Alpha Phi Alpha Remarks

John M. Dunn
Western Michigan University, john.dunn@wmich.edu
• Good afternoon, thank you for being here and hosting this wonderful event. And thank you for introducing me to this wonderful museum. I continue to learn about this city and this state, and this is an amazing place that I can now add to my knowledge base.

• Members of Alpha Phi Alpha have a Great tradition of involvement at WMU--both during their student years and as alumni. People like Distinguished Alumni Dennis Archer, Ron Hall and William Pickard, who have set the bar high as they serve both community and University.

• And you've influenced the University, community and nation in some fun ways as well. I'm told The Velvelettes' first breakthrough came when they entered the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity talent show in 1962 and won first place. From there, it was a short trip to Motown stardom. We still treasure that moment of national history. Cal Street, one of the Velvelettes, is a longtime staff member in our Development Office. She proudly tells the story about her own career path and about WMU.

• As alumni you carry enormous weight with prospective students, current students and recent grads. You know the ropes and can carry the message of success far better than anyone else. You tell the story of WMU--what the Western Edge has meant in your lives and careers, what it can mean in the life of a student still trying to make a life changing decision about college. Your work in raising scholarship funds continues to make a difference for students every year. At no time in recent history has your generosity been more needed and more appreciated than today.
• Many of you are ambassadors for WMU on a regular basis--sometimes informally and sometimes in a more formal way by hosting prospective students in your homes or mentoring a student. We want to work with you to make even more of those opportunities for students a reality.

• This evening is a prime example of an easy way for you to start your involvement. We're hosting a Gold Pride reception for prospective students and families at the Northwest Activities Center. We do several of these in the Detroit area each year. We would welcome you to be there--at all of our receptions--to meet those families and tell them about your own WMU experience and your pride in our University.

Thank you, and continue your good works.