

## **Greeting**

Susan DuBrava

Chair, Staff Council, Ithaca College

The Inauguration of Thomas R. Rochon

April 17, 2009

Greetings to everyone assembled here this afternoon for this historic event.

As chair of Ithaca College's Staff Council, it is an honor to speak at the eighth inauguration of our College's new president, Tom Rochon. Tom is no stranger to Staff Council—when he started the strategic visioning process last fall, he spoke to us to explain the process and its value. He has also sought out staff council's feedback on certain matters, including "floating holidays"—a favorite topic!

As the College moves forward during these challenging times, we know that the staff will also rise to the occasion and will continue to support IC's commitment to excellence—and to academic excellence. IC's staff members are colleagues and partners in this academic community, providing an infrastructure of support that enables the faculty to be exemplary teachers.

Staff members keep the classrooms clean and ensure facilities and equipment are in good working order. Staff members keep the books and supplies stocked in the bookstore, the copiers and office machines running, the roads and walkways clear during our long Ithaca winters, the grounds and athletic fields manicured and looking their best for visiting parents, prospective students, and other teams.

It's staff who counsel students in need, who listen to and help solve their problems with billing or finding a place to live next year. We cook and serve the meals, we design and maintain web pages, we pick up and deliver mail, we install and maintain all the computers and phones. It's hard to think of any area of the College that could function *without* its staff members—staff who join with the faculty and administration in a College-wide dedication to academic excellence. Staff are equal and valued partners who make IC a great place to teach, learn, and work, and we're proud of our commitment to excellence.

We are also proud to stand as partners with all of you here today, as we welcome Thomas R. Rochon as Ithaca College's eighth president. Best wishes to you, Tom, from IC's diverse and dedicated staff.