SCHOLARSHIP RECONSIDERED
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Remarks by Ernest L. Boyer President

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

SYMPOSIUM SERIES

CARROLL COLLEGE

WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN

AUGUST 28, 1991

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Thank you for that generous introduction.

This afternoon I've been asked to talk about

the role of faculty in American higher education.

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And I'd like to begin

• by reflecting on how the view of the professoriate has changed throughout the years.

Those of you assembled in the room are scholars in the richest, fullest sense.

And I'm deeply honored to meet with you today.

AAA-R, (ELB, SPC/lb), August 21, 1991

I. HISTORY

When little Harvard College was founded in 1636

- (the focus was on the student.
- Teaching was a central

even "sacred" function.

And the highest accolade a professor could receive

- was the "famous one" Chaucer extended to the clerk at Oxford.
- · Gladly would he learn, and gladly teach.

Educating the whole person was at the "very heart" of the colonial college.

• And for a century and a half that's what scholarship in America was all about.

AAA-R, (ELB,SPC/lb), August 21, 1991

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But following the War of Independence

- the focus of higher learning slowly shifted,
 - from the shaping of young lives,
 - to the building of a nation.

In 1824, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

- was founded in Troy, New York.
- And according to historian Fred Rudolph
- RPI was a constant reminder that America needed

railroad builders,

bridge builders,

builders of all kinds.

inning steadily to move out

of its ivory tower.

The Land Grant Act of 1862

• linked higher learning to the nation's agricultural revolution.

And when Lincoln Steffins visited Madison in 1909 he said that

• In Wisconsin the university is as close to the "intelligent farmer"

as his pigpen

or his tool house.

At the turn of the century David Starr Jordan, president of Stanford, declared that

• the entire university movement in this country is toward "reality" or "practicality."

To put it simply

- · the scholarship of teaching had been joined by
- the scholarship of building,

Higher learning was, to use Woodrow Wilson's elegant phrase,

"In Service to the Nation."

RESEARCH

Meanwhile a third vision of scholarship was emerging.

In the late nineteenth century

- distinguished American academics who studied at the
- were profoundly influenced by the emerging scholarship of science

Men like Daniel Coit Gilman

- who founded Johns Hopkins in 1876
- were convinced that a new kind of university was required in America
- one that focused almost exclusively on science and research
- And Harvard and Berkeley, and Johns Hopkins—to name a few—
- began to emulate this pattern.

But meanwhile most of the nation's colleges and universities continued to give priority

- to service and
- · especially to teaching.

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AAA-R, (ELB,SPC/lb), August 21, 1991

I'm suggesting that we urgently need great universities that excel in the scholarship of research

- and frankly I worry about federal cutbacks in research dollars.
- I also worry about grant-making policies that would
- direct government funds away from basic research,
- and, in the process, undermine the integrity of the investigative process.

IV. THE SCHOLARSHIP OF DISCOVERY

- at the very heart of what it me to be a
- and we celebrate what we call the scholarship of discovery.

Fifty years ago, Vannevar Bush, former president of MIT, put it this way:

- "Universities," he said, "are the wellspring of knowledge and understanding.
- And as long as scholars are free to pursue the truth wherever it may lead,
 - there will surely continue to be a flow of new scientific knowledge."

To put it simply we say that in our report that sustaining this creative process is absolutely crucial >

and that we need universities that give high priority to research.

this new spirit was vividly described by Talcott Parsons, e wrote that the "typical" professor now resembles

the scientist more than the "gentleman scholar" of an earlier generation. - when TRACHING WAS WERE HIERY LANGE

inclosuly is And its also revealing that just before Derek Bok became

president of Harvard in 1970

he was advised by another university president

to abolish the Harvard undergraduate program.

By getting rid of the college Bok was told

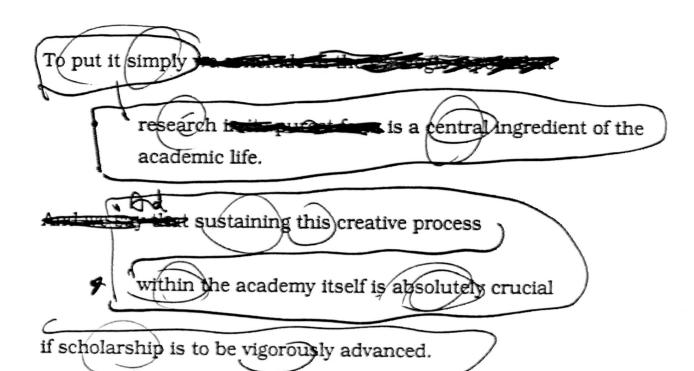
you will acknowledge that teaching undergraduates

has become an anachronism in the median

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I'm suggesting that we urgently need great universities that excel in the scholarship of research

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V. SCHOLARSHIP OF INTEGRATION

But in the Carnegie Report we say the in addition to the

scholarship of discovery

we also need the scholarship of integration.

We need creative people

who go beyond the isolated facts,

who make connections across the disciplines

Who help shape a

more coherent view of knowledge.

And a more integrated, more authentic view of life.

And I'm convinced that in our fragmented academic world this task of integration becomes more urgent every single day.

Indeed - without Intenty sucher

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- many payments fight | isulted

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Barbara McClintock, the Nobel Laureate, said on one occasion that

- "everything is one.
- There is," she said, "no way to draw a line between things!"

Frank Press, the President of the National Academy of Sciences, recently suggested that

• \ the scientist is, in some respects, an artist, too.

Frank went on to observe that

- "the magnificent Double Helix—which broke the genetic code
- is not only rational," he said,

"it's beautiful as well."

(ye know)

And several years ago when the world renowned physicist Victor Weiskopf was asked

what gives you hope in troubled times

he replied

Mozart and quantum mechanics.

But how in today's tragmented community can we both identify and celebrate connections such as these?

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The good news is that the most exciting work going on in the academy today is in the new hyphenated disciplines

- psycholinguistics
- bio-engineering, and
- the like.

 in what calls the overlapping academic neighborhoods.

ROLLIN-R.SPC, (ELB,SPC/dmo,) April 17, 1991 Clifford Geertz—at the Institute for Advanced Study-suggests in his provocative essay, "Blurred Center" that the old categories of knowledge are rapidly becoming who live on. Break Dam And that what we are seeing in the academy today is not just another redrawing of the cultural map. Something is happening-Geertz says to the way we think about the way we

Over fifty years ago, Mark Van Doren wrote that

the connectedness of things is what the educator contemplates to the limit of his category.

Van Doren concludes by saying that

those who can begin early in life to see things as connected

has begun the life of learning.

And this—it seems to me—is what good scholarship is all about as well.

VI. THE SCHOLARSHIP OF APPLICATION

This brings me to category number three.

We say in the Carnegie Report that

- beyond the scholarship of discovery and beyond the scholarship of integration,
- we also need what we call the scholarship of application—we need a renewed commitment to relate the theory of research to the realities of life.

This uniquely American view of scholarship

• the usefulness of knowledge is rooted

in the land-grant colleges,

in the polytechnic institutes.

in the normal schools,

in the conservatories.

Institutions that were in the nineteenth century—

in the nation's service as Woodrow Wilson put it.

Well, we were not in the nineteenth century—we're standing on the threshold of the twenty-first.

there is, in convinced, an urgent new agenda

Today our shorelines are polluted,

- · the ozone layer may be threatened,
- our schools are dangerously deficient,
- (our cities are imperiled.

And I'm convinced that the cholars urgently need to respond to the crisis of this century.

- Just as they responded to the needs of agriculture and industry a century ago.
- How can we justify a university that is surrounded by human need and essentially ignore it?
- It's a failure not only intellectually but ethically as well.

In the early 1960s, I was at the University of California, Santa Barbara and watched a former teacher training and home economics institution

- being folded into the prestigious University of California system.
- It was a wrenching process—as faculty expectations were dramatically redefined.

I then joined the State University of New York where we struggled to protect diversity in a 64 campus system,

- at a time when everything was "drifting upward,"
- and when research and publication became the single yardstick of success.

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AAA-R, (ELB,SPC/Ib), August 21, 1991

Well, what are we to do about all of this?

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In a recently released Carnegie Report entitled

Trillem?

Scholarship Reconsidered

We concluded that it's time to move beyond the "tired old"

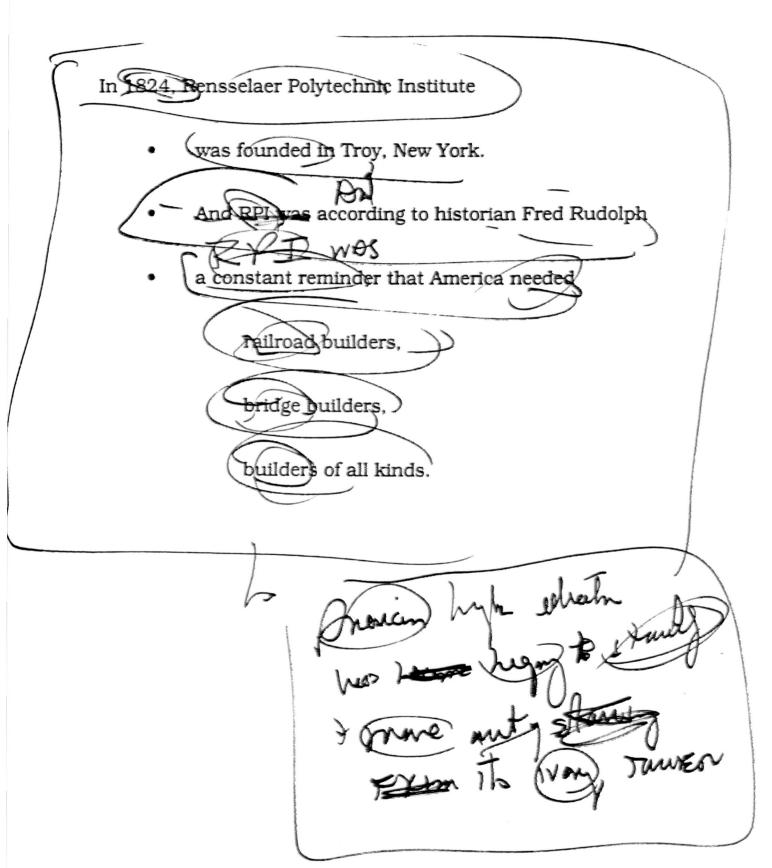
teaching vs. research debate.

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And begin to ask the much more compelling question

What does it mean to be a scholar?

And in response to that intriguing question we propose a new paradigm of scholarship with 4 interlocking parts.



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ST-JOE-1, (ELB,SPC/dmo,) March 25, 1991

I'm suggesting that-in the end-

• theory simply cannot be divorced from practice.

And the good news is that professional schools

- · from architecture,
- to medicine,
- to journalism
- and/education,

and accord

Increasingly are linking scholarship to real life

And they're demonstrating that

- · not only can knowledge be applied,
- but that theory can, in fact, emerge from practice.
- · and that good scholarship can occur

in hospitals,

and in the schools as well.

Donald Schon of MIT writes about

- what he calls "the reflective practitioner."
- He proposes a new epistemology of practice.

In which scholarship relates to service.

And I'm convinced that

- in developing new priorities for the professoriate,
- we must give new dignity and new status to the scholarship of application.

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VII. THE SCHOLARSHIP OF TEACHING

This brings me to my last category, number four.

We say in the Carnegie Report that scholarship means

not only the ability to discover and to integrate and to apply knowledge,

it means the scholarship of presentation.

• It means inspiring future scholars in the classroom.

Several years ago, I could not sleep and instead of counting sheep I tried to recall all the teachers I had.

I must confess there were a few nightmares in the bunch.

But I also remembered three or four outstanding teachers.

- Who not only knew their subjects,
- but knew their students, too.

Sprilh Withyan Rise These wonderful mentors had a huge impact on my life.

 And I suspect that almost everyone in the audience today is here because of at least one inspired teacher.

I'm suggesting that to keep scholarship alive we need classrooms

- · where there is active not passive learning.
- We need classrooms where students are creative not conforming.
- We need classrooms where undergraduates learn to work together rather than compete.

Since—in the coming century—the truly consequential human problems will be resolved—only through collaboration.

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But there's a dark cloud to this silver lining.

The problem is that

- in the academy today,
- good teaching simply is not adequately rewarded.

And very often it's far better for a professor

very often it star better for a professor

- to deliver a paper at a convention at the Hyatt in Chicago,
- then it is to meet with undergraduates back home.

And this really sad

• since to short-change teaching is to short-change the scholarship itself.

I'm suggesting that

- If students are not stimulated by great teachers,
- if they do not become intellectually and evocatively engaged in creative learning,

then all the talk about scholarship

- in its richest, fullest sense,
- will be simply a diversion.

Because without good teaching the cycle of scholarship will be forever broken.

Franks Les Symulous Shalp Been re Cyclog will be from Box Robert Oppenheimer-

 at the 200th anniversary of Columbia University put it this way:

He said that

it's the proper role of the scientist that he not merely find
a new truth

and communicate it to his fellows.

But it's also the role of the scientist—Oppenheimer said—

- that he teach,
- that he try to bring the most honest and most intelligent account of new knowledge

to all who will try to learn.

And surely this means inspiring future scholars in the classroom

But beyond these two baseline requirements of demonstrating the capacity to do research

I'd like to see faculty members

• be given lots of freedom

• to be creative,

and to build on their own unique) aptitudes and interests.

Those who are "integrators" for example

- or those who enjoy field work
- or those who excel as scholars in the classroom.

Should be rewarded for these special talents

- alongside researchers
- and be considered of equal worth.

Do we really want an army of academic clones?

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In The Conkreyie Right we should look at the my

- work of scholars across a lifetime.
- And encourage members of the faculty have a "change of pace" from time to time.

Frankly, it seems enormously unrealistic

to expect faculty to do research and publish with regularity for 30 years.

Specification for people in the Cape Cost

What we call

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I'm suggesting that a broken field approach to scholarship

- would keep faculty intellectually alive,
- and bring creativity to a sophisticatingly restrictive system.

VII. IMPACT ON INSTITUTIONS

Here, than, is my conclusion.

Scholarship surely means

• the discovery of knowledge as in research. _ By the bei

But scholarship also means

- the integration of knowledge.
- It means the application of knowledge.
- And it means the presentation of knowledge, as in great teaching.

And while this full range of scholarship can flourish on a single campus,

• I'm convinced that every college and university should also see he find it's own "special niche" within the spectrum.

Let's have great research centers, for example,

 where undergraduate instruction also will be honored.

Let's have campuses where the

 scholarship of teaching is a central mission.

Let's have colleges and universities that promote integrative studies

- through a core eurriculum,
- through interdisciplinary seminars,
- and through team teaching.

And let's also have colleges and universities that give top priority to the scholarship of applying knowledge.

- · In schools,
- in hospitals,
- in industry and business,

-much as the land grant colleges worked with farmers.

What I'm as suggesting is

A national network of higher learning institutions in which

each college and university takes pride in its own distinctive mission. And seeks to compliment rather than imitate the others.

Why should one model dominate the system?

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