

## Capital University: Faithful To Our Heritage

by Rev. Dennis C. Asp, Director of Church Relations

Sixty years ago, Professor David B. Owens penned a preface to “These Hundred Years: The Centennial History of Capital University” in which he wrote:

*“The history of Capital University is not unique among the histories of educational institutions. The humble beginnings, the adversities, the dissensions, and at the same time the lasting accomplishments, could be duplicated among many universities, some of them great and honored today. Yet if uniqueness may not be claimed, it may still be said that every institution inevitably through the years develops distinguishing characteristics ... Capital University has been and remains a child of the church that brought it into being, and in its growth and aims it has been guided by faithful servants of the church ... .”*

Today, this “child of the church” is celebrating the 179<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding. And true to Professor Owens’ words, we remain faithful to our heritage.

Throughout 2008, Capital’s faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends witnessed a strengthened commitment to its mission of transforming lives through higher education and improving the world in which we live. Our students and faculty were involved in service-learning projects around the globe. We encouraged free inquiry by welcoming a diverse slate of presidential candidates to our campus. We began a strategic planning initiative that will define a clear, compelling and shared vision for the future of our institution.

Among the highlights of 2008 were:

- Establishment of the Capital University Center for Faith and Learning, which will examine the ways Capital’s Christian faith and Lutheran heritage connect with its community’s shared values of critical inquiry, vocation, stewardship, diversity and inclusion.
- The arrival of the Rev. Amy Oehlschlaeger as Capital’s new university pastor.
- A 100 percent first-time passage rate on the state licensure exam by the first class to graduate from Capital’s Nursing Accelerated Program.
- Development of a partnership among The Schumacher Gallery and three other Bexley galleries for “Artwalk,” a series of special events that included visual arts, entertainment and food.
- Visits from four presidential campaigns that propelled Capital into the national spotlight with stops by: Republican Sen. John McCain and Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin; Libertarian Party candidate Bob Barr; the Constitution Party’s Chuck Baldwin; and Michelle Obama, campaigning on behalf of her husband, who days later would become our 44<sup>th</sup> president.
- A commitment by the campus community of hundreds of hours of service around Central Ohio and around the world, including: “Into the Streets,” a day in which students and staff volunteered locally to play bingo with the elderly, plant trees, walk for MS, and wash dogs at the animal shelter; and a trip to Costa Rica by 20 students and three professors who helped build a school and conduct a health clinic.
- A 94 percent first-time pass rate on the July 2008 Ohio Bar Exam by Capital University Law graduates – the highest of any law school statewide.
- Further development of the Primmer Property, a gift of 74 acres from Merl and Margaret Primmer, as an outdoor classroom.
- The beginning of a strategic plan based on understanding our past and managing the present so Capital can move forward with envisioning its future – formulating a plan that is bold and compelling, but also realistic and practical, and one that truly expresses Capital’s values.

As you can see, we had much to be proud of in 2008. We invite you to celebrate these accomplishments and many more by visiting our Web site at [www.capital.edu](http://www.capital.edu).

With the shared commitment of the ELCA to providing quality Christian higher education in the Lutheran tradition, Capital University has a strong future ahead of it. We are proud of our partnership with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, and thank you for your prayers, your students and your financial support are deeply appreciated.