

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT
To The
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THE LINDENWOOD COLLEGES

May 24, 1983

As I near the close of my first five months as President of Lindenwood, I remain optimistic about our future and more convinced than ever that we are located at a spot on the map and in a time of history when a college like Lindenwood is really needed. Amidst higher education's prophets of gloom and doom, this institution stands as visible evidence that adversity cannot overcome a college's will to live and serve its own generation.

Those of you who were present for Commencement witnessed the real fruit of Lindenwood's labor these past few years. Some 420 students, by the time the Summer Term is completed, will have received degrees. Of this number, 216 are men and 204 are women. The St. Louis area is home for 340 or 81% of our graduates and 299 or 71% are over the age of 25. Some 166 graduate degrees were granted, 219 baccalaureate degrees, and 17 received the two-year associate degree. In the midst of lawsuits, resignations, firings, belt-tightening, financial distress, and a number of other disturbing happenings, professors have continued to teach, administrators have administered, staff has provided support services, and students have studied, learned, and graduated. When you are 156 years old you soon learn that regardless of what happens, you have to keep doing what you are supposed to be doing and being what you are supposed to be! This grand old college, though tossed about a bit of late, continues to be a college that educates!

We are optimistic about enrollments this summer and for next fall. The admission functions of the college, formerly divided among three of the four colleges, has been unified in one office, along with financial aid, headed by a Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, Sharon Stites. Under her direction we have accelerated our recruiting efforts and are currently enlisting the active help of students, faculty, staff, and board members in locating prospective students for our residential college.

We are optimistic about the quality of both our students and our residential life next fall. A new Dean of Students, who will be called Dean of College Life, Dr. Allen Schwab from Colgate University, arrives on July 1 and, in August, 10 of our students, Dr. Schwab, Dean Stites, and I will travel to the National Collegiate Leadership Conference in Michigan to prepare for the fall activities. A \$5,000 grant from the Norman Stupp Foundation plus funds from a Presbyterian grant are providing the financing. Our new men's basketball coach, Robert Benben, formerly head basketball coach at Pattonville High School, is laying plans for an exciting season and our men's soccer coach, C. C. Lowry, promises that the Lindenwood Lions' soccer games will be well played and worth attending.

We are optimistic because of the cooperation of faculty, staff, and administrative officers. Faculty contracts, calling for an increased teaching load of three hours - from 24 to 27 - will go out next week. Over 35 staff and faculty positions have been eliminated and operations reduced in many areas. In spite of these factors, the college's morale is high.

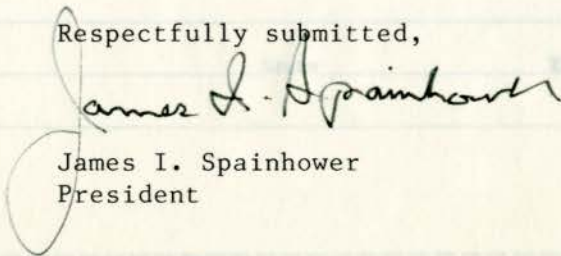
Many alumni were on the campus at commencement time for the annual meeting of the Lindenwood Alumni Council. I am impressed with the dedication of this group to the college and with their desire to help in any way

possible. Plans are being made to found new alumni clubs, or reactivate former clubs in St. Joseph, northwest Arkansas, Springfield, Chicago, Indianapolis, Memphis, southeast Missouri, and Jefferson City. First, though, a number of alumni clubs formed around substantive themes (science majors, LCIE alums, fine arts majors, etc.) will be started among the 1800 alumni living in the Greater St. Louis Area.

The financial picture is improving for the college. Contributions are considerably ahead of a year ago and pledges to the St. Charles Drive are coming in daily. Mr. Watkins and I are optimistic about the potential for area foundations and corporations to support Lindenwood generously, once they are convinced we are serious about keeping our expenditures in line with our receipts. Members of this Board have been helpful in our fund raising efforts and your assistance will be needed more than ever in the months ahead.

This report is not exhaustive, although it may be exhausting! The detailed business with which this Board must concern itself will emerge in the reports of Board committees and in recommendations from other administrative officers. I just wanted to convey in these few paragraphs a sense of the enthusiasm I have about Lindenwood. As we consider the business on today's agenda, and especially the report of the Long-Range Committee, may we be open to the possibilities that await us as modern day leaders of Lindenwood to make this college as fine of an educational institution as is to be found in mid-America.

Respectfully submitted,


James I. Spainhower
President