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25th Anniversary Statement, delivered at GVSC in 1985

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STATEMENT FROM PRESIDENT LUBBERS REGARDING 25th ANNIVERSARY

Grand Valley State College has grown significantly since it was chartered 25 years ago by the Michigan State Legislature. In September, 1963 the doors were opened to a freshman class of 226 students, and today our enrollment is more than 7,000. We think our position in West Michigan is vital to this area of the state and that we have responded to the educational needs of our society. I look forward to continued growth and a bright future for our college. I think the Downtown Center will definitely help meet the educational needs of our older adult students, and therefore will be important in our future growth. I have been and am proud to be a part of this college community, and indeed our first 25 years are a cause for celebration.

On this Charter Day marking 25 years
of life for Grand Valley State College

We who live and work in the
provinces follow with great interest the
career of those who cut a swath
through the life of the nation. Within
Simon is one of those whom we have
observed for many years as both
a public official and a private entre-
preneur. As I reflected upon the impact
of Mr. Simon on the national political
and financial scene I was reminded
of the remark made by the French revolution-
ary leader Danton ~~in~~ in an address
to the Assembly when France was beset
by enemies from all sides "In order to
conquer them, gentlemen, de l'audace,
encore de l'audace et toujours, ~~de~~
de l'audace — audacity, more audacity
and always audacity. ~~In the sense~~
~~that boldness is synonymous with~~
~~audacity~~ Boldness is synonymous with
audacity and in that sense Mr. Simon
appears to act when confronted with
great problems and opportunities. He
certainly is a man of action. ~~From~~ ^{From} quelling
inflation to a livable rate ~~during~~ as
secretary of the Treasury during Gerald Ford's

Presidency to rumors of his participation in the latest ~~statement~~ ^{statement} surrounding the CBS network ~~statement~~ ^{statement} to that fact. But he is more than that. He is a political economist, a thinker and philosopher, and his writings during the past decade reveal a mind of penetrating thought and a person of strong commitment.

The last time we honored Bill Seidman along with Phil Buchan and Jim Zumberge inducting them as the first members of the Grand Valley Hall of Fame at the Enrichment Fund dinner in 1976 William Simon delivered the address. There is no doubt that Bill Simon will go to great lengths for his friend Bill Seidman. I'm curious to know what Bill Seidman has done for ^{Bill Simon} you lately.

As we recognize Bill Seidman we are honored to have a friend of ^{Bill's} ~~his~~, a distinguished American, ~~and~~ a man of brilliance and character address us this morning, ~~the~~ William ~~Edward~~ Simon.

When I was considering my remarks for today, my thoughts flitted off to a passage from Shakespeare's Richard the II - a most incongruous thing to do when one will face an audience of engineers. Perhaps that is a natural pervisity for an historian who has come to respect the fact that engineers are in greater demand than historians and are essential to design and feed the economic engines of wealth that allow historians to practice their discipline and students to study Shakespeare. The quotation has no relationship to the engineering program that we're presenting today, nor any relationship to science and technology at all. I will read it to you and explain:

"This royal throne of kings, this sceptered isle,
this earth of majesty, the seat of Mars, this other
Eden, demi-paradise, this fortress built by nature
for herself against infection in the hand of war,
this happy breed of men, this little world, this
precious stone set in the silver sea, which serves
it in the office of a wall or as a moat defensive
to a house against the envy of less happier lands,
this blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England."