

Dear Classmates,

This year, we decided to focus on learning about the vision and goals of the President of Juniata College, President Troha, by interviewing him. Neither of us had any perception of what an interview with President Troha would indicate. We appreciated our classmates submitting questions before our interview via conference call with him. The questions we asked were based on a combination of these responses and our questions.

We were impressed with the depth and importance of questions submitted and we were equally impressed with Dr. Troha's responses and candor. In short, it was great and positive learning experience!!!

Questions one and two.

1. Do you foresee demographic changes or changes in the criteria for students seeking admission to Juniata?

2. Do you see the need to develop procedures to attract more students from other states?

a) What is the source of funding for international students?

b) Is this support based on merit, availability of funds and support from foreign countries?

Current demographics indicated that 58% of present students are from areas within 100-mile radius of Juniata as compared to our class when 82% came from Pa. There is a significant increase in international students (almost 25 %) especially from Asian Countries. A summary of President Troha's response was: There is still a significant commitment to serve present geographical areas. High school graduation rates from this area peaked between the years 2008-2010. Less graduates gradually led to the strategy to look further away from PA and to foreign countries for students. This has led to a more diverse population.

JC has not changed the curriculum or academic standards to accommodate a new diversified population. There still is a large focus on science, medicine, and business and the largest portion of aid goes to students from geographic area cited above.

Financial aid remains focused on domestic students.

Question three. There was significant concern by our classmates over the elimination of the Juniatian and Yearbook and movement towards technology.

The number one response from our class was a request for an explanation of why this occurred and how, in the future, ways of remembering the Juniata experience will be saved. In a surprise response, President Troha agreed with our concerns but cited the following: Yearbook sales continued to drop and it became evident that publishing the yearbook was no longer economical or worth it. Students now rely on digital media and since all materials, events, speakers, sporting events are now archived and are available to the student community and the general public, publishing a hard copy has now been replaced by digital processes and technology.

After talking to him, we expressed that we may not agree regarding the present outcome but we do understand the impact of changing technology.

Question four. What are proposed changes for the future whether it is programmatic or activity oriented changes?

We were impressed with President Troha's response to the issues of programmatic needs and changes. If you recall, it was a different time and different focus, but former Presidents had little contact with students

regarding changes required in the curriculum or programmatic changes. Under President Troha's leadership, he requested that the Provost ask the faculty for proposals on new programs which should reflect an interdisciplinary context and should be relevant to today's students. As a result of this effort, 15 new program initiatives were submitted, with 7 being accepted: Neuroscience, Data Science, Health Care Administration, Digital Humanities, Global Health, Gender Studies, and Food Science Studies.

Question five. What ideas or plans do you have to address the issues and concerns of classmates who are uncomfortable about the amount of requests for money that are sent out by Juniata?

One of the most informative responses was related to this question. One of Dr. Troha's goals as set by the Board was to raise the level of support to increase the endowment of Juniata College. Dr. Troha pointed out (which was very interesting) that comparable schools, such as Dickenson, Allegheny, and Susquehanna, have much higher endowments (almost 2-1 and some cases 3-1) than Juniata. Juniata is at the bottom when it is compared to other schools regarding the amount committed to the endowment fund.

When questioned regarding the constant number of requests for funds from all types of programs and activities, Dr. Troha agreed with our concerns. However, he indicated that it will continue and is related to "the Age and Stage" many of us are in now which is reflective of our financial ability and our effort to become involved in philanthropy. Different requests are offered as "opportunities for giving" when a "cause" is close to your heart.

Hopefully people will respond with "yes" to the request. He did reflect on some very disturbing statistics: One, a large part of the endowment comes from older classes like ours (which is understandable) and two, only 26% of some classes have contributed to Juniata. Even the highest amount of participants (56%) in certain classes, still reflects the issue that 50% of alumni do not contribute at all. (Note, the Report of the President was recently sent to alumni with even more information.)

Question six. Where can we obtain information about the success of Juniata graduates, graduation rates etc?

When questioned regarding the availability of reports and statistics regarding performance, graduation rates, etc. Dr. Troha referred us the Juniata College web page (www.juniata.edu - click on Admissions and then Outcomes along the top line). You may also receive additional information by clicking on the Juniata website and clicking on the "Just the Facts" box on the left which gives even more information about Dr. Troha's vision and goals.

Also please visit the following web sites in which the information reflects the ranking of Juniata nationally and also demonstrates the success of graduated students. Just click control + click to follow link.

[Wall Street Journal](#)

[Business Insider](#)

[U.S. News](#)

Question seven. What are your personal interests, hobbies, and goals?

Dr. Troha commented that much of his wife's and his time are being spent raising three children and being involved in their activities. Madison is a senior, Nick is in ninth grade and Natalie is in eighth grade. He and his wife are very involved with the local hospital and educational system. Dr. Troha indicated that being a college president is a "lifestyle" which is public and is mindful of what the college, community, and students expect.

He enjoys the interaction with all these constituents.

In conclusion, we believe Dr. Troha is very engaged with students, has set high academic expectations which are reflective of expanding the diversity of the College. At the same time he is focusing on programmatic changes required for the future. We were impressed with his awareness of the many components of Juniata College including the continued difficulty of securing funds for sustaining Juniata College. This is especially important when you compare Juniata's endowment programs to other schools of similar demographics and academic reputation. Traditionally, college presidents have focused on operational constructs of "running a college". Dr. Troha has focused on this important task but also has demonstrated an integral relationship with students by being visible, approachable, and enhancing the lives and aspirations of students.

We wish continued success for Dr. Troha, students, and Juniata College and believe his presence will continue to develop Juniata not only for the present but future as well. We are appreciative of his efforts and wish to thank his staff for their help in developing this year's letter.

Gwen and Rolfe
Class of 1964

