

## **STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT: ANDREW POWELL'S REMARKS**

Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, May 22, 2014

I am honored to be here today. It was a privilege to observe Christy Lambden carry out his duties with character and courage. He poured enormous time and energy into his work, and I hope to show in everything I do a similar commitment to the student body and to our university. I am pleased that Christy plans to remain in Chapel Hill next year.

As the Student Body President, I am humbled to play a very small part in a long history of student self-governance at UNC. I was struck yesterday as Dr. Bruce Cairns mentioned the record voter turnout in the Faculty Chair election. Similarly, this year we saw record vote totals in the student body president race. The level of engagement in these elections, by faculty and students alike is a testament I believe to both the scope of the challenges that we face, and the depth of this community's love for Carolina.

This is not the first time our University has faced adversity, and it will not be the last. It is incumbent on us to do what previous generations have done ... to work together for a brighter future for all Carolinians. I am honored to have the chance to contribute to the task at hand, both as a representative of the students and now as a Trustee. I am amazed by your accomplishments, but even more inspired by your commitment to Carolina. Thanks to you I am more optimistic than ever about our future.

In my campaign I talked about how Carolina has always led. From the moment its doors opened in 1795, UNC has provided the world with a model. A model of a university that is accessible, affordable and above all else, empowering; a University that allows generation after generation of aspiring learners and leaders to achieve their dreams and give back to their communities. Carolina is a place that respects the past, appreciates its heritage, and for centuries has continued to make good on its promise to serve the state through research, teaching, and public service.

Last Semester, I had the good fortune of taking Chairman Caudill's scientific ventures course. On several occasions, I was struck by the juxtaposition of seemingly conflicting paradigms. There we were, sitting in class in Caudill Labs, in the heart of a world-class research facility, where fundamental research and pure science thrive. But all the while, our class was having conversations about innovation, translation, and entrepreneurship - how the science birthed in the lab could be translated, morphed, and applied to solve many of the most pressing problems in the world. We were living in that space where in the words of Frederick Buechner

("Beekner), "our deepest desires meet the world's greatest needs." In doing so, we were revealing an integral part of Carolina's character ... an unyielding desire to innovate and to take on the most daunting challenges of our time. Carolina -- home of tradition and heritage ... Carolina -- birthplace of innovation and transformation.

Higher education today faces unprecedented challenges. Whether it is preparing students for the 21st century, delicately balancing athletics and academics, or finding ways to maintain affordability for all – the challenges are significant, but within those we find great opportunities. And what better place to innovate than Carolina - the birthplace of public education, backed by a community more engaged than ever before. We will solve those problems, and yet again provide a world with a model to emulate. As I said during my campaign, "It's our time to lead Carolina, and it's Carolina's time to lead."