Saying Farwell

to an unforgettable President

Leaving behind a legacy

After 16 years of service to Ursinus College, Dr. John Strassburger announced his retirement on Thursday, Feb. 11, 2010 as the 13th President of the College. Students, faculty, and staff gathered for the news and shared continuous applause in recognition for his work and dedication to the school. Known as "Mr. Ursinus" by fellow college communities, his extreme care to student potential will forever be present within the Ursinus Community.

His impact, in his own words:

"I think I’ve been a part of a process where everyone’s sights have been elevated and students coming in here don’t even realize that more is being expected of them and asked of them than even fifteen years ago."

During the President’s Donor party, nationally recognized Benjamin Franklin entertainer and impersonator Ralph Archbold talks with President Strassburger and guests. Student Achievement was always at the forefront of President Strassburger’s mind. Here he and wife Trudy listen to a student’s COSA presentation (Celebration of Student Achievement).
"John Strassburger came to Ursinus when it was a middling college in southeastern Pennsylvania, little different from the college I knew as a student in the early nineteen-fifties. He leaves it a nationally recognized, top 100 liberal arts college that has caught the attention of the whole world of small colleges. He has done this by conceiving what are deceptively simple strategies and executing them brilliantly.

All great coincidences must give way to the realities of time, but John's was an era greater than all but the founding one of Dr. Bomberger.

Dr. Spencer Foreman, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

I was fortunate enough to see John Strassburger's first year as President of Ursinus College during my final year as a student. When President Strassburger took over, there was a freshness and positivity about the change that was palpable to me and my fellow students, we knew good things were coming. Now, as I return to Ursinus as a professor, I see that our collective intuition was right on the mark. President Strassburger's influence can be seen from the look of the campus to the character of its student body. I am proud to have seen both the beginning and the end of his tenure at Ursinus as a student and faculty.

Dr. Eric Smith, '95 Alumnus; English Department

The first time I met President Strassburger he was discussing student leadership on a Comcast panel at my high school. I thought what I remembered most was bow his bowie and his praise of Ursinus' Creative Writing minor after I mentioned an interest in fiction.

The next time I ran into President Strassburger, I went right up to him and reintroduced myself. He was cordial and kind and he gave me his card and mentioned it would be nice if I sent him samples of my writing. I sent him samples and he responded to my email promptly, expressing an appreciation for that fact, was rare and thoughtful. It was one of the reasons people love him.

President Strassburger provides us all a sense of expectation for ourselves. He inspires a person who tries their best to relate to others and make them feel important.

Amber Hyppolite, Class of 2010

When I first saw President Strasser, chatting with students, I was smitten. But after noticing him do it daily, I realized why. He understands that education requires a dedicated family, and that knows your name and your story. Under his guidance, that essence wove itself into the Ursinus fabric.

Aaka Shal Shah, Class of 2010

President John Strassburger established the twenty-first century standard for liberal arts colleges, balanced expansion and academic rigor, and maintained strong academic practices. He maintained strict standards for student achievement. President Strassburger reinvented the college curriculum around a singular innovation, the Common Intellectual Experience, a nationally recognized program that drew the most talented students and faculty to the college. His emphasis on the universal value of critical inquiry stretched the boundaries of academic achievement into new fields like Environmental Studies, Health and Education, and American Studies. Ursinus College became a national leader in higher education because John's vision of dynamic pedagogy and student engagement resonated with alumni, current students, faculty, and staff on a daily basis. He stands alone as the greatest administrator in the College's history.

Dr. Walter Greason, History Department

Around campus
Above, President Strassburger and wife Trudy pose with a live statue in Olm Plaza. During his tenure, the president has shared their support for student achievement in the classroom and on the athletic field. Their presence at home athletic events was a standard known by all students.

Alison Prentice, President Strassburger presents the Athletic Hall of Fame inducements during 2004 Homecoming
Faculty and Staff
PRESIDENT STRASSBURGER and EILEEN HUGHES

KIM TAYLOR
Assistant Dean of Students
Director of Campus Safety

DEAN NOLAN
Dean of Students

TODD MCKINNEY
Associate Dean of Students
Director of Leadership Development and Student Activities

WINFIELDGUILLIMETTE
Office of the President
FACULTY AND STAFF

Facilities Services

Student Financial Services

Library Staff

D. Hartman, Ch. Jamison, L. Marchetti, D. Mill, D. Weigel, J. Whitman

Music Department

Left to right: H. Gaines, J. Franch

Media and Communications Studies Department

Philosophy and Religious Studies Department

Left to right: S. Geetz, K. Sorenson, R. Floria, C. Rice, N. Rein


Front Row (left to right): J. Czubaroff, N. Caracasa, L. Woodstock. Back Row (left to right): F. Gateward, L. Edwards, J. Miller, S. Goodman
FACULTY AND STAFF

Academic Affairs

Admissions Office

Left to right: V. Nelson, A. Lucas, G. Weight, J. Levy, C. Wager, C. Wysocki

Art Department

Athletics Department

Left to right: V. Iliatova, D. Camp, M. Shoaf, J. Brown, B. Kessler

Business Office Staff

Business Department

Front Row (left to right): D. Hammer, R. DiFeliciatonio, C. Schnell, J. McLaughlin, D. Clavin. Back Row (left to right): S. Pinter, B. Mulroy, A. Strickler, E. Dickerson, S. Thomas

No order: K. Beasely, L. Brault, J. Cooper, B. Davidson, J. Donofrio, V. Giammarco, M. Mulholland, S. Pearson, S. Schelly, D. Walsh, K. Williams
FACULTY AND STAFF

Politics and International Relations Department

Wellness Staff

Left to right: K. Patel, P. Osisek, S. Phillips, P. Doghramji, MD

Registrar's Office

Front Row (left to right): Rott, C. Williams, B. Borris, R. Angeloni

Campus Safety

Front Row (left to right): G. Wilcox, A. Bruno, P. Leone, P. Looft
Back Row (left to right): L. Johnson, G. Hodgson, T. Salvo

Residence Life

Alumni Relations

Front Row (left to right): K. Bodrato, D. Pienta, M. Sanders, Back Row (left to right): S. Posey, J. Rodrigues