

Lindenwood University

Digital Commons@Lindenwood University

John Brown

Lindenwood President Papers

1-1969

John Brown Letter to Parents Updating Them on Changes, January 1969

John Anthony Brown

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.lindenwood.edu/john_brown



Part of the [History Commons](#)



January, 1969

The President's Room

Dear Parents:

My determination to keep you informed about events at Lindenwood College, as the President sees them, has been superceded in recent months by the urgency of activities here. The most important issue before us has been the necessity to reach a final decision about our future as a college for women. As many of you know, more than sixty colleges, including both men's and women's colleges in this country, have moved in the direction of complete coeducation during 1968. In some cases the action involved very little planning, and represented a decision to simply cease selecting students on the basis of sex. The president of one distinguished women's college announced the decision of his school in a brief statement which said that the college had now achieved such an outstanding level of performance that it was no longer possible to justify its refusal to admit men.

At Lindenwood we have been determined to carefully think through the issues and problems involved in separate, coordinate, and co-educational education. We have been impressed by the very elaborate studies by institutions in the East, particularly Princeton and Vassar. It was also impossible for us not to be somewhat startled by the suddenness with which many institutions that have traditionally been women's colleges announced that they were going to admit men. Some of these are institutions with which we are in competition for students. Nevertheless, we kept to our task, which was to think through the problem and to come up with the best solution for Lindenwood, given its resources, its traditions, its geographical location, and its stated goals and objectives.

Following long and careful study, which deeply involved faculty, students, and administration, as well as members of the Alumnae Council, a formal proposal encouraging the establishment of a coordinate college for men was presented as a joint report of three committees - one comprised of the small group of male students now on our campus, one comprised of young women enrolled in Lindenwood, and one comprised of faculty. The recommendation received enthusiastic endorsement with no dissenting votes at either the student convocation or the faculty meeting which followed its presentation. That proposal, endorsed by the administration, was presented to the

Board of Lindenwood College on January 6, 1969. It was unanimously adopted by the Board as reflecting the direction that should be taken by Lindenwood in facing the years ahead. The proposal calls for the development of a new college to be incorporated by a group of individuals, among whom will be a student presently enrolled in Lindenwood, a member of Lindenwood's faculty, Lindenwood's President, President Emeritus Franc L. McCluer, and the President of Lindenwood's Board of Directors. The new college will be incorporated this month and then the group of incorporators will step aside as a new Board of Trustees is formed. The trustees of the new college in cooperation with the Directors of Lindenwood College, will develop a system of cooperation which will take full advantage of the present resources of Lindenwood, in terms of its physical plant, its faculty, and its program. The two colleges will be held together by an entity known as "THE LINDENWOOD COLLEGES." The name of the new college will be Lindenwood College II.

Conceivably, some years in the future when Lindenwood and Lindenwood II have achieved the maximum size which we feel they should have - for we wish both institutions to remain small colleges - a third college will be incorporated as a member of The Lindenwood Colleges. Thus, we have chosen the cluster concept of colleges as our solution, rather than outright coeducation. Our approach will begin with extremely close coordination between Lindenwood College and Lindenwood II. Degrees from both colleges during the early years of the relationship will be granted by the Lindenwood College faculty. As Lindenwood II evolves, the direction will be toward greater independence as it develops programs of its own. We also foresee the development of centers which will be operated jointly by The Lindenwood Colleges. The Center for the Undergraduate Study of Mathematics, which we have been developing as part of Lindenwood College, will now become a joint venture of the two colleges (three new appointments are to be made to the faculty of that Center within the next ninety days so that it can begin to function for the first time at full strength this coming fall.) The Center for the Study of the Communication Arts, which has received the backing of income from a half million dollar bequest to Lindenwood from Pearl Aiken Smith Syers, and which now has new broadcasting studios and vastly improved physical facilities, will also become a joint venture of The Lindenwood Colleges.

During its formative years, Lindenwood II will lease Ayres Hall, and a refurbished Niccolls Hall, from Lindenwood, returning these buildings as Lindenwood grows to the point where they are needed for women students. Lindenwood II will then build its own residential facilities on back campus.

We believe that the concept we have developed will make it possible for us to further improve the educational program at Lindenwood College for women students. We have taken seriously our responsibility to

recognize that the resources now available here have been developed by those who believed in the education of women, and wish to support the education of women. There will be no less attention given here to what I described in my last year's annual report as "The Care and Feeding of Women's Minds." We have come to believe that in today's world the care and feeding of women's minds requires the presence of young men. Our new approach will make it possible for us to develop a broader and better balanced academic and social atmosphere. It will also make it possible for us to preserve certain of Lindenwood's strengths. Our traditional emphasis here on the humanities, our concern for the role of women in our society, and our development of the leadership capabilities of our women students will all be matters that we will continue to emphasize at Lindenwood.

We hope you share our enthusiasm for the future and invite you to write for a copy of the report prepared by the student-faculty study committees.

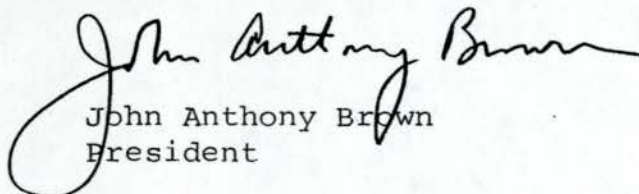
In other developments on campus, I am pleased to report that Assistant Professor Stanley Caine in our history department has been named the recipient of the \$1,000 D. C. Everest Prize in Wisconsin Economic History by the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Construction of the new fine arts building is 31% complete and progressing ahead of schedule.

More than twenty-five percent of the student body will be off-campus during all or part of the January term as they pursue special courses in New York, Detroit, Mexico, London, Florence, Jamaica, and Paris. While most of these students are in programs under the direct sponsorship of our faculty, several are engaged in independent study projects on their own, having proposed a project, developed it with a faculty sponsor and having received approval from the appropriate faculty committee. Among these is a study of the grants to several theatrical groups in New York which have been made by the Ford Foundation.

The Father-Daughter Banquet will be held on Saturday, February 22nd, and we are looking forward to seeing many of you at that time.

Sincerely yours,


John Anthony Brown
President