



Photo by Jim Lee

CHANGING AT MORNINGSIDE: TAKING BOLD STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

By Leah Winter, President of Student Government

Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, “The great thing in the world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving.” Reflecting on this quote, I could not help but think of Morningside College.

I can still remember the excitement of that first day I moved onto campus four years ago. I was in a new place with new people and starting my new life. I was ready to face the challenges of college while enjoying new experiences. I was growing up and could not wait to express my independence. Little did I know, Morningside was engaging in a transformation of its own.

Anxiety arose with the start of my classes but quickly dissipated with the help of my professors. I was becoming acclimated to college life and felt like I belonged at Morningside. Time passed swiftly, and that first year was over as quickly as it began.

I returned the fall of my sophomore year to find Roadman South completely renovated and looking beautiful. I loved the treats at the new Spoonholder Café in the Hickman Johnson Furrow Learning Center. The hot chocolate proved to be fantastic on those cold winter mornings. Being a year older, I was starting to narrow my interests and make plans for the next couple of years. Morningside was making future plans as well, and more construction projects would soon be under way.

The fall of my junior year began with half of the Olsen Student Center under construction. It was also announced that a new apartment-style residence hall would be built on campus next to the Waitt and Pop-

pen apartments, along with a new softball complex on Bass Field. The campus buzzed about all the new projects. I, now an upper-classman, was focusing more on my plans after graduation. A new chapter in my life was about to start, and, like Morningside, I was very excited about the future.

That spring the Yockey Family Community Room was ready for use. Walking into the Yockey room for the first time, I was amazed at the change that had occurred. What once was a drab multipurpose room now had become an elegant area for both Morningside and the community to enjoy. The room stimulated a sense of pride and gave insight into just how great the campus would be after all of the changes.

Next, the Jensen Softball Complex was open for the spring season. It was so nice being able to go and watch a game after class. I know the girls loved having the support as well. I was already surprised at how much campus had changed in just a year, and this was only the beginning.

This summer was very busy for me – and Morningside. Returning from my internship at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, I could not believe how much had been accomplished in just a few months. While I was conducting biomedical research in neuroscience, Morningside changed its entire appearance.

My senior year began with the dedication of Lags Hall. The stunning construction set a precedent for the rest of the projects on campus. Students were enthusiastic about moving in, especially because they each had their own bedroom.

As for the renovation of our cafeteria, it was astounding. The simple sophistication of the room made it feel as if I were dining in a restaurant off campus. It even appeared to make students more eager to eat, if that was at all possible.

It was something of a shock for me to experience the newly renovated Rosen Verdoorn Sports Center-Allee Gym. I had been watching basketball and volleyball games there since I was a young child. Now the professional appearance of the gym only adds to the thrill of the games.

Even though walking across campus can be a bit difficult these days, I can already picture just how beautiful Morningside will look once the Hilker Campus Green Space project is complete.

I feel very fortunate to be a part of Morningside College during its transformation. Not many students can say that the growth they experienced throughout their college career was mirrored in the college itself. Morningside was able to provide me motivation for the future and establish a new sense of pride in my college. I will be sad to leave, but more so, I will be excited for the future, as one of the most important things Morningside has taught me is just how exciting change can be.

So, in describing Morningside College, I think Oliver has it right; it is not in where we stand, but in what direction we are moving. Morningside is definitely moving in the right direction, and it has shown me how and given me the confidence to do the same.