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## President's Circle Reception

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Remarks from Dr. Dunn  
President's Circle Reception  
June 6, 2009

Linda and I are so very pleased that you are able to join us this evening. As you know, the theme for our reception is "Setting the Stage."

Obviously, the locale for this evening, our beautiful Gilmore Theatre Complex, is most appropriate for this theme. However, our rationale delves a little further than just our immediate physical presence.

- First, we must acknowledge that you, as a critical part of our Western Michigan University, have in the past, and continue today to pave the way to our joined success.
- We thank you for your very generous financial support, which continues amid the trials and tribulations of our unpredictable economic climate. Through your unfailing philanthropy, you have indeed "set the stage" for the unprecedented successes of our most valuable assets - our students!
- In light of today's realities, I fully realize that for many of you, continuing your support has meant "digging a little deeper." I want to assure you that I do recognize this very faithful endorsement of our work.
- Your support makes it possible:
  - .... for students to attain an excellent education that remains financially within reach for them and their families ...
  - ... to build and maintain outstanding facilities that inspire the creative learning opportunities that make our University such a very special place ...

- ... to attract and retain top-notch faculty who are dually engaged in both effective classroom teaching and groundbreaking academic research ...
- ... and, to maintain a wide array of quality program offerings, as witnessed by our continuing status as one of the country's top 100 public universities and our prestigious research ranking by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

In conclusion, I invite you to enjoy the evening, each other's company, and the talented student performers, who I would like to take a moment to acknowledge.

- To my right are our musical theater performers: Charles Lowery, Cassandra Sandberg, and Heidi Sielatycki (See-la-ticky), who are directed by Michael Potsic. (pause for applause)
- To my left is our motion capture artist Shannon McPhee, whose performance was designed by Kevin Abbott. (pause for applause)
- Now, please enjoy a remarkable aerial act by Zachary Martens and Mikey Winslow. As you view the performance, I know you will join me in marveling at yet another incredibly innovative project that showcases the amazing capabilities of our students.

Again, thank you for coming, please enjoy the evening, and without further ado...  
I present to you Zachary and Mikey.

*(Zachary and Mikey begin performance.)*