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Alpha Phi Alpha Luncheon

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Dr. John M. Dunn  
Alpha Phi Alpha Luncheon  
Oct. 5, 2012

• Good afternoon. I'm sorry to arrive just a bit late. We have wonderful things happening all over campus this week that require the attention of the president.

• I could not, under any circumstances however, miss an opportunity to congratulate all of you for this 50-year milestone and thank you for all that you do for our University, year-in and year-out. You enhance this University's reputation through your own remarkable person and professional accomplishments. And you build our capacity and commitment to excellence through mentoring, recruitment/retention and providing scholarships that enable deserving underrepresented students to be Broncos.

• The work you've been doing over so many years is paying off. Our fall 2012 student census shows an increase of 4.2 percent in the number of African American students and a 3.4 percent increase in our overall minority student numbers. There is no doubt in my mind that your outreach to prospective Broncos provides the edge necessary to make some truly remarkable young men and women part of our campus community.
A 50th anniversary is a great platform upon which to plan a party and launch a social celebration. I know you'll do a little of that this weekend. But what strikes me as extraordinarily commendable is your decision to celebrate this milestone by taking your expertise and personal stories to our students so that they could benefit from your advice, accumulated wisdom and perspective. It was extraordinary to see all of our colleges enjoy the opportunity to hear from a successful alumnus who also is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha.

And finally, I want to thank you for the opportunity to hear today's address by Trustee Dennis Archer. It has been my honor to work with him over the past five years. He represents all of the best qualities of this university and this fraternity. It is so appropriate to take a bit of time to honor his many accomplishments as well as his commitment to the future of Western Michigan University.

Enjoy this weekend. We'll see each other at many of the events planned for the next two days. There's just one thing left to say.

Go Broncos!