

President-Elect Oshrin's Remarks about President Stephen Judd (June 8, 2008)

Thank you, Stephen. It has been a pleasure to work with President Judd for the past year. My first experience on Faculty Senate occurred quite awhile ago. I won't say just how long ago, but gas was \$1.12 a gallon, a stamp cost a quarter and Clinton was hoping to be nominated for President.....the other Clinton.

In my tenure on the faculty senate I've served under many fine Faculty Senate presidents. These presidents represented many disciplines: business, geology, biology, education, the languages, athletic performance, journalism, mathematics, library science. One was a criminalist and even a couple who were thought to be criminal. Among the presidents were those with blonde hair, brown hair, black hair, many who developed gray hair. It's a job that causes many to lose hair.....one and only started with no hair and grew hair, chia-pet like, while serving as president. But, apparently, even he succumbed to the pressures of the job.

I first came to know Stephen, not in person, but on an internet bulletin board who's name I can't quite recall. I was drawn not by his name (he actually used his name), but by his icon: a martini glass with an olive. But it was his cogent thinking, his clear and forceful writing style and his well-thought out and logical opinions that fascinated me. He brought this same clarity of thought and wise counsel to the Faculty Senate and then to the Faculty Senate Presidency.

Here's a trivia question for you: who is the actor who played Superman?

Your answer will tell more than your ability to recall trivial information. If you said Christopher Reeve, you're likely a child of the sixties; if you said Brandon Routh, you've either got young children or you're too young to be on this faculty senate. If, like me, you answered George Reeves, well, you've been around awhile

When I was growing up, Superman was an idol of all small children. He was faster than a speeding bullet, he could leap tall buildings in a single bound and he looked good in leotards and bikini briefs. He could also see through walls with his X-ray vision; for many children of my generation, that was his most impressive ability. Many of us tore off cereal box tops and sent away for X-Ray glasses that we hoped would let us share Superman's skills. To my great disappointment, the glasses that arrived in the mail would not allow me to see through walls, or even through fabric.

Superman's x-ray vision would let him see through walls. But even with his X-Ray vision, Superman could not see what was written on the other side of the wall. Artists have an uncanny ability to visualize what others, and even Superman cannot. They can see that other side of the wall and further, they can see into the minds of others to see what their audience will see. Stephen Judd is an artist. But his art extends well past the theater. He has the uncanny ability to see the many-faceted sides of complex issues.....not only from his perspective, but from the perspective of others. He has the ability to articulate his point of view, while considering the views of others who may have conflicting opinions. He is so adept at this that he sometimes loses arguments with himself.

Stephen has served the faculty and the Faculty Senate well. He has led us through a year of transition where our focus has been on re-establishing the relationships that all successful universities must have. Whether he is meeting with the administration, our friend on the university staff, faculty in Hattiesburg or on the coast or students, Stephen Judd displays a willingness to listen, an ability to express himself clearly, a determination in advancing his position, and the grace to adopt another point of view when appropriate. We could not have been better represented.

Stephen has been a good mentor for me. In addition to his "teaching me the ropes" for this position, he has led me by example. It is my great fortune that he will be continuing on Faculty Senate and, I hope, continue to lend his vision and insight to this body. It is with deep respect and gratitude that I present him with a small token of our appreciation -