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25-Year Club

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25-Year Club

John M. Dunn Remarks

Dec. 1, 2010

- Good Evening. I am as always delighted to be here and to extend my thanks to the service you have given to Western Michigan University. On a professional level, it affords me an opportunity to acknowledge the people--you--who have made this the University what it is today.
- On a more personal level, you are my contemporaries. It is a delight to spend time in your company. Sometimes, it's just nice to know that if I mention something like the Cold War or the Achille Lauro, I won't get a blank look in return.
- I have one core message to deliver to you this evening. Thank you.
- Thank you for the more than 1,300 years, collectively, that you have devoted to this University and the success of our students. Thank you for building your career here and for building this great University.
- You have built this university--through your teaching, through the support you have provided in keeping our physical plant sparkling, by keeping our academic enterprise humming, in building our technical assets and by providing top-notch and compassionate service to our students before, during and after their enrollment here. You have built this University's physical structure and more important, its reputation.
- Your commitment has been unwavering in a world that has changed dramatically and yet curiously stayed the same in many ways since you began your career here.

- You began your career at WMU in the year 1985. It was however a year dominated by events. Many of them seemed small technical stories at the time, but they were the harbingers of what was to come:

- The first “.Com” domain name, **symbolics.com**, was registered by the Symbolics Corp.
- Microsoft Corp. released the first version of Windows, Windows 1.0.
- Compact Discs were introduced to American consumers
- Commodore launched its Amiga personal computer at the Lincoln Center in New York.

Just imagine how different life today would be like without those developments.

Here on campus in 1985:

- Diether Haenicke became WMU's fifth president, and
 - Bob Beam was named vice president for business.
 - The Western Michigan University Center for the Study of Ethics in Society was launched.
 - The College of Business was in East and North Halls
 - There was no Parkview Campus or Aviation College.
 - Where the University Computing Center now stands, was Maybee Hall.
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- The changes at WMU over the past 25 years have been phenomenal. Tonight is about those of you who have built WMU. It is about your life's work and the "product" that Western Michigan University is known for--successful students and alumni.

- They graduate and leave us to assume their roles in the society in which we all must live. In a very real way, we are putting our lives and futures on the line and showing our confidence in the product of our life's work and passion. The contributions of our students are the proof of our success.
- That success is what we are celebrating this evening. You made a commitment to the mission of WMU. I hope that your experience in doing so is and remains one of your central accomplishments in life.
- Let me stray to the world of popular culture to leave you with a thought about services. It's from Oprah Winfrey. She said:

"I've come to believe that each of us has a personal calling that's as unique as a fingerprint - and that the best way to succeed is to discover what you love and then find a way to offer it to others in the form of service, working hard, and also allowing the energy of the universe to lead you. "

- Thank you for finding your personal calling at Western Michigan University. And thank you for being flexible enough over the years to allow the energy of the universe and the energy of young people to lead you.

Before I finish, I have one final expression of gratitude to convey. While we honor those of you who are being inducted into the 25 Year Club, there is another individual we wish to single out for a career of service to this University. If we were to have a 50 Year Club, he would be the charter member--and those annual 50 Year Club dinners would be lonely affairs.

- Dr. Paul Maier, professor of history, has just celebrated 50 years as a member of the WMU faculty. (He actually came here 52 years ago and served as a campus

chaplain and visiting professor. He is adamant in viewing his appointment to a tenure-track position in 1960 as the formal start to his service here.)

He is by any measure, the longest-serving member of this campus community. He came to WMU when Dwight Eisenhower was still our nation's president and when James Miller was taking the reins of WMU as this University's third president.

During the past 50 years, Paul Maier has built an international reputation as a scholar of ancient history and one of the world's leading authorities on early Christianity. He has published historical works and popular fiction, videos and children's books. He has several million books in print in a dozen languages. As technology has changed, Paul's name has gone from the Rolodex to the speed dial for members of the national media. He has been covered on the pages of People, U.S. News & World Report and Time and has been seen on the air on, "The Today Show" and ABC News specials.

But most of all, he has taught generations of young people and been a member of this University family. Please join me in asking Dr. Paul Maier to step forward and receive a special token of our gratitude for his many years of service.

Please enjoy the rest of your evening. You deserve to revel in this moment of accomplishment. Your work has made our University and our world a better place to be.

Thank you.