GOOD EVENING. AND WELCOME TO THIS ANNUAL HONORS DAY CONVO-
CATION. IT IS FITTING THAT WE COME TOGETHER FROM TIME TO TIME TO
CELEBRATE AND TO CONGRATULATE OURSELVES. UNLIKE OTHER SELF-CO-
GRATULATORY AWARDS CEREMONIES FEATURING TV EMMIES, ACADEMY
AWARDS OSCARS, GRAMMIES AND TONYS, OURS TONIGHT WILL BE IN VERY
HIGH GOOD TASTE, SHORT, AND NOT INCREDIBLY BORING AND STUPID.
ACCEPTANCE SPEECHES ARE NOT THE EXPECTED CONSEQUENCE OF RECEI-
VING AN AWARD HERE THIS EVENING.

EACH YEAR AT THIS TIME IT FALLS THE LOT OF A SELECTED FAC-
ULTY MEMBER TO ADDRESS THIS ASSEMBLY OF HONOREES — TO REGALE
YOU WITH THE SINCEREST OF WELL-CHOSEN WORDS OF COMMENDATION FOR
YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN PERFORMANCE, SCHOLARSHIP, AND LEADERSHIP
OVER THE PAST ACADEMIC YEAR. I TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN HAVING
BEEN ASKED TO ADDRESS YOU THIS YEAR. YOUR COLLEGE OFFICERS AND
FACULTY EASILY TAKE AS MUCH PRIDE IN PASSING OUT HONORS AS YOU
UNDoubtedly take in receiving one. IN A WAY WE ARE HONORED also
WHEN YOU ARE HONORED. WE CAN COMMEND OURSELVES FOR HAVING THE
GOOD SENSE TO SAY THANKS TO YOU HERE THIS EVENING FOR BEING GOOD
LEARNERS AND DOERS. WE TAKE TO OURSELVES SOME CREDIT FOR HAVING
FACILITATED AND ABETTED YOUR SUCCESS. GEORGE, LORD LYTTLETON, A
MINOR ENGLISH POET OF THE 19TH CENTURY HAS SAID, "IF THE WALL
HAS WRITTEN, "WHERE NONE ADMIRE, TIS USELESS TO EXCEL." TONIGHT,
WE ADMIRE AND SALUTE YOU —— YOU HAVE EXCELLED!

THE OLDEST AND MOST FAMIL IAR SYMBOL OF OUR COLLEGE IS THE
SIBLEY FAMILY COAT-OF-ARMS, A REPRESENTATION OF WHICH YOU SEE
AT THE BACK OF THE STAGE BEHIND ME. IN RECENT YEARS, I HAVE COME
TO HAVE A GREAT INTEREST AND RESPECT FOR THIS GREAT ARTIFACT. AS SOME OF YOU KNOW, SEVERAL YEARS AGO I UNDERTOOK THE REDESIGNING OF IT IN A MORE UP-TO-DATE FORM AS A LINDENWOOD CREST. THE RESULT OF MY WORK IS THE COLORED GLASS PIECE WHICH YOU SEE OUTSIDE THE FORUM OFFICE AT THE PILLAR AGED TO THE FRONT OF THIS PODIUM. IT WAS CREATED IN THIS FORM TO BE USED AT THE COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES AND AT OTHER AUSPICIOUS OCCASIONS SUCH AS THIS CONVOCATION THIS EVENING. MOST OF US WHO LIVE AND WORK ON THIS CAMPUS KNOW THAT WE USE AND ABUSE THIS SYMBOL IN A VARIETY OF WAYS —— IT APPEARS ON THE COVER OF THE PROGRAM WHICH YOU ARE HOLDING IN YOUR HANDS —— WE SHOW IT IN THE WINDOWS OF OUR AUTOMOBILES —— IT'S PRINTED ON OUR UNDERWEAR —— WE DRINK FROM VESSELS WHICH DISPLAY IT AND IT APPEARS ON OUR LETTERHEAD FROM TIME TO TIME. WE TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT ITS SYMBOLISM HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE FAMILY AND HISTORY OF THE TWO SIBLEYS, GEORGE AND MARY, FOUNDERS OF OUR COLLEGE, WHO WERE PROMINENT IN BRINGING ENLIGHTENMENT TO WHAT WAS IN THE 19TH CENTURY, A WILD FRONTIER OUTPOST CALLED ST. CHARLES. IT WOULD BE PLEASANT TO SPECULATE THAT THE SIBLEYS CARRIED THEIR FAMILY'S COAT-OF-ARMS WITH THEM WHEN THEY CAME TO THIS AREA, AND HAD BEEN GUIDED TO SOME EXTENT BY ITS MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE AS A SYMBOL OF NOBLE ENTITLEMENT BESTOWED BY SOME GRATEFUL SOVEREIGN IN THE DARK MEDIEVAL PAST. IT APPEARS LIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT THE SIBLEYS NEVER USED OR EVEN KNEW THEIR OWN FAMILY CREST. WHAT I LEARNED ABOUT IT FROM A FEW HOURS SPENT IN THE ARCHIVES AND REFERENCE ROOM OF THE LIBRARY, IS THAT NO MENTION OR IMAGE
OF IT EXISTS IN OUR RECORDS BEFORE WELL INTO THIS CENTURY. A LETTER, DATED 1917, SEeks a DESCRIPTION OF THE SIBLEY FAMILY CREST ---- NO MENTION OF IT OR DRAWING OF IT EXISTS BEFORE THAT TIME. IN A FILE IN THE ARCHIVES IS A PHOTOGRAPH OF A DRAWING OF THE COAT-OF-ARMS WHICH PROBABLY REPRESENTS THE RESPONSE TO THE LETTER OF 1917, ALTHOUGH, NO DATE IS NOTED. THE DRAWING IS THE SAME IMAGE AS APPEARS ON THE CHIMNEY OF THE FIREPLACE IN THE CARDY READING ROOM OF BUTLER LIBRARY, THE REFERENCE I USED IN REDESIGNING THE PIECE. WHAT SEEMS LIKELY TO ME IS THAT IN 1917, WITH THE FAMOUS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF LINDENWOOD ONLY TEN YEARS OFF, SOMEONE Got THE BRIGHT IDEA THAT IT WOULD GIVE THE OLD SCHOOL RESPECTABILITY AND AUTHORITY TO HAVE AN ANCIENT NOBLE SYMBOL TO VENERATE AND TO DISPLAY. ONE MUST ALSO CONSIDER THAT BY 1917, THE CONSIDERABLY MORE EGALITARIAN NOTIONS OF THE FRONTIER-DWELLING SIBLEYS HAD BEEN REPLACED BY THE TITLE-
CONSCIOUS , LATE VICTORIAN AND EDWARDIAN DELUSIONS OF IMPERIALISM AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGE. IT WAS A TIME OF REIDENTIFICATION WITH EUROPEAN FOREBEARSERS, IF, OF COURSE, THEY TURNED OUT TO BE ROYAL, OR AT WORST, OF THE NOBILITY. WE TAKE ON FAITH THAT THE SIBLEY FAMILY MENTIONED IN REFERENCES SUCH AS , IS THE SAME FAMILY OF OUR GEORGE AND MARY, ALTHOUGH THE SPELLING DIFFERS ---- SYBLY.

HOWEVER IT GOT HERE, THIS THING HAS BEEN WITH US FOR A SIGNIFICANT TIME, NOW, AND TO LOOK AT IT MORE CRITICALLY MIGHT GIVE US A GREATER APPRECIATION OF ITS MEANING FOR US TODAY, IF ANY! }
Heraldry, or armory as it was called in ancient times apparently originated as a means of distinguishing one man from another, especially on the field of battle. Hence the base design for coats of arms centers around the shield and helmet. (1.)

It was not until the time of the Crusades that the crest --- was generally adopted. Originally the crest was an ornament chiefly worn by kings, knights and warriors. It was made of feathers, wood, leather or metal --- placed on the summit of the helmet --- but in later times were transferred to the shield or armor. During the period mentioned, amid the imperfections of uncultivated eloquence and a general ignorance of written language, the ensigns of Heraldry were peculiarly significant. They addressed the imagination by a more direct channel and in a more striking manner than words. (2.)

The coat of arms (which we see here) is for the Sibley (Sybly) family and is described in Bernard Burke's GENERAL ARMORY:

A PARAPHRASE OF BURKE’S DESCRIPTION, TRANSLATING FRENCH TERMS INTO REASONABLE ENGLISH, FOLLOWS: A WALKING Griffin ON A BLUE AND RED SHIELD BETWEEN THREE SILVER CRESCENTS. Blue signifies loyalty and truth. Red denotes military fortitude and magnanimity. Silver signifies peace and sincerity. The Griffin symbolizes vigilance and eagerness in pursuit. The Crescent, or increscent moon, signifies one who has been enlightened and honored by --- his sovereign. The crest of the helmet is a mystery. In Fairbairn's Crests of leading families of Great Britain and Ireland, a completely different crest is described. What seems obvious is that a great panache of feathers swirl down from the helmet to either side of the shield. Where this flourish originated, or its symbolism is not told.

The further element of the coat of arms is the motto --- and a wonderful one it is, although it seems to have been
USED IN ANY PUBLICATION OR IN ANY WAY AT ALL HERE AT LINDENWOOD.

The motto of the Sibley family is found in Bolton's
African Armory (it is, in Latin, ESSE QUAM VIDERI) and
translates, "To be and not to seem." (It is) taken
from Sallust, the Roman historian and politician, who
wrote, "ESSE QUAM VIDERAT BONUS MALBAT". He wished to
be a good man rather than merely seem to be one. (3.)

IN TODAY'S WORLD OF HYPE AND IMAGE-CONSCIOUSNESS, THE SIBLEY
MOTTO HAS A CLEAR MESSAGE ----- ONE WHICH, I BELIEVE, WE AT
LINDENWOOD HAVE TRADITIONALLY EMBRACED ----- TO BE AND NOT TO
SEEM! THAT IDEA, IT SEEMS TO ME, IS WHAT WE ARE ALL ABOUT ---
LEARNING TO BE --- AND NOT MERELY TO SEEM --- TO BE SOMEONE,
TO BE SOMETHING, TO BE FULFILLED IN OUR POTENTIAL AS MEMBERS OF
A SPECIES WHICH KNOWS NO LIMITS TO THE USE OF ITS CREATIVE
MIND. THE LOFTY IDEALS AND ATTRIBUTES EXPRESSED IN THE SIBLEY
COAT OF ARMS ARE OURS TO REMIND US OF OUR GREAT HERITAGE, AND
ALSO, TO INSPIRE US TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE IN THE FUTURE.
THE GREATNESS OF OUR COLLEGE WILL BE TESTED IN THE COMING
YEARS, AND WHEN IN FUTURE YEARS IT WILL BE ASKED WHAT OUR COL-
LEGE WAS LIKE IN THE YEAR 1989, IT CAN BE HONESTLY RECOUNTED
THAT:

WE LIVED TOGETHER RESPONSIBLY WITHOUT MALICE OR GUILE
WE SOUGHT KNOWLEDGE AND THE WISDOM TO USE IT PRODUCTIVELY
WE RESPECTED AUTHORITY WHERE AUTHORITY EARNED AND DESERVED
THAT RESPECT
WE HAD FAITH, WITH HONEST DOUBT, IN THE SPIRITUAL AND
INEXPLICABLE
WE APOLOGIZED TO NO ONE FOR BEING ANYTHING BUT A COMMUNITY
OF EXCELLENT LEARNERS AND FACILITATORS

AND, NOW IT'S TIME FOR YOUR PART OF THE PROGRAM. I WOULD LIKE TO
SAY TO YOU, WHOM WE HONOR THIS EVENING, YOU HAVE PROVED YOUR-
SELVES; CONGRATULATIONS; YOU HAVE THE SIBLEY GRIFFIN BY ITS TAIL