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Remarks on Dr. Roth, delivered at Convocation on September 29, 1998

Arend D. Lubbers
Grand Valley State University

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ROTH CONVOCATION

SEPTEMBER 29, 1998

This is nostalgia week at Grand Valley. Last night Dr. Roth delivered the inaugural Niemeyer Lecture, established to honor our Provost, who has served the University for 35 years. The Provost reminisced. Poet Laureate Clark composed and read a poem commemorating the event. Professor Baum, who is junior in service only to the Provost, initiated the idea for a Niemeyer Lecture and introduced Professor Roth, who was born in Grand Haven where the Baums live. This is a sentimental journey for Dr. and Mrs. Roth to the scene of his birth and early boyhood. We almost have our own soap opera here.

Last evening was a memorable event, and we carry the good feelings into our convocation today. Dr. Roth brilliantly concentrated on the American Dream and the Holocaust last night. Today we place the focus on his superior ability to teach. For a university that places good teaching above everything else, it is appropriate for us to invite Dr. Roth, recognized as one of the nation’s best teaching Professors, to our campus to be honored for his achievement and address us on the topic of “Inspiring Teaching.” I wish every member of our community could hear him speak on this subject. If you inspire, your objectives are secured. A campus of inspired students and a faculty of inspirational professors are my idea of Utopia.
We are fortunate to have a native of our region who has so well distinguished himself return to us for intellectual discourse as we celebrate our distinguished Provost’s career, which spans the whole active academic life of our institution.