

Dynes Video Letter - December 2004

Happy holidays! This is the time of year to look back, look at the accomplishments over the past year, spend time with friends and family and start to planning for the next year. I'd like to do that and I hope you will spend some time doing that.

Before I go any further, I better explain this black eye in case nasty rumors arise about what the president has been up to. The president is just a little clumsy; I was running the other morning in the dark, tripped and had an argument with the sidewalk and lost the argument. So, I get a black eye out of it.

Recently as you know, I completed my first year as the president of the university and I've been thinking about the many good things that I've seen and that we've accomplished. Yes, I'm very proud of what the university have accomplished – the Nobel Prizes, the international rankings that we've all heard about recently are something to be very proud. But the day-to-day accomplishments of the university, the education of our young people, the research product that has come out of the university and the contribution to the state of California is something that we can all be proud of – you and me. And I include the national labs in all of this. The national labs are unique facilities that have made enormous contributions to the state of California and to the nation. I think we should all take a moment and feel proud of the university.

I'm also pleased that we've begun a planning process over the next year. Now that we have a compact in place with the governor assuring us that we will have an increasing budget for the next year, we can now put ourselves in a position where we can start planning ahead for the next ten, twenty and even thirty years. So that we can start making decisions today that will affect the university over the next few decades. We've been spending a lot of time in this planning process with lots of people – students, faculty, staff, alumni, regents, business friends of the university – a variety of friends of the university and it's been a very stimulating time for me to be thinking about the future of the university. We have so much to contribute to the state of California and I know that together we can do this. We can affect our local communities, the state and the nation if you'll do this with me together - but for the moment, happy holidays.