

from the president



Are you ever struck with how technology has invaded virtually every facet of our lives? From scheduling trips, to paying bills or doing research, computers have enabled us to have instant access to virtually limitless information. Morningside has been aware of the ubiquitous nature of computers and the power of information for some time. We take the responsibility of equipping our faculty, staff, and students with the tools of technology very seriously. Morningside was among the first colleges or universities in the country to provide full-time, residential students with personal computers (PCs) when we started the Gateway PC program back in 1992. Last year we improved the program by providing new students with Gateway Solo® 450L notebook computers. By the fall of 2005, all of our students will be participating in the notebook program.

Behind the shiny, new computers is an on-going, tireless effort that ensures that this program is a means to enrich the educational experience of our students. We are just now beginning to discover the unlimited educational potential of engaging new learning environments within a wireless network. The *Five-Year Plan* called for the establishment of the notebook computer program, in anticipation that it would be one of the ways in which “students would come to understand the merger that is possible and desirable between their academic activities and their other interests.” We hoped, as we envisioned the program in 1999, that the notebook computers,

combined with the development of a campus-wide wireless network, would facilitate learning across all boundaries, wherever students might gather, computers in hand, visiting in the student center lounge, waiting for class in a hallway, or grabbing lunch at Buck’s.

Enhancing student learning is central to our mission, and student learning is where our use of technology really shines. Music students can compose symphonies and hear them instantly. Chemistry students can watch laboratory experiments from their dorm rooms as preparation for actual lab time. Political science students can watch world events in real-time and discuss them with experts. It is now common for professors to make class materials available online, and e-mail and message boards have added a new dimension to student-faculty relationships.

Technology used to be only a tool for record keeping and processing. While we continue to explore creative ways to improve upon this administrative need, we recognize the real power of our evolving technology program rests in enhancing student learning. We have come so very far in this regard in a relatively very short time. Isn’t it fun to dream about where the next ten years or so will take us?

Sincerely,

John C. Reynders