

**Welcome home!**

**Welcome especially to the class of 1966 and all  
reunion classes!**

**I would like to thank the Alumni Association  
and Foundation Leaders present**

- **Amy Tate**
- **Ralph McLain**

**I would also like to thank all present and  
former Alumni Association and Foundation  
Board members and officers present.**

**If you are currently serving or have served as  
an officer or on the Boards of the MUW  
Alumni Association or MUW Foundation,  
please stand so we can recognize you.**

**And let me add my congratulations to all of the awards winners who will be announced later in the program.**

**I have nothing but good news to share with you:**

- **Great Colleges to Work For—Honor Roll--  
3<sup>rd</sup> Year**
- **Top 20 President's Higher Education  
Service Honor Roll**
- **#51 in Top 100—Washington Monthly Top  
Master's Universities**

- **#18—U. S. News and World Report—Southern Public Regional Universities**
- **860 degrees conferred last year; 50% increase from 2010-2015**
- **Tobacco Free Campus on July 1, 2016**

## **Building Projects Update**

- **Fant Library is expected to be complete by Fall 2017**
- **Demolition of Kiern and Taylor will make way for the building site of the proposed Culinary Arts Institute building, and the building design will blend with the architecture in this part of campus**

- **Culinary Arts and Demonstration School architects hired and the preplanning is underway**
- **The Campus Master plan proposes the campus become “pedestrian friendly”**
  - **Ginko Street between Welty to McDevitt Hall will close**
  - **Off-street parking will be developed**
  - **Change traffic flow at the campus entrance**

## **Athletics Update**

- **AD announcement expected soon**
- **Challenges remain: conference membership and NCAA membership, but returning intercollegiate athletics is our first step**
- **Facilities needs—baseball diamond, soccer field, locker rooms & weight rooms**

## **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Desegregation**

- **“Dare to Dream” Commemoration through Homecoming 2017**
- **Plaza construction between Cochran Hall, Carrier Chapel, and Welty Hall to recognize our “turning points”**

- **Inspired by the Dorabel Craig Memorial Garden (2011) Puckett Plaza has been reconstructed to our new standard for outdoor spaces**
- **Details to come on Plaza design and how you can contribute to the cost of its construction**

# **University Priorities Announcement**

**“I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past...Thomas Jefferson**

## **Priority Areas for The W**

**Degree Completion**

**Advancement Excellence**

**21<sup>st</sup> Century University**

**Regional Stewardship**

**The details of the planning process and the priority areas are in the trifold included in your registration packet.**

**You can get more information at [muw.edu/priorities](http://muw.edu/priorities)**

## **Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion**

**As a public university The W is responsible for educating all Mississippians, and to be successful in this mission we must be welcoming to all, while at the same time, being respectful of diversity of opinions.**

**Our university is a place where critical thinking is nurtured, differences of opinion and belief are explored and celebrated, and the very best of who we are as a people is passed from one generation of students to the next.**

**Robert Frost captured this when he said, “education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or self-confidence.”**



**“We study for light to bless with light.”**

**I know at this time and place the state, nation, and world need our graduates more than ever—and to be blessed with light.**

**We are—and we will remain—committed to embracing the diversity of thought, cultural background, experience, and identity to foster an inclusive and intellectually enriched university community.**

**The W is strengthened by both our remarkable diversity and by the accompanying civility that informs a wonderful spirit of inclusion and acceptance and respect.**

**Thank you for your love of this university and  
for your unwavering support of its students,  
faculty, and staff.**

**Again, welcome home!**