



from the president

As I travel around the country and hear from alumni, and as I visit with current students here at home, I am constantly reminded of what has made Morningside special for so many years. It is the people.

Alumni are quick to speak of the important role Morningside faculty and staff played in their lives. While certain employees from the past may no longer be at the college, current students will attest that the spirit of the faculty and staff remains the same.

Faculty members are more than classroom teachers; they are mentors for our students. As just one example, consider how Dr. Lillian López, associate professor of political science, invited student **Katie Kotlik** to collaborate with her on a scholarly article. They spent countless hours together working on the project, and after more than a year, they presented their work at an international conference in Montreal, Canada. Besides helping Kotlik to grow academically, López no doubt developed a relationship with her that will last a lifetime.

Staff members, too, continue to foster the feeling that we are all part of one big Morningside family. They become more than work study supervisors or custodians who clean the residence halls. They become friends. In this issue, you will read how our campus pastor, the **Rev. Kathy Olson 1999**, even invited student **Veronica Vazquez** to live in her home for a few months so she would have a place in Sioux City to stay while taking summer classes.

These examples show not only the quality of our faculty and staff but also the caliber of our students. Rest assured that Morningside continues to be the wonderful place you remember, and we aim to keep it that way. To that end, we

are renovating the campus in a way that will promote everything that makes Morningside special.

Thanks to support we have received from you, our alumni, we have been able to invest \$15 million in just two years for some major physical improvements. We planned these renovations keeping in mind what is most important around here - the people - so all of the changes on campus were designed to enhance opportunities for faculty, staff, and students to interact.

For example, there used to be an old parking lot in the middle of campus. But this summer we tore out that parking lot. In its place, we are creating a beautiful grassy lawn with walkways and a pergola where Morningsiders can sit and talk.

Whether it's the new campus green space, the new outdoor performance center, or the new outdoor patio of the dining hall, all of these renovations add up to a change in culture. It's moving from an automobile and parking culture to a pedestrian culture which invites more in-depth conversations. And whether it's student-to-student, faculty-to-student, or staff-to-student, we really want this place to be much more interactive.

We have always been - and always will be - a community in the strongest, strictest sense of the word. We care about each other a great deal, and that feeling lives on. I hear that all of the time when I talk with alumni. It is what makes Morningside College such a special place for our current students and students of the past.

John Reynders