

October 1, 1929

The college is organized. There are just a few adjustments to be made and not very many of them. It is organized the best and the quickest that it has ever been. I want to thank not only you for your part but every teacher and officer.

I do not dream for a minute that any of you, young people, ever think that the head of a college has any very great feeling of responsibility or any feeling of very great responsibility. You cannot realize that and I thoroughly understand that you cannot because it would take a very constructive imagination to realize the responsibilities of the head of an institution. But I wanted to talk to you about that this morning because at the beginning of each college year I feel a considerable load resting upon me and when Commencement comes and you all go home I am just about as glad as you are.

I want to talk to you a little while this morning about the way a person in my position feels and then ask that we may have the hearty cooperation of the entire student body. To start with I do not know any of you individually. Do not come up to me any time after you leave here and say, "I am one of your old girls. You do not know me." I hate to say, "No, I do not." A man came here this summer, one out of three or four hundred. I talked with him a few minutes about admitting his daughter and finally was able to admit her later. He came back on Registration Day and came into my office and shook hands with me and said, "You don't remember me, Mr. Wright," and the only thing I could say was, "Your face is familiar but I do not know your name." There are people who have the happy faculty of being able to attach the name to the face of anyone and when they see them again they can call their name. I am not one of that kind, I am

sorry to say. That's my weakness now and has been for a long, long time. Tell me who you are when you see me.

While I do not know you personally yet there does go out of my heart a longing and a tender love for everyone of the fine young women who come to this college. I realize that you are the daughters of good citizens somewhere and that father and mother are very much interested in your welfare and I am certainly anxious that this college shall be so organized in every detail that you will have the greatest possible educational opportunity. And when I say educational opportunity I am conscious that a student is a citizen and that going to college is a part of the life one lives. We do everything to give you the best chance to grow and develop as a citizen and to learn the many things you came to learn in the class room.

Class room instruction is a great part of your college life but it is not all. Your association with one another, your Y. W. C. A., your literary societies, all of those things enter in to the growth and development into a good citizen. I am certainly anxious that you make good. Not for my sake but for yours. For the sake of your family, your father and mother and loved ones at home. For the sake of the many children into whose lives you shall cast the shadow of your being.

I have endeavoured working with other members of the staff and working with the Board of Trustees, I have endeavoured to make an organization from the maids who work in the dormitories, the janitors, the teachers, the officers, every person connected with the institution in any other way than the students, we have endeavoured to make the organization work in harmony and 100% efficiency. When you stop to think that we have so many various groups, take the engineering force for example and you do not know anything about this. They are the folks that furnish the heat and lights and hot water for your room, for the laundry and for the dining room. That organization must work twenty-four hours a day when the college is in session but the organization functions.

Take the one who looks after the buildings and grounds, just a multitude of things to be done continually and yet that organization must work so that everything will function for your good.

Take the dining room and kitchen. Three meals a day, seven days in the week, on time every time. I hope it works that way. That is what we want it to do. Did you ever stop to think what it means to have a crew of people to work together like that.

Then take the infirmary. That is the one organization the college likes to pay to do nothing. That organization has worked out so that it works and works efficiently.

Then the teaching staff, to find teachers who are especially trained for a particular line of work. The college has gotten together in my judgment the finest faculty to be found anywhere in a teachers college. They are people who love to work and love you.

The Dean of Women and her helpers on duty twenty-four hours a day every day the college is in session and are supposed to smile no matter if the telephone rings forty times in forty minutes. They want to be of service to you. The matron in charge of the dormitories with all the servants in charge has a force that functions efficiently for you.

The Registrar's office working over time quite often just to get things worked out so that it will go and go without a hitch. And the Treasurer's office who must keep your accounts and keep them right.

The whole organization is a result of twenty years of hard work to bring about a condition that will give you the greatest possible opportunity and I believe it has been done. And I believe it has been done as well as anywhere in this country. You take the Course of Study Committee. They are working on this year in and year out to work out a course of study that is so good that

one of the leading graduate schools has taken it as a model.

Young friends, it is all done for your sake. I hope you will profit by what they have done and by what we are all striving to do for you.

Robert H. Wright, President  
East Carolina Teachers College

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