We should not be calling ourselves names. If we are distinctive, “The College of William & Mary” will suffice. Calling ourselves a liberal arts university is particularly problematic because it wrongly puts us into the class of small liberal arts colleges with a masters degree program. Furthermore, few seem to realize that the sciences are an essential part of the liberal arts. At W&M we call the liberal arts “Arts & Sciences” rather than simply “Arts” or the more modern “Humanities and Sciences.”

Without the ambiguity that stems from name-calling, we can get down to the business of being the university where faculty can truly combine a life of stellar teaching and world-class research for the benefit of all our students from freshmen to post-doctoral scholars. We should examine the philosophy, history and practice of *artes liberalis* (skills of a free person) in this context and then decide what of it we wish to make our own.

John Agresto, the president of St. John’s College in Sante Fe, sees the liberal arts as the method to discover *truth* about important matters through *reason* and reflection. They have been attacked through the ages by those who controvert reason and those who controvert truth. Today, the common industrial or political process of casting doubt by telling lies is antithetical to the liberal arts. So is the view that liberal arts serve only the student and not the society at large. As we think about W&M’s academic future, I hope we will reaffirm our commitment to reason, to truth and to practical skill. The trivium and quadrivium---grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, applied arithmetic (music), geometry, and applied geometry (astronomy)---were about the skills of thinking verbally, analytically, logically, numerically, creatively, spatially and universally. No one subject by itself was sufficient.