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Lumber Baron Bar Speech, delivered on December 10, 2013

Arend D. Lubbers
Grand Valley State University

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**Lumber Baron Bar
December 10, 2013
Arend D. Lubbers**

We assemble again to commemorate a great deed and the people who participated in it. I remember clearly the noon we gathered in the Lumber Baron Bar, and he who became the arch baron, Rich DeVos, asked for financial help to secure a site for Grand Valley's downtown campus; the campus that bears the name of Bob Pew, who made a gift of the Stowe Davis property. Rich never fails at such endeavors and as we lift our tankards I want to drink first to Rich and focus on one of his many talents. He has an instinct for real estate. He knows where and when. He knows the right place and knows how to secure it. He was the prime mover, and Grand Valley stands on the west bank, proud and ready to serve because he could envision it.

We salute, too, those who are no longer with us, but who were with us when they lived and when it counted for the university. We take a sip, too, to remind ourselves that the job is not finished. There is a university to build for the future and we will continue to gather here to remind ourselves of the tasks before us. We will take pleasure, also, in what we have accomplished. So raise your mugs and drink heartily to our future together.