

**Anderson Center
Dedication Remarks
October 5, 2012, 3 p.m.**

Welcome everyone to this day of dedication and celebration of the opening of the Carol Young Anderson and Dennis L. Anderson University Center. Seven years ago, almost to the day, I had the privilege of being inaugurated as Hamline's 19th president, and so on a personal level, this dedication represents a special privilege on this historic day in Hamline's 158 years of service to this great state of Minnesota and to all alumni who have graduated from this exceptional university founded by Methodist pioneers.

On a section of land that had lain dormant for decades, we have built this transparent and welcoming pathway into the heart of Hamline; we've fulfilled a dream to create a place where community thrives and lives are enriched due to the opportunity to converse together, learn together and have fun together.

Last night, at the annual President's Circle Dinner held in this very place, we had the privilege to thank the many donors who made the Anderson Center a reality. More than 300 donors made gifts and pledges to raise more than \$20 million through the capital campaign – the single largest campaign for a building in Hamline's history. We invite you all to explore its 75,000 sq. ft. and see all of the features that make it a highly functional and impressively cozy university center.

Today, we gather to dedicate the Anderson Center and Alumni Way, to celebrate and importantly, to thank and acknowledge all of the members of our community who have worked so hard over the past several years to turn our vision into a reality. The Anderson Center is a visible result of what the Hamline community can accomplish, working together.

This was a very big project, a \$36 million investment in Hamline's future and there are some special people to recognize who led the Make a Difference Campaign: Campaign Steering Committee led by Dick Hoel, '69 and members Al DeBoer '64,

Jean Brown '59, Brenda Heim '77, Bob Klas Jr '75, and Kita McVay, Board Chair. Vice President Tony Grundhauser directed the campaign and orchestrated his staff and volunteers to bring this campaign to a successful closure.

I would ask that everyone take a moment to look around. Notice that many of the spaces are named for Hamline donors and honorees, and we thank each of them. This space we are standing in – combining the Klas Commons and the Ambassador Rozanne L. Ridgway Forum - is very special. The Klas family legacy is known to many of you, and we thank the Klas Family for their enduring support.

Ambassador Ridgway is also with us today. This space was named when several of her peers – all Life Trustees – stepped up to raise \$1 million in her name. As if that weren't honor enough, when Roz heard about what her peers had done, she came forward with her own \$1 million pledge – to establish a new endowed fund, inspired by this space, called the Ridgway Forum Fund. This fund will establish two new programs at Hamline. The Ridgway Forum Fund Partnerships which will provide grants to support undergraduate collaborative student-faculty Fund partnerships. Secondly, the Ridgway Forum Fellows are annual awards, available to up to four undergraduate students nominated by faculty.

We set out to construct a center that is “truly Hamline.” Open, warm, transparent and sustainable in its design; yet, collaborative and encouraging of community in its function. Fortunately, in Angela Watson, principal architect of Shepley Bulfinch, we found a soul mate—someone who with her talented team, truly became a part of the Hamline family through this process and infused the design with Hamline values and ideas. Angela and the Shepley Bulfinch team, please stand and be recognized.

Speaking of family, the construction firm on the project is one of the great family businesses in Minnesota – McGough Construction has been in business for five generations. Tom McGough Sr. is a life trustee of our university, and the company he founded has been a long-time partner in bringing life to our campus. You know, completing a building this complicated in a very tough economic

environment and doing so on budget and on time is no easy task. McGough and our internal team of Associate Vice President Lowell Bromander, Vice President Doug Anderson and the University Planning Committee led by Dean of Students Alan Sickbert were just an exceptional and highly functioning group of people. Please join me in thanking our internal team, Tom McGough Sr. and his wife Jean, Tom McGough Jr., and everyone here from the company for their terrific work on constructing this building.

There are other special guests that I will introduce to you in a few moments. Now, I invite The Reverend Nancy Victorin-Vangerud, Director of the Wesley Center for Spirituality, Service and Social Justice and our chaplain to the podium to offer our invocation.

There are several special guests with us here today. First, I am thrilled to let you know that the Mayor of Saint Paul, Chris Coleman, has proclaimed today **“Hamline University Anderson Center Day”** in the city. The proclamation is here on the stage. Mayor Coleman was unable to be with us, but please join me in welcoming Deputy Mayor Paul Williams.

We also welcome special guests who have come to celebrate with us today: Dr. Carole Chabries, executive Director of the Associated Colleges of the Twin Cities; Craig Anderson, Principal at Hamline Hancock School; Paul Cerkvenik from the Minnesota Private College Council; Matt Kramer from the Saint Paul Chamber of Commerce; Lee Chao, from the office of Representative Betty McCollum; Stephen Gentillini, Dunham Engineering; Tom McCarthy and Harry Melander from St. Paul Building Trades; Laura Janke, RBC Capital markets; Gary Taverna US Bank; Jeff Carlson and Katie O’Brien from Wells Fargo; and finally, Hamline University Trustees, Emeritus Trustees and Life Trustees present today. Thank you all for coming today!

Now, we will have some brief presentations from Dean of Students Alan Sickbert; Professor Mark Berkson; Current and Former student leaders, David McCarthy, ’10 , Tina Van Steenbergen ’09 , Chris Reisdorfer ’13, and Niko Boulieris ’14 .

We are now pleased to present celebrated composer and pianist Steven C. Anderson, class of 1988 who has composed a special Hamline song in celebration of today's dedication. The theme of our President's Circle Dinner last evening was "Gratitude" a title Steven suggested for this original composition and which is so very fitting for today's ceremony. Each of you will receive a CD of this beautiful song to take with you today.

Please join me in welcoming Steven Anderson who will introduce the song and his musicians.

It is with a heart full of gratitude and respect that I now invite Carol Young Anderson to the podium.

By now, many of you have heard the story of how Carol came to be a student at Hamline in the summer of 1942 and of her marriage with her true love, Dennis, in making their way through life with two sons and running a farming enterprise in South Dakota that enabled Carol to put to good use the education and experiences she found here at Hamline. If you've not heard her story, please stop by the donor wall and read it—it's inspiring and it will make you smile.

Carol has had many roles in life—as a wife, mother, social worker, businesswoman, active citizen, life trustee of Hamline, and philanthropist. One of the greatest joys of my life has been the opportunity to know Carol, to call her my friend and to come to love her for her generosity and care for others.

Carol—it's your day and we enthusiastically invite you to speak to us.

Before we adjourn to the reception, I want to give one last word of thanks to a highly valued group of people--the staff who make sure everything works right, in this facility and all others, EVERY DAY. Gayle Hanson and her Aramark staff did an exceptional job last night at the President's Circle dinner right here--and they feed hundreds of students EVERY DAY. Our building manager Carey Otto and his

helpful students at the front desk, our audio-visual expert Brian Johnson, our room and event schedulers, security staff, and facilities staff keep things running smoothly EVERY DAY. Can we give them a big thank you?

Thank you all for coming today—please stay for the reception and enjoy all that the Anderson Center offers to you. Don't forget to pick up your copy of the song, "Gratitude" that was composed by Steven Anderson for this occasion.