

# The Academia

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

MARCH 5, 2003

## Hundert's Vision and the new CWRU...

Ajay Gupta, ΦΚΨ

"Wouldn't it be funny if we came back and Case were the new Harvard?" asks CWRU sophomore Ryan Meyer of the new challenges offered by the new president, Edward Hundert, in his inaugural address. Far-fetched as it may seem at first, though, this ambitious standard is what it looks like Hundert is trying to achieve.

"Case Western Reserve University strives to be the most powerful learning environment in the world," reads the beginning of Hundert's mission statement in large capital letters. The elaboration focused on several points, including experiential learning, a reemphasis in less technical areas, expanding on existing strengths, and using values to guide the way. The new SAGES program and an expansion of it in both numbers of students involved and the areas it covers seems to be a key part of his new focus on experiential learning, as is a new emphasis on drawing graduate and professional school experiences into undergraduate development. As for promoting the less trademark areas of CWRU such as the humanities and social sciences, Hundert plans to use all of his several million dollars in presidential funds for

promoting scholarship in these departments. His expansion of existing strengths focuses on helping them to cross disciplines, and the most important of the values he hopes to highlight is diversity, not only of people, but also of styles, academic programs, and many other areas.

Hundert's speech is, however, a vision, and one cannot help but look at the dream with a critical eye. Not everyone can be the best, and the opinions on whether Case Western Reserve has the capability to become the world's foremost learning institution are divided. "I think that with a positive attitude [we] can," asserts Elliot Wilster, a sophomore at CWRU. Whether or not it is possible, though, the existence of such a dream can be inspiring, and might get Case Western to shoot for the moon and end up achieving whatever potential it does have.

Hundert may, in fact, be the one to lead the school to this as well. "I've been through four presidents," states Fulter Hong, a student in the Masters in Engineering and Management program, "and Hundert has the most potential to revolutionize the university." Hundert, Hong noted, did not operate in a vacuum to come up with his vision. The

mission statement was made with the help and input of many constituent groups such as the Student Turning Point Society. The new style accompanying the incoming president could even be seen in aspects such as the inauguration ceremony, which stands apart from past presidential inaugurations, which have sometimes focused more on facets like elegant appearance rather than the substance of the incoming administration. "He wanted his inauguration to have a purpose and a mission," states Hong. "He really cares about change." With a change in attitude, then, CWRU might be ready to see a new tomorrow after all, and if so, the sky's the limit.



### Letter From Your GCEC

Alan Lufkin, ΦΚΨ

One of the strongest and most detrimental myths that high school students bring with them to college is that they are coming here to learn the skills they need to get a job and enter the workforce. While colleges do their best to teach these skills, that is not the true benefit that should be gained from a college education. A four year degree is simply one step in the process of life-long learning. Colleges teach the student's how to learn, how to observe the environment around them, how to problem solve, and most of all how to interact with other people.

In today's day and age Universities are under more and more pressure to produce well-rounded students to fill the needs of employers. However, instead of responding by creating more specialized programs of education, the Universities should instead broaden the opportunities available to their students. By offering students as many opportunities as possible, to pursue avenues of knowledge that were previously unavailable, these Universities will do a greater service to their students. Studies have shown that American's on average have more than five careers in their lifetime. If Universities see themselves as preparing students for a career, that puts their students at a significant disadvantage when they change careers down the line. However, if a premier University such as Case Western Reserve takes on the tremendous task of producing well-rounded, active, intelligent, curious, creative, and self-motivated graduates, only then will those students be ready to move on to the next step in their lifelong learning journey.

## How to Run a Successful Scholarship Dinner

Thomas Lally, Zeta Psi

Hosting a scholarship dinner is one of the most important and rewarding events a fraternity or sorority can take part in. In my experience, it is an excellent setting to get to know your professors better and to show the importance your respective chapter places on academics. Setting up a successful dinner is fairly easy and straightforward if a few guidelines are followed.

### 1. Set a Date

Establish a date a month or two in advance that a majority of the chapter will be able to attend.

### 2. Invite your Professors

Print out nice-looking invitations specifying the date, time, and possibly directions to the dinner. Have your brothers or sisters invite the professors they would like to see attend. Without your professors, there can be no dinner!

### 3. Prepare food and dining arrangement

This step can differ for respective chapters. If your chapter has its

own house and a large dining room, the dinner can be held there with the food prepared by your cook or a caterer. If not, there are banquet rooms on campus that can be reserved for the event. The dress for the event should be nice, shirt and tie for guys, skirt or dress slacks for girls. Make the place settings pleasant looking, and be sure the food will be ready on time. A high quality meal that most people would like should be served with a dessert to follow. Remember, you want to make the best impression on your faculty.

### 4. Enjoy the evening and converse with faculty

Hors d'oeuvres are great to serve thirty minutes or so before dinner. They give the faculty time to arrive and introductions can be made. Once dinner is served, enjoy the food and engage the faculty members to make them comfortable. If you do the evening right, your professors will leave the dinner impressed and want to come back.

## Effective Scholarship Programming

Michelle Vo, Phi Mu

The Delta Omega chapter of Phi Mu has begun a new program to encourage active members and pledges to actively pursue and accomplish short-term and long-term academic and personal goals. At the beginning of the semester, each sister was paired with someone who was not in the same field of study, who did not necessarily share her same aspirations. In pairs—aptly termed “Goalies”—both women filled out and discussed a questionnaire about their workloads, their short-term and long-term goals, and their concerns regarding the upcoming semester. Additionally, each sister was asked to list her “goal GPA” on the form; the “goal GPA” for the entire chapter was determined from this average of each sister’s goal that she set for herself. The sisters were asked to keep up with their respective “Goalie” throughout the semester, and were encouraged to discuss their concerns and goals with each other regularly. “Goalies” who demonstrate good academic habits that will help them reach their goals and standards are rewarded: “Goalies” who both attend chapter study jams, who have perfect attendance at class for a week, and who participate fully in the chapter’s Scholarship Game and have demonstrated successes are given small token rewards on a regular basis.

The Phi Mu Executive Board hopes that this new program will motivate the sisters to achieve their high standards as well as interact with each other in a new and productive context. In a larger context, achievement of each sister’s individual aspirations through the “Goalie” program will ideally contribute to the chapter’s overall academic and general successes as sisters are motivated to serve as resources and support for each other.



## Effective Study Habits

Kathy Kegley, AXΩ

Effective study is an active process. It does not mean passively reading some material. It does not mean endless hours spent in a frustrated search for understanding. Rather, effective study involves actively “digging in” and mastering course material. It involves steady progress and requires efficient use of your study time. Effective studying can produce a sense of competence and pleasure.

The majority of college success is due to motivation and time management. Success in college takes effort. This means that if you want to do well you must be

willing to set aside time to study even if that means you must sacrifice other activities. Effective time management will allow adequate time for school as well as a social life or free time to do the activities that you most enjoy.

Motivation is the secret to success in school. You are responsible for your study habits, for seeking resources and assistance, and for managing your time. You have to want to do well enough to put forth the effort.

Here are some general study hints that may help you in your pursuit:

1. **Use time effectively.** Set personal

goals and priorities for studying. Follow a schedule of when to work on each subject.

2. **Concentrate while reading and listening to lecture.** Develop questions about the material that help you to focus. Discover the best time and place for you to study.

3. **Aid comprehension by reading systematically.** Preview the chapter before it is discussed in lecture. Pause after each page or section and think about what you have read to be sure you understand.

4. **Schedule study time wisely.** Review the material within a day of reading it and continue to review for each course every week throughout the semester. Don’t cram.

5. **Write and organize notes.** Leave space in your notes to fill in details and examples later. Be sure to take good notes on ideas and concepts so you understand them later.

6. **Take an active role in learning both in and out of the classroom.** Participate in class discussions. Get to know your professors and TAs and visit them in their office hours. Talk to other students about what you’re learning.

7. **Look to continually challenge yourself.**