three rating agencies (Fitch's, Standard and Poor's and Moody's) and we were rewarded with very good reports which will stand us in good stead when our bonds go to market to support the building of the new Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) initiative. Deans and faculty from STEM areas worked closely with the Provost, the Vice President for Administration, the campus architect and the EYP Architectural firm to refine the plans for the new project. It will be such an exceptional addition to our campus landscape.

During the last several months, we have also celebrated the groundbreaking of the Campus Town project and have intensified the planning for the major renovation to the Brower Student Center.

Our faculty and staff have continued to be very active in their disciplines, spreading the reputation of the College across the nation and world. In that same vein, I have had the opportunity to continue my involvement in the improvement of and advocacy for regional accreditation (as chair of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and as a member

of the Commission on Higher Education Accreditation, CHEA, Advocacy Task Force). In addition, I have become more involved in the refinement and improvement of academic program review and alignment of academic program offerings with state wide needs by my service as chair of the Academic Issues Committee of the New Jersey Presidents Council and as a member of the Council's Task Force on the Alignment of Academic Program with State Work Force Needs.

Last week many of us had the wonderful opportunity to celebrate with family a friends and to give thanks for what we have in our personal lives. This seems to be an appropriate moment for all of us to give thanks for what we have in our professional lives—an institution committed to excellence, with extraordinary students, faculty, staff, and alumni, and blessed with volunteer leadership that really cares about what we do and wants to assure that we continue to improve.

Thank you