10 Highlights From the 2009-2010 Year

1. **Focus on Prayer**: We were determined to begin the year with renewed attention to being a community of prayer by initiating several new times of prayer and by encouraging grassroots prayer across the campus. This will not stop!

2. **Talbot Building Project**: For the Talbot Building project, a consecrated 40-days of prayer and stepped-up focus to raise the remaining capital and endowment reached a truly miraculous crescendo in May as we met our thresholds and construction began.

3. **Student Accomplishments**: Our students also had a banner year, collecting accolades in areas like journalism, cinema, the arts and athletics (2 national champion students and 6 teams attending NAIA nationals). I’m continually impressed with the talents of our students and the admirable coaches, faculty and staff who year after year create an environment so conducive to success and growth.

4. **Faculty Accomplishments**: Through many research projects, papers presented, books written, articles published, grants awarded, recognitions received, it was another remarkable year for our faculty.

5. **International Collaborations**: We had some clear forward movement in our international work as we welcomed dignitaries from universities abroad and as we strengthened our networks with global partners in places like India, China and Indonesia.

6. **University Plan**: We gave stepped up attention to developing the next stage of the University Plan by making it not just an aspirational plan but an operational plan with clearer goals and compelling text.

7. **Biblical Integration**: Under the direction of professor Rick Langer, great strides were made in the Center for Biblical Integration as a vibrant forum for faculty to develop in their leadership in teaching, writing, creating and living from a biblical worldview.

8. **Strong Enrollment**: Through strong recruitment and retention, we finished the year by surpassing our combined graduate and undergraduate enrollment goals, and we are now about to witness a record incoming class and good retention for the fall 2010.

9. **Jesus Mural, “The Word”**: We held a university-wide series of conversations addressing the long-brewing issue of race, theology and art through a focus on the Jesus mural, “The Word,” and its artist Kent Twitchell. A major paper reflecting the theological imperatives of diversity was commissioned and presented. I will announce the specific next steps in September.

10. **Building Renovations**: This summer we began several building renovations, most significantly in the Chase Gymnasium, through the use of auxiliary savings and surplus.