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President Adams: Futurist With an Eye Upon the Past

When Dr. J. Michael Adams concluded his Inaugural Address as Fairleigh Dickinson University's sixth president on September 27, 2000, one listener characterized that address's description of the incoming chief officer's ambitious and innovative plan for a "global education" as "a long-range telescopic view" of the University's future. Within a few months of assuming direction of the University, however, Dr. Adams was to be confronted with numerous daily reminders that his position of leadership was to require microscopic as well as horizon-scanning vision.



A typical example of the distinctly local issues he was to face centered upon a single maple tree on the Madison campus.

To many of the Madison campus's friends committed to preserving the storied legacy of a mansion designed by McKim, Mead & White on grounds planned in large part by the firm of Frederick Law Olmsted, the tree is an invasive intrusion into the vista Olmsted sought. To another group of campus partisans, however, removing a healthy tree just about anywhere on the campus represents an act of environmental vandalism.

Asked recently by a Friends Newsletter representative about such delicate but less publicly obvious problems and opportunities he has met since his inauguration, Dr. Adams leaned forward and spoke eagerly and with obvious

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Lecture on McKim, Mead & White

Join the Friends on Sunday, March 17, when Samuel G. White, great-grandson of renowned architect, Stanford White, will give a stimulating talk, "McKim, Mead & White: The Reinvention of the Classical Ideal," which will feature discussion of many of the firm's best-known buildings. "It is virtually impossible to overstate the

degree to which McKim, Mead & White dominated the business of American architecture at the turn of the century," Mr. White noted in his informative book, *The Houses of McKim, Mead & White* (Rizzoli: New York, 1998). Between 1879-1912, for example, the firm's over 1,000 commissions included major

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**FAIRLEIGH
DICKINSON
UNIVERSITY**
THE LEADER IN GLOBAL EDUCATION

President's Letter

As Spring approaches the Friends of Florham are eagerly anticipating our upcoming lecture on March 17 by our friend, Sam White, great grandson of the famous Stanford White, of the architectural firm of McKim, Mead & White, which was responsible for the buildings here at Florham (see "Lecture," page 1). Sam is an experienced and highly regarded partner of the New York architectural firm of Buttrick, White & Burtis and will be returning to us again, having given us in 1994 a wonderfully imagined, but no less accurate, series of letters between Stanford White, Frederick Law Olmsted and Hamilton and Florence Twombly at the time of the planning and reconstruction of "Florham." His was a very clever and most entertaining presentation and we look forward to his speaking to us again. He also had a wonderful exhibition in the Library and spoke at the opening, so you can see, he is truly a "Friend" of Florham!

The Friends are moving ahead on our restoration projects. Notice the Great Hall, now

completed excepting for the furniture which we are working on. Also take note of the new period lights lining the Mansion Drive. We are hoping to rewire the lanterns on each side of the front door and around the courtyard, restore the walkway around the Italian Garden, and designate, in order to forever protect, the Olmsted Cutleaf Maple Grove along the side entrance to the campus from Danforth Road. In the Autumn, this area is breathtakingly beautiful!

As you read ahead in this Newsletter, there will be details about our May Gala which we look forward to, and our other activities and plans. Just a note to tell you to be sure and see the current movie, "A Beautiful Mind," and notice our beautiful Great Hall, Lenfell Hall, and the Clowney Garden—all of which were our restoration projects.

Emma Joy Dana
President, Friends of Florham

Mary Beth Brown of Scalamandré Receives Appreciation Award

Following Friends' series lecture on November 18 by Leslie Degeorges, director of restoration and archives at Scalamandré, Dr. Michael Adams, president of FDU, presented Mary Beth



Emma Joy Dana, President of the Friends; Barbara Keefauver, committee member; Mary Beth Brown; Dr. Michael Adams; Leslie Degeorges; and committee member Phyllis Conway.



Victorian wallpaper by Scalamandré from Martin Van Buren's home, Lindenwald, c.1840

Brown, regional account executive at Scalamandré, with an Appreciation Award for her extraordinary work with the committee. Scalamandré has been the Friends' partner in restoration projects and created the historically faithful draperies in Lenfell Hall and the Mansion Hall.

Celebrate with the Friends at Fifth Annual Fundraising Gala

Five years is a bit of a hallmark for compulsive list-makers, so enter May 18 on your calendar, and plan to participate in the Friends' fifth fundraising gala. There's always a certain comfort in following a well-established tradition, and this year will be no exception. "An Evening at Florham" will begin at 7:00 pm with cocktails on the graceful terrace of the Mansion, followed by a memorable meal selected exclusively from the cookbook of the Twombly's renowned chef, Joseph Donon (see "The French Cuisine Experience at 'Florham'," page six). You'll dance to the music of the popular John Johnson Trio and enhance your sense of history by joining tours of the Mansion led by trustees Walter Savage and Richard Simon.

Experience, determination, and good humor characterize the Gala Committee headed once again by Honorary Chair, Mrs. William Y. Dear, Jr., and Co-chairs, Mrs. Granville E. Conway, Mrs. Peter P. Dupak, and Mrs. William L. Keefauver, who are being assisted by an enthusiastic, hard-working Committee: Dr. and Mrs. Michael Adams; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Atencio; Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Bartlett; Mrs. William D. Clowney; Ms. Alice Darlington Cutler; Mr. and Mrs. William D. Dana, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs.

Donald C. Dinsmore; Dr. and Mrs. Peter Falley; Mr. and Mrs. Glenn O. Head; Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Hennessy; Mr. and Mrs. John L. Johnston, III; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kurtz; Mr. and Mrs. Allan Kushen; Mrs. William Lyall; Mr. and Mrs. James Manley; Mr. and Mrs. Karl Meister; Mr. and Mrs. John Menger; Mr. and Mrs. Brian Moran; Mr. and Mrs. Farley Moran; Mr. and Mrs. James Mueller; Mr. and Mrs. Henry G. Parker III; Mr. and Mrs. R. Donald Thomson.

Join the Friends on May 18, 7:00 pm. Previous galas have raised funds for the Friends' restoration of Lenfell Hall and the elegant Great Hall of the Mansion. Proceeds from the "fifth" will be directed toward completion of the renovation of the Great Hall, which includes the purchase of furniture for the Great Hall—undertaken in collaboration with the University. Ticket prices for the black-tie gala are \$150 per person, or \$250 for Patrons, with the usual tax-deductible portion. Seating is relatively limited, so the Friends advise responding early to the invitations for "An Evening at Florham."

FDU Alumna Joins Friends Board

Linda Carrington, who received her B.A. in Economics from Fairleigh Dickinson in 1972, joined the Friends Board of Trustees at its most recent meeting in January.

Mrs. Carrington, resides in Morristown with her husband, Malcolm and her young son, Henry Langstaff. She has participated actively in a number of community groups and organizations. For fifteen years she was a trustee of Macculloch Hall Historical Museum,

serving also as an officer and a member of the Executive Committee. For four years, she was a vestrywoman of St. Peter's Church. She is a long-time member of the J. Elliot Langstaff Chapter of the Daughters of the British Empire.

The Friends welcome their newest trustee, whose talents and experience they look forward to drawing upon frequently and heavily.

President Adams: Futurist With an Eye Upon the Past (continued from page one)

animation. Gesturing toward the walls of his office in the former Twombly Mansion room where a host with a vast fortune and his elite male guests once took after-dinner brandy, he said: "The University and I consider ourselves blessed to be in possession of a great house that Richard Guy Wilson has called perhaps the finest country house in the nation. But," he continued, "we confront numbers of specialized concerns in fulfilling our responsibilities as custodians of an architectural and historical legacy at the same time that we also must provide for faculty, students, staff, and visitors the most efficient and accommodating academic environment possible. We have to worry, for instance," he said with a smile, "about the intrusion of air conditioners into windows designed by McKim, Mead & White. We have to be sensitive to the creative vision of major garden and landscape designers like Parsons, Herrington, and Frederick Law Olmsted while siting vitally needed new buildings, roadways, and parking areas—and the pedestrian pathways members of the University family can use moving to and from those buildings and parking lots and across those roadways."

And Madison's buildings and grounds, he added, are not by any means the only part of the University that requires very special handling and planning. He cited The Banta Coe House—or "Old River House," as it is often called, on the Teaneck-Hackensack campus—as another example of an inherited structure demanding both a preservationist respect and intensive care. Owned by the University for many decades, it is not really functionally adaptable for regular University use. As a historically designated structure, however, it cannot be demolished and can be repaired only in conformity with guidelines imposing restrictive and therefore quite expensive procedures. "Do we spend at least \$250,000 to preserve a building not really capable of contributing in any way to the educational

purposes of the University?" he asked with a speculative tilt of his head. "We would like to, but can we, and should we?"

Asked about Wroxton Abbey, the University's English campus and widely regarded as one of the jewels of the University, he agreed that it poses some truly daunting obligations. "U.K. building regulations," Dr. Adams said, "stipulate that a structure built as the Abbey is and dedicated to the sort of activities it accommodates must have sprinkler systems. But historic preservation regulations militate against the kind of invasive procedures required to run such a system through historically and esthetically sensitive parts of the building, like, for example, the centuries-old linenfold paneling gracing the walls and doors of the Great Hall."

The planned renovation of the Abbey's Carriage Barn, one of the key goals of the Wroxton fundraising campaign, Dr. Adams added, has met with similar obstacles. "All of our planned renovations were carefully designed by an architectural firm to be both historically appropriate and functionally efficient," he said. "But the planned dormers, we were told, were not acceptable because they were not virtually perfect matches of the original ones."

Dr. Adams then turned to look out the office windows through which the stately and picturesque front grounds of Madison's Mansion were visible. "Some recent examples of our attempt to keep faith with Madison's 'Florham' past are the new light standards that now line Mansion Drive," he pointed out. "They are handsome and efficient and, thanks in large part to the helpful suggestions of the Friends of Florham, altogether in keeping with the spirit of the place and period they embody. I am proud of them and extremely glad they are in place. But, my budget-line conscience

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Lecture on McKim, Mead & White (continued from page one)

institutions, government buildings, commercial enterprises, and elegant late nineteenth-century residences including “Florham.”

By any standards, McKim, Mead & White buildings such as those at Columbia University, the Boston Library, the Morgan Library, the University and Metropolitan Clubs, and the American Academy in Rome are generally considered architectural hallmarks, or “masterworks.” In his presentation—which will be illustrated with new color photography commissioned for his forthcoming book, *McKim, Mead & White Masterworks* (Rizzoli, 2003), Mr. White will explore the ways in which the firm incorporated and interpreted classical elements drawn from the antique, Renaissance, and American colonial vocabularies to produce the richness of these, as well as other, extraordinary buildings. Mr. White's expertise is well earned. He is a graduate of Harvard College and the

University of Pennsylvania, Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, and a National Academician. He is also a founding partner of Buttrick White & Burtis—a firm that is recognized for projects that involve preservation and adaptive reuse of historic buildings and landscapes in New York city, an adjunct professor of fine arts at New York University, and member of the Advisory Board of the New York School of Interior Design. And, as noted in the Friends' President's Letter, Mr. White has always been a “Friend” of Florham.



The Friends look forward to seeing you on March 17, 3 pm, in Lenfell Hall of the Mansion. Admission is \$3 for members; \$5 for non-members. Light refreshments will be served following the lecture.

President Adams: Futurist With an Eye Upon the Past (continued from page four)

makes me confess that they also cost a lot more than a less historically faithful lighting system would have cost us. Unfortunately, you don't keep millions of dollars worth of heritage alive by pinching pennies.”

Dr. Adams, hastily added that he is far from unhappy about the sorts of difficulties sometimes posed by FDU's need to balance its obligations to historic yesterdays against its commitment to leadership in an exciting world of extraordinary tomorrows. “The lively difference of opinion among the University's family is an encouraging sign of the strong attachment to this place felt by people of very differing loyalties,” he said. “And my mention

of the Friends of Florham reminds me to emphasize how much in awe I really am of that group of people. Most of them have no direct connection with Fairleigh Dickinson. All of them, however, devoutly share the University's strong commitment to a goal that informs the spirit of this place: the creation of a progress-friendly environment enriched by its link to history made visible. I cannot thank them enough for their help to us in our effort to preserve a heritage that becomes a vital part of the learning environment we want to foster here: one that draws upon the strength of our past to guide us to the dynamic future for which we are trying to prepare ourselves and our students.”

Hollywood comes to "Florham"

For three days last April, Director Ron Howard, Russell Crowe, and the cast and crew of the film "A Beautiful Mind" visited FDU's Madison campus to film a scene in the Academy Award-nominated film based on the life of Nobel Prize winner John Nash.

Although elements of the Florham locale, the Great Hall (right) and the Clowney Gardens, figure in no more than five minutes of the movie, the scenes required extensive on-location work by the company.



The campus Provost had to issue elaborate instructions guiding students, staff, and faculty around the area of the actual filming. The main level of the Mansion was closed to the public for all three days of the film company's stay. Parking in front of the Mansion was suspended. Plans were drawn up to reschedule some classes. Access to the

second floor of the building was restricted to the Court Yard entrance. Operations of the Admissions Office were relocated to the Recreation Center. The Academic Advising Center was moved from Great Hall to the basement of the Mansion.

The most striking shots of "Florham" in the film are probably those from the Clowney Gardens, presented as the Massachusetts Governor's Mansion, where Mr. Crowe, as Nash, met the woman who was to be his wife. In another scene, viewers familiar

with the one-time country home of the Twombly family will also recognize the Great Hall. Among the transformations wrought there by the film-makers was the hanging of a Marc Chagall painting, hung for the three-day period just inside the main entrance.

The French Cuisine Experience at "Florham"

Long before we ever heard of fusion food, before Martha Stewart promoted Portuguese kale soup, before Emeril whipped up his "Tuna of Love" in prime time, and before guilt about injudicious eating became a permanent condition of being, there was classic, elegant, awe-inspiring French cuisine. *Sauce béchamel*, *crème de champignons*, *tartelletes au fromage*, *sole à la meunière à l'estragon*, *filet de boeuf Wellington*, *génoise*, and *gâteau le moka*—accompanied by world class wines—are only some of the traditional offerings that make the rest of the world wonder how the French stay thin.

Behind any story of French cuisine is the cult or mystique of the French chef—the strong-willed wearer of *la toque blanche*, and

infallible arbiter of all things *culinaire*. For thirty-eight years, the *chef de cuisine* for the Twomblys and later Miss Ruth Vanderbilt Twombly was the celebrated French chef, Joseph Donon. He began his career in the U.S. in 1912 as *chef de cuisine* to Henry Clay Frick, returned to France at the beginning of World War I to serve in the army (where he was awarded the *Croix de Guerre with Palme*), and, according to Arthur Vanderbilt, II, (*Fortune's Children*, 1989) was later lured from London's Carlton Hotel by the Twomblys with a salary of \$25,000, a separate villa, a staff of personal servants, and a sailboat. Donon became something of a legend over the years, with an impressive resume that included *Officier de la Légion d' Honneur*, founder and

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The French Cuisine Experience at "Florham" (continued from page six)

General Secretary of *Les Amis d'Escoffier*, National General Secretary of the American Culinary Federation, and first recipient of the De Bands Award in 1950 for major contributions to the advancement of the culinary profession in the U.S.

Dinner at "Florham" may not have been the life-threatening 112-dish bacchanalian feasts hosted by George IV at the Royal Pavilion in Brighton, but the Twomblys could definitely hold their own. As Arthur Vanderbilt reports, the Twomblys gave ten parties a year -- five in the spring, and five in the fall. Weekend entertaining usually included anywhere between twenty to forty guests who arrived on Friday and left on Sunday evening. Lavish meals were served on the three evenings, and a late supper of lobster and champagne on Saturday followed by an organ concert in the Great Hall was an established tradition. *The Classic French Cuisine*, published in 1959 by Joseph Donon, gives some hint of the range of meals and that might have been served at "Florham"—hors d'oeuvre such as *croustades aux truffes*, *coeurs d'artichauts a la diable*; soups such as *potage crécy* or *potage bagration*; *filet de boeuf Strasbourgeoise*, or *Chateaubriand*; the signature terrapin à la Florham; fish courses such as red snapper *niçoise* or *filets de sole marguery*; carrots *vichy*; *petit pois à la Française*; *salade de fenouil et pommes de terre*, and sumptuous desserts such as *Charlotte Russe à la vanille* and *millefeuilles*—contributed to the gastronomic pleasures of a

continued round of visitors in those cholesterol-worry-free years of innocence.

Recreating the dining experience at "Florham," although with some modifications, has been the objective of the Spring Gala committee. Through the generosity of Friends' member, Jean Salisbury, we have had access to Joseph Donon's cookbook, which belonged to her late husband, Richard, and can report that the entire menu that will be served at the gala has been carefully selected from this book. Join the Friends on May 18, and savor hors d'oeuvre including caviar canapés, smoked salmon canapés, mini-quiche Lorraine; *potage boula boula gratiné*; *filet de boeuf Richelieu*; and *haricots vertes amandine*. Dinner will conclude with *Coeur a la Crème*, another "Florham" signature dish, and for adventurous cooks, we include this recipe below:



Coeur a la Crème (Cheese Heart)

2 cups cottage cheese
2 cups cream cheese
2 cups heavy cream

Force the cheese through a very fine sieve and beat it well with a rotary beater. Whip the cream stiff and stir it into the cheese. Line a heart-

shaped basket mold with cheesecloth, and turn the cheese mixture into it. Put the mold on a plate and let it stand overnight in the refrigerator. To serve, unmold the heart on a chilled serving dish and pour some light cream over it. Surround the heart with chilled strawberries sweetened to taste.

Become a Friend

Join the Friends of Florham. Participate directly in our efforts to preserve the architectural history of Florham, and support of informative program series. Your support will make a difference.

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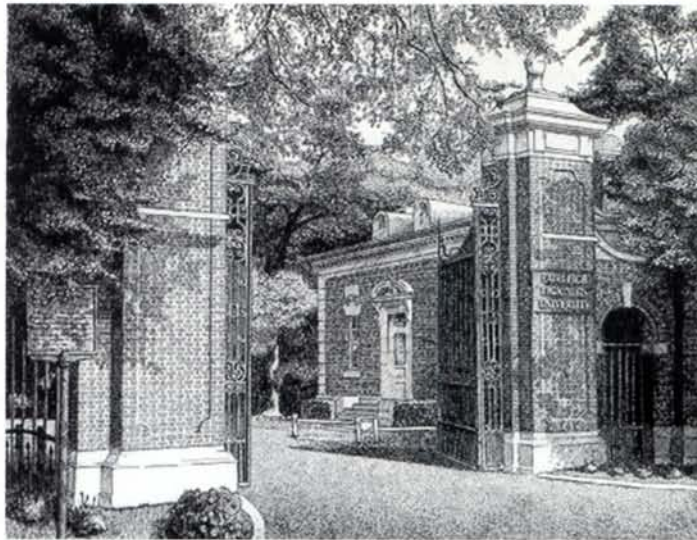
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Madison, New Jersey 07940



This drawing of the Gatehouse at FDU is one of a series of the historically important structures at the campus drawn by Professor Floyd Gellerman, Department of Visual and Performing Arts, FDU madison.

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Carol Bere and
Walter Savage

