

Barber reflects on his legacy

After leaving office May 30, President Emeritus Jay Barber spoke with "The Experience" about the standout moments of his twelve years of service and what lies ahead for Warner Pacific.

How long had you been considering your retirement?

It has been about a year. I went to a Church of God Administrators' conference in Fritzlar, Germany in March 2007. Being there with the other college presidents and having an opportunity to get away, I really began thinking about transition and looking ahead. I am as confident about the timing of my retirement as I was accepting the presidency in 2006. There are so many exciting things happening at Warner Pacific.

Could you describe the circumstances that led you to consider becoming Warner Pacific's president?

I had worked as a Vice President at Warner Pacific under President Marshall Christensen from 1981 to 1988. I then did a short-term consulting role with the YMCA - Columbia Willamette before

didn't say a high point was the phone call I received on December 29, 2003 from an old friend I hadn't connected with for fifty years that resulted in the college receiving a \$1.2 million stock gift. That gift, along with others from this donor and his wife, allowed us to retire our long-standing debt with GEOS International, the Japanese company from which the college had borrowed money back in the 1980s.

In my prayers, I had asked the Lord to send us an angel donor. We needed a kickstart and this donor and his wife really were the answers to that prayer.

How crucial was reinstating the intercollegiate athletics in 1999 for you?

In my first interview with the presidential search committee, I said that if I were selected as president, one of the first things I would do is move to reinstate intercollegiate athletics. There weren't unanimous feelings about that, because there were members of the search committee that had voted to discontinue Athletics in 1993 in order to save costs. I think bringing back intercollegiate Athletics was one of the most important decisions in terms of reclaiming that tradition of Warner Pacific. It's such an important part of the fabric of the ethos of the campus now. I also believed that the key to that success would be finding the right leadership, and so being able to attract Bart Valentine '75 to come and be the athletic director was a key factor in where we are today.

How did the idea of the Adult Degree Program come to pass?

Earlier in this decade, enrollment in what was then known as our Degree Completion Program was declining. We feared we only had about two years before we would have to close it. Then I met with some fellow Christian college presidents at a meeting in Colorado Springs, Colo. and the president of LeTourneau University in Texas described how his school had been in almost our identical circumstances, but now was bringing in substantial revenue from its adult degree program. That got my attention.

Warner Pacific's partnership with the Institute for Professional Development, which handles the marketing and recruitment aspects of the Adult Degree Program, has been huge. That program has grown beyond our expectations and is meeting a critical need for our adult students. It has brought a new energy to the college and has allowed us to expand to satellite campuses around the city. It is truly extraordinary.

What do the next six months look like for you?

I'll be following up with prospective donors that we have identified in the capital campaign throughout the country. I'm also going to be calling on pastors to assure them of the commitment of the college to



Continued from pg. 4

the Church of God and our continuing need for their support. That will be my focus.

I've also been appointed as the first Murdock Fellow at the Murdock Charitable Trust, in Vancouver [Wash.]. They've instituted a program of appointing persons that they identify as leaders from education and government and I'll be a consultant to them, particularly working with small non-for-profits that have budgets of \$1 million or less and teaching them the basics of fundraising.

Any final thoughts?

I believe that broken relationships limit the work of God and as far as I could, I committed myself to bring about reconciliation with individuals who were estranged from the college. And I believe the progress we made had a lot to do with the way God blessed the institution.

Jan and I will cherish our times at Warner Pacific - worshipping in chapel, enjoying faculty and staff gatherings, and otherwise forging lifelong friendships. Of course, Jan and I will never forget the day we slipped off our shoes and headed down the freshman orientation water slide in our street clothes! That is a fun memory, but once is enough.

I could not be more positive about the future of Warner Pacific. I think, ultimately, when the history is written, the turnaround story will be based upon the payoff of our institutional debt, the success of the Adult Degree Program, and the jump-start of construction on the main campus that will help boost traditional enrollment. Of course, none of this would have happened if it were not for a wonderful team of visionary leaders from among our staff and faculty who never stopped believing that this institution was not only viable, but that it was going to prosper.

With Dr. Andrea Cook as interim president, we have excellent leadership in place. The Board of Trustees has a difficult assignment of finding my replacement, but I don't anticipate the college losing any momentum. I'm grateful for a life-changing twelve years. It has been an honor and a privilege for Jan and I. We pray God will continue to bless Warner Pacific.

Please mark your calendars for September 15, 2008, when Warner Pacific will celebrate the retirement of President Jay and Jan with a gala celebration in Portland at a location to be determined. Details will be released soon.

Continued on pg. 5

The Barber Years

- 1996 - Jay Barber becomes WPC's sixth president
- 1999 - Intercollegiate Athletics reinstated
- 2004 - Adult Degree Program launched
- 2005 - Institutional Debt relieved
- 2008 - New Student Commons construction



(Clockwise) President Barber at Harvest Banquet 2005; President Barber and GEOS Int. President Tsuneko Kusunoki sign a friendship agreement in January 2007 following WPC's final payment on its multi-million dollar loan with the Japanese company; (R to L) John Parker '73, Board of Trustees Chairman Jim Teague '75, WPC student body president Kari Knutzen '08, college CFO Wayne Pederson, and Barber break ground on the Egtved Student Commons project on April 3, 2008.

