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"I am just plain overwhelmed!"

University Relations

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Summary: "I am just plain overwhelmed!" With these words, David C. Johnson described his emotions Saturday (October 28, 2006) as his first Morris residence - a campus residence hall - was named in his honor, David C. Johnson Independence Hall.

(October 30, 2006)-“I am just plain overwhelmed!” With these words, David C. Johnson described his emotions Saturday (October 28, 2006) as his first Morris residence – a campus residence hall – was named in his honor, David C. Johnson Independence Hall.

A crowd of his friends, along with students, staff and administrators – those who preceded him and those who worked alongside him at the University of Minnesota, Morris – were on hand.

In addition to offering brief opening remarks, UMM Chancellor Jacqueline Johnson welcomed the guests and introduced speakers Claude Sigmund, who worked as a resident assistant in Independence Hall during Johnson’s stay, Gary Hedin who was active in student government of the Dave Johnson era, and former UMM chancellor Sam Schuman.

Sigmund, now a ninth grade government teacher in Edina, remembered being at first nervous, “kind of like being a teacher and having the superintendent watching you teach every day…then I met Dave,” he recalled.

Hedin recalled working with Dave on campus issues and, when Dave announced his retirement, his accepting an invitation to dine on a spaghetti dinner at students’ off-campus residence.

Dave’s sense of direction was addressed by Schuman: “When driving with Dave, you never knew where you were going to wind up. But when it came to finding the right direction for UMM, he was unerring.”

Dave Johnson served the campus as its third chancellor. In addition to his legendary advocacy for students, Johnson was instrumental in securing legislative funding for UMM’s state-of-the-art science facility and the Regional Fitness Center, a campus/community partnership. His ability to tell UMM’s story, to articulate its vision and mission, and to share his pride in the accomplishments of students, faculty, staff and alumni are his enduring and endearing legacies. He served UMM until his retirement in 1998.

Photo by Ron Kubik, Media Services: Dave Johnson, Gary Hedin, Claude Sigmund.

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