

PROFESSOR EMERITUS SPEECH

26 AUGUST 2010

I AM HONORED TO ACCEPT THIS AWARD ON BEHALF OF MY WIFE, DR. EDNA LOUISE SAFFY.

DR. SAFFY WAS BY ANY STANDARD THE QUINTESSENTIAL PROFESSOR EMERITUS—NOT ONLY AT THE TOP OF HER FIELD PROFESSIONALLY, WITH THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION AND NUMEROUS PUBLICATIONS TO HER NAME, BUT ALSO SOMEONE WHO BROUGHT GREAT HONOR TO THIS INSTITUTION IN EVERY ASPECT OF HER LIFE.

SHE LOVED THIS COLLEGE, AND IN HER NEARLY FORTY YEARS HERE SHE WORKED WITH ADMINISTRATORS, WITH STAFF, WITH OTHER FACULTY MEMBERS, AND ESPECIALLY WITH HER STUDENTS TO HELP TO MAKE IT EVEN BETTER. ALMOST EVERYONE WHO KNEW HER HAS AT LEAST ONE GOOD DR. SAFFY STORY IN WHICH SHE CAME TO THEIR RESCUE, AND OFFERED AID AND COMFORT AT A DIFFICULT MOMENT IN THEIR CAREER OR IN THEIR LIFE.

OUTSIDE SCHOOL, HER PASSION FOR EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS TO ALL LEAD HER TO FOUND AND TO PARTICIPATE IN A BROAD SPECTRUM OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CAUSES, ALL OF WHICH REFLECTED POSITIVELY BACK ON HER COLLEGE.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS IS NOT A GOLD WATCH TO BE HANDED OUT AUTOMATICALLY FOR PUTTING IN TIME, NOR IS IT AN “EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH” AWARD FOR ACHIEVING SHORT-TERM GOALS, NOR MERELY A POPULARITY CONTEST, BUT RATHER THE CROWNING GLORY FOR A LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENT.

EDNA SAFFY’S LIFE WAS A LIFE WELL LIVED AND INDEED A MERITORIOUS ONE, SO CONGRATULATIONS DR. EDNA LOUISE SAFFY, PROFESSOR EMERITUS.