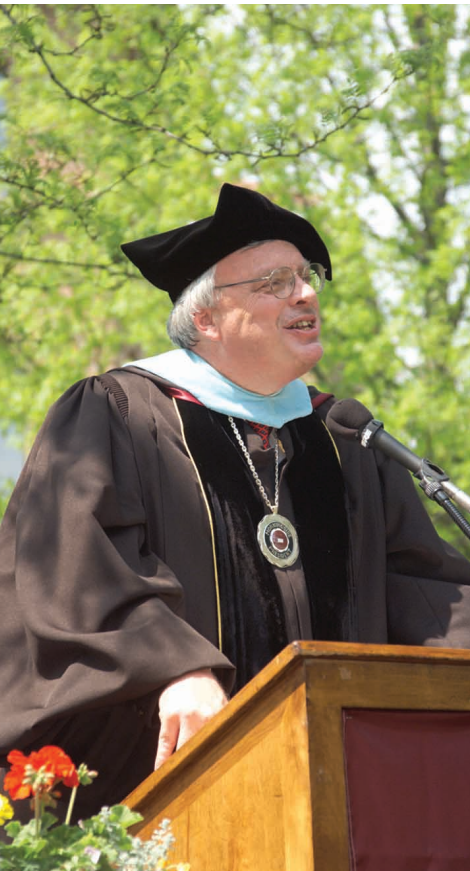


from the president



President John Reynders presided at the 2004 commencement exercises. Right, he presents a diploma to Haruna Yamada of Japan. Below, he welcomes those in attendance to the campus.



On an absolutely beautiful Saturday afternoon in May, Morningside held its commencement ceremony on the lawn in front of Lewis Hall. Two hundred and forty-one graduates shared this moment with family, friends, and members of our board of directors, faculty, and staff. Our honorary degree recipients, Dr. Karen Wolff and Dr. Robert Hilker, delivered eloquent messages to the graduates. It was truly a wonderful day for all of us.

Commencement exercises always elicit a myriad of emotions in me. They are, in a way, sad because I have watched these marvelous young people since they first arrived on campus...and with many, developed close relationships. I have watched them compete on the court and field, sing in the choir, perform on stage, and I have had the chance to talk with them about their experiences. I'll miss seeing them around campus.

Another emotion is great joy. As I handed out diplomas, I could see the excitement and relief of having successfully completed their degree requirements. Some of our graduates are headed for work, some off to graduate school, some to seminary. But what pleases me is that each of them has been well served by Morningside. They leave here well equipped to be valuable contributors to society. Our college lives up to its mission statement,

"The Morningside College experience cultivates a passion for life-long learning and a dedication to ethical leadership and civic responsibility."

Faculty and staff dedicate their lives to ensure that the Morningside experience, in its entirety, enriches each student's life. Ethical behavior, values, and caring for one's fellow citizens permeates all we do...whether in a business class, a chemistry lab, or a practice room. Faculty and staff lead and teach by example.

Perhaps this leads to the strongest of emotions...pride. I am proud of our graduates to be sure, proud to be president of such a fine school, and most of all, proud of each and every one of our truly remarkable faculty and staff. Morningside College is a very, very special place and the ceremony of commencement is the perfect occasion to pause and remember the impact this wonderful school has had on so many lives for 110 years.

Have a nice summer and if you get the chance to drop by and say hello...please do.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Reynders". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John C. Reynders

"IT WAS TRULY A WONDERFUL DAY FOR ALL OF US."