

DEVOTED TO A HIGHER PURPOSE

Remarks at the Dedication Ceremony of the Pauley Science Center November 11, 2022

A remarkably providential sequence of events led to the creation of this magnificent building and today's dedication ceremony. When I arrived at Hampden-Sydney in the summer of 2016, many colleagues reached out to tell me of the urgent need for a better science facility. I also learned that the College had hired an architectural firm to develop a plan to renovate and expand Gilmer Hall. That plan was going to cost over \$60 million in 2016 dollars, and while all science faculty members had participated in the planning, I also learned that few were enthusiastic about the plan.

Given this lukewarm enthusiasm and to evaluate options, we created a science task force that included our Dean, Mike McDermott, Biology Professor, Alex Werth, and Trustees, Eric Apperson, Trevor Boyce, and Gene Hickok, who collectively contributed valuable knowledge about higher education, how we teach science here at Hampden-Sydney, expertise in constructing buildings, the design of science laboratories, and a deep devotion to this College. The task force held its first meeting, which was productive because they not only met and got to work, but they also concluded that we needed to abandon the plan to renovate and expand Gilmer, and instead, plan to build a totally new science center.

Not long after the task force began its work, I had my first meeting with Stanley Pauley. In that meeting, Mr. Pauley shared with me that he thought Hampden-Sydney represented all that is best in higher education in this country—a view that I did not dispute. He told me he was certain that if Hampden-Sydney could attract more talented science students we would also be able to attract more talented students to other fields of study. He then stated that he wanted to help Hampden-Sydney build a science building that would attract those talented science students. At our next meeting, Mr. Pauley asked the College to develop plans for the building we are occupying today. At our third meeting, Mr. Pauley shared that he was prepared to provide \$30 million to construct this building, by far the largest single gift in the College's history.

When we met to review the architects' renderings of the building's façade and floorplans, I sensed that Mr. Pauley was growing impatient, and before long he stood up, went into another room, brought out a pamphlet describing a science building he had helped build at his alma mater, the University of Manitoba. He threw the pamphlet on the table and exclaimed, "Just don't build a steel and glass box like this."

Far from a steel and glass box, we have erected a building that blends beautifully with the federalist structures that surround it, while on the inside, the Pauley Science Center is a state-of-the-art teaching and learning facility designed specifically for the way our devoted faculty members teach science. Credit for the building's design goes to our Hanbury architects, Kevin Kattwinkel and Wesley Page, who brought the expertise of designing more than 30 science buildings for liberal arts colleges. Dean Mike McDermott and Professor Alex Werth ensured a highly collaborative design

process that provided opportunities for our faculty to share with Kevin and Wes how we do science here, emphasizing especially our pedagogy of getting our students to learn science by doing science.

One can't say thank you too much on a day like this, so let me acknowledge the leadership of the science task force we assembled; the architects; the faculty members who participated in the planning process; our Dean of the Faculty, Mike McDermott; the willingness of Professor Alex Werth to go above and beyond at every step of the planning and building process; our general contractor, W. M. Jordan, and subcontractors; and Ken Copeland, John Pregelman, and Paul Giles who oversaw the construction of the building. And, above all, I extend my gratitude, on behalf of the Hampden-Sydney College community, to Mr. Pauley and to those alumni and other benefactors who have added their gifts to Mr. Pauley's transformational gift to help make this wonderful building a reality.

Nearly 55 years ago at the dedication of Gilmer Hall, President Taylor Reveley stated that Gilmer was "neither an end in itself nor the beginning of anything new to Hampden-Sydney College. It marks instead one more important step in the direction in which the College has been moving for nearly two centuries." Today's dedication of the Pauley Science Center extends that legacy. To emphasize this building's connection with the past 247 years, the main floor hallway in the south wing features a display summarizing the history of science at Hampden-Sydney. Noteworthy is the fact that Samuel Stanhope Smith's first purchase after becoming president of Hampden-Sydney was for "philosophical apparatus," or what we now call science equipment. Other exhibits and displays throughout the building highlight both the history and importance of science at Hampden-Sydney.

The professional accomplishments of the alumnus who shared his perspectives on leadership with us last night, our symposium panelists, and this ceremony's keynote speaker demonstrate that we remain as committed as ever to producing leaders in science, medicine, and every field of endeavor.

While we have a wonderful history, and this history is a legacy that we prize, I am always eager to remind this College community that our most important work is not what was done in the past, but rather the work we are doing today and the work that we will do tomorrow. And, while the Pauley Science Center is the sixth facility to facilitate science teaching and research on our campus, it is also an investment in future of the College.

Most of you know that Stanley Pauley was a successful business leader, but I had an opportunity to see that he was a visionary who had an exciting vision of Hampden-Sydney's future. We gathered today to dedicate a building that he made possible, but I am certain that Mr. Pauley would want our dedication of the Pauley Science Center to be something even more significant. Indeed, the Latin root of dedicate means "to devote or to consecrate to a higher purpose." To honor Mr. Pauley and to consecrate his legacy at Hampden-Sydney, I ask that we devote ourselves to three higher purposes:

First let us be devoted to having facilities that match the quality of the educational program we offer young men. Over the last decade and a half, we have been pursuing the most ambitious building and renovation program in the College's history. We've come a long way in a short time from the days when we would make excuses for or apologize for the quality of our facilities. Let us press on with this important work.

Second, let us be devoted to building a financial foundation that adequately supports our College's educational program. Every liberal arts college that has risen to prominence in this country has had one or many benefactors like Stanley Pauley, who have been prepared to invest generously in those institutions so they might blossom and realize their full potential. Let us encourage and welcome our alumni and friends to make their own Stanley Pauley gifts to this great College so that it can have a financial foundation that richly supports the transformational educational experience it offers young men.

And, finally, let us be devoted to our distinctive and important relevant mission of forming good men and good citizens. Our world has never more needed the competence and character of Hampden-Sydney men. So long as Hampden-Sydney continues to demonstrate the full intellectual, moral, creative, social, physical, and spiritual capacities of young men, then this College will have an important place in the higher education landscape.