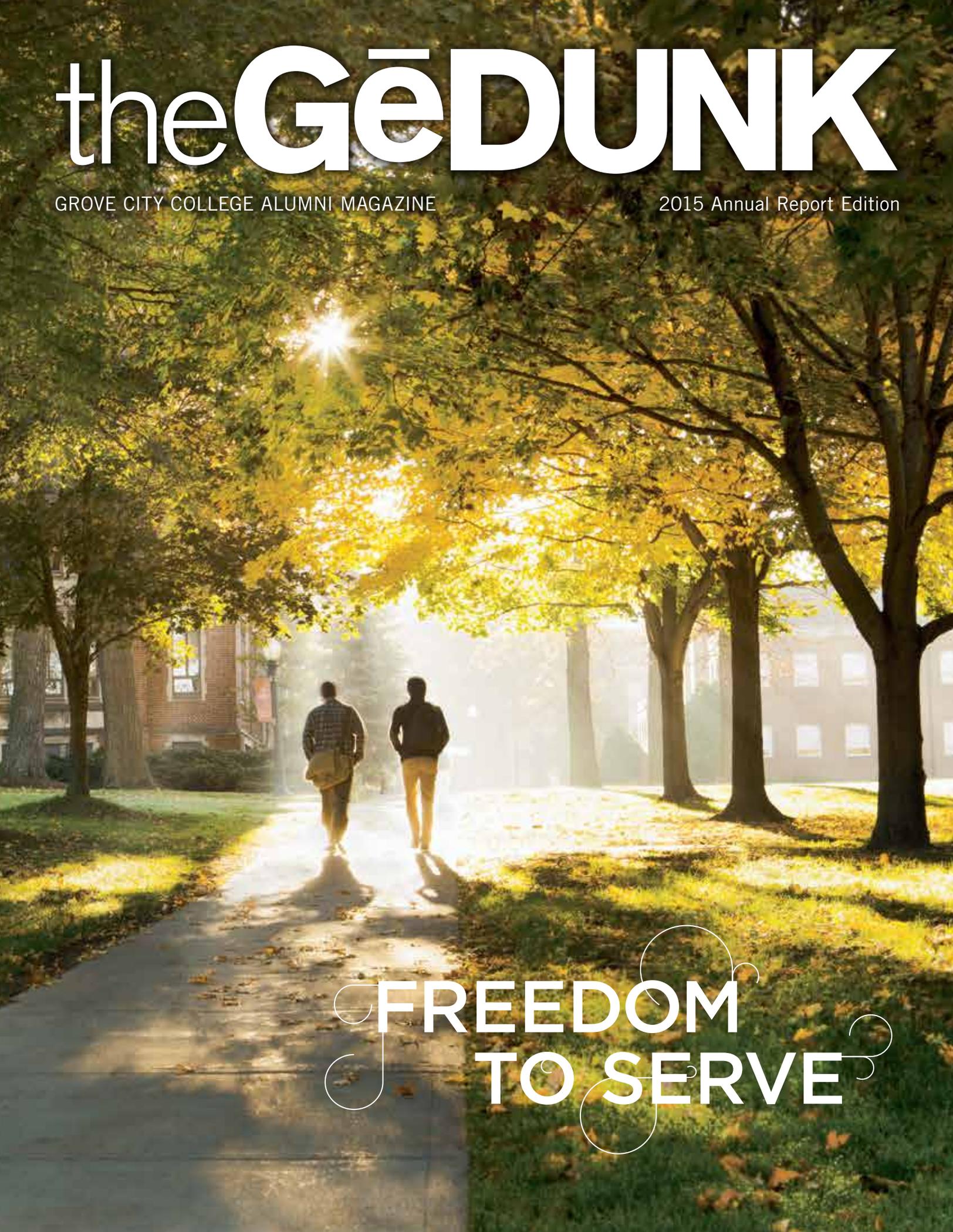


the GēDUNK

GROVE CITY COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

2015 Annual Report Edition



FREEDOM
TO SERVE

Grove City College has always been passionate about freedom. That passion is emblematic of the College, so much so that when it came time to chronicle our extraordinary history in a book, author Lee Edwards called it *Freedom's College*.

No one deserves more credit for this legacy than J. Howard Pew, class of 1900, who insisted that faith and freedom should serve as the College's interlocking values. Speaking to alumni in 1949, he said, "At Grove City College we stress the value of religious, political and economic liberty. Our priceless liberty is recognized as the very cornerstone of American civilization. ...To teach this appreciation of our liberty and the recognition of the forces that threaten it, will always be the foremost mission of this College."

This special issue of *The GēDUNK*, which includes our 2015 Annual Report and Honor Roll of Giving, focuses on our freedom to serve. That might strike some readers as an unusual way of looking at freedom. Is freedom to serve an oxymoron? After all, when we serve we submit ourselves to the interests of others. Doesn't freedom mean that we're in control of our lives and not someone else?

At the end of the opening credits of the BBC's hit series "Downton Abbey," we see a wall of many small bells in the servants' kitchen. The bells are there to summon the household staff to various rooms in the grand estate whenever and wherever they are needed. Watching the servants jump into action at the ringing of bells does not bring the word freedom to mind. How do we reconcile our modern notions of freedom to what David Brooks calls the "summoned life" in his remarkable book, *The Road to Character*? Perhaps this edition of our magazine would be more aptly entitled "Willing to Serve" or "Called to Serve."

But here at Grove City College we look at freedom through the eyes of faith. Jesus declared, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32) Similarly, the Apostle Paul writes, "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." (Galatians 5:13)

Thus we see that when faith and freedom are tied together, our liberty in the first instance is spiritual. We are freed from the bondage of our pride and self-centeredness and empowered to attend unreservedly to the needs of others. This is the truest form of freedom.

Indeed, Chairman Pew, President Isaac Ketler and other College leaders of the past believed that American life will be guided either by the vigorous moral conscience of her citizens

or the ever-expanding and unchecked power of the state eager to control our public and personal affairs. Freedom rooted in truth is essential for the flourishing of self-governance. On another occasion Mr. Pew put it this way, "It is my conviction that it was freedom that effected the miracle of America – intellectual freedom, religious freedom, political freedom, industrial freedom; freedom to dream, to think, to experiment, to invent, and to match wits in friendly competition; freedom to be an individual. That is our great American heritage."

In the pages that follow, you'll read about ways in which Grove City faculty, students and alumni serve freely. You'll learn about a new Trustee Scholarship program that promises even greater educational opportunities for students to learn and grow. You'll read about students who are using the tools of free enterprise and the ideals of a free society to serve the children of a nation in need; and discover an alum whose idea of success shifted from a lucrative career in medicine to emulating the compassion of Christ.

These are the people of Grove City College, whose stories of service and success illustrate how the priorities of the *Grove City Matters* campaign, which raised nearly \$95 million, are impacting our students, faculty and alumni. They are representative of the experiences of thousands of students and alumni who have benefited from a unique place where high academic standards produce graduates well-prepared to pursue their life's calling. An education transformational in more ways than one – an education that stresses faith and freedom and encourages spirituality, scholarship and servanthood.

Words do not adequately convey how the generosity among our Grove City College family and friends has enhanced our calling to serve the common good. Your commitment helps us ensure that we remain unsurpassed in the strength of our intellectual, vocational and spiritual community. We are grateful.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul J. McNulty".

Paul J. McNulty '80
President