From the President

Waking the echoes in the digital age

During its history, the Donald W. Reynolds School of Journalism and Center for Advanced Media Studies has straddled the old and the new, the vanishing and the vanguard, with uncommon grace.

More than 70 years ago, journalism students at the University plied their trade on Royal typewriters. They were men and women like Frank McCulloch, the esteemed reporter and editor who graduated from the University in 1941 and went on to become one of the finest journalists of his generation, or of any generation that followed.

McCulloch’s example could include sitting a young reporter down, and with the quiet, dignified patience of a teacher, carefully diagramming all of the elements needed for a successful TIME magazine news story. He could also be very bold, and often went toe-to-toe with Vietnam generals, American presidents, Sen. Joseph McCarthy and Howard Hughes, just to name a few.

Our journalism graduates have long been inheritors of this proud legacy. Our school, which has produced six Pulitzer Prize winners, is known for producing well-trained, talented and creative individuals who are grounded in ethics, good writing and critical thinking.

These talents have never been more in demand than today. We are at a key juncture in the history of journalism and mass communication, where each day the ground for information and communication shifts, and journalistic roles blur. The Reynolds School is intent on meeting this challenge, which requires graduates to enter the bloodstream of the digital age in new ways.

In August, the school was rededicated during events that invited current faculty, students and staff, as well as emeriti, friends, donors, alumni and the campus to see for themselves what two years of renovation has accomplished.

We are immensely grateful to the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, which generously pledged $7.9 million three years ago to renovate, rewire and rethink the building, which opened in 1992. The Reynolds gift was just the latest example of a valued partnership between the foundation and the University dating back to the 1980s. An additional $1.6 million was tallied by the Fund for the Future of Journalism campaign by individuals like the family of esteemed Reynolds alumnus Ted Scripps ’52 (journalism) who made a significant gift to name the Ted Scripps Atrium.

Reynolds School Dean Al Stavitsky has rightly called the renovation “the best of both worlds.”

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Fred W. Smith, chairman, Donald W. Reynolds Foundation; Al Stavitsky, dean and Fred W. Smith Chair, Reynolds School of Journalism; President Marc Johnson; Steve Anderson, president, Donald W. Reynolds Foundation; and Barbara Smith Campbell, trustee, Donald W. Reynolds Foundation pictured at the Reynolds School of Journalism rededication Aug. 21.

I couldn’t agree more. Whenever I walk into the “new” building, I can’t help but be struck by its sleek modernism. Yet, importantly, the building has remained an intimate, inviting and nurturing environment. Amid the technological sophistication, one can’t help but hear the voices of past and present students, who continue to be the finest emblems of our school’s heritage of excellence.

Welcome to our new building. With deep and humble acknowledgment to those who have come before, it’s the beginning of a new era for the Reynolds School of Journalism.

Sincerely,

Marc A. Johnson
President
www.unr.edu/president