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World's Largest Kiwanis Club

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Tuesday, August 18, 2009

Kiwanian

SEWanee
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH



Dr. Joel Cunningham Vice Chancellor University of the South

Since Joel Cunningham assumed office as Vice Chancellor and President of the University of the South in 2000, Sewanee has enjoyed record applications to the undergraduate College of Arts and Sciences, growth in the influence and reach of the graduate School of Theology, and increasing recognition as a leading national liberal arts university. Under his leadership, The Sewanee Call fundraising campaign came to a record-breaking conclusion in June 2008 with over \$205.7 million in gifts and commitments, exceeding the \$180 million goal by over \$25 million. The campaign was marked by over \$40 million in endowment commitments for scholarships; extensive academic, residential and athletics facility construction; the addition of 3,000 acres to the University's landholdings; and significant support for faculty compensation and academic enrichment, including the addition of a business minor to the curriculum.

Throughout his career, Cunningham has been active nationally in higher education, and he has raised Sewanee's profile among the nation's top liberal arts institutions. He was a founding member of both the National Campus Compact and the Pennsylvania Campus Compact organizations for student public service. He is active in the Association of Episcopal Colleges, the Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion, the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association, the Appalachian Colleges Association and the Committee on Policy Analysis and Public Relations of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Joel Cunningham became the 15th Vice Chancellor and President of the University of the South in July, 2000. He grew up in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and came first to Sewanee at age 8 when his older brother enrolled as a freshman. He graduated summa cum laude from the University of Chattanooga in 1965 with majors in mathematics and psychology, and he completed his master's and doctoral degrees in mathematics from the University of Oregon.

Cunningham began his academic career as a member of the faculty at the University of Kentucky, where he taught mathematics for five years. He made his first return to Tennessee in 1974 when he was appointed dean of continuing education and mathematics faculty member at his alma mater, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He served a year as an American Council on Education Fellow. He left Chattanooga in 1979 to become vice president for academic affairs, dean of the faculty, and professor of mathematics at Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania. In 1984 he was named president and he remained at Susquehanna until 2000, when he was elected vice chancellor by Sewanee's board of trustees and made his second Tennessee homecoming.

Joel and Trudy Cunningham were married a week after their graduation from the University of Chattanooga. Trudy has had her own distinguished career, including service as a mathematics faculty member at the Baylor School and as a faculty member and dean at Bucknell University. She now teaches and is an academic administrator at Sewanee. The Cunninghams have two grown daughters.

"We believe that broadly educated men and women are ideally suited to address the complexities of life and work," says Cunningham. "Sewanee graduates are better able to perceive connections among disciplines, to think creatively, and to communicate with others. These are the essential characteristics of citizenship and leadership, and we do a better job than most in achieving them."

SPEAKER'S ADDRESS: Sewanee: The University of the South / 735 University Ave / Sewanee, TN 37383

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Next Tuesday's Meeting
August 18, 2009 - 12 noon

Dr. Joel Cunningham
Vice Chancellor

SEWANEE
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

Upcoming Programs

- Aug 25 Birmingham Business
Hall of Fame Awards
- Sep 1 Bill Canary, President
Business Council of Alabama
- Sep 8 Maestro Justin Brown
Alabama Symphony Orchestra
- Sep 15 A. Gerow Hodges Service Award
Presentation
- Sep 22 Haley Barbour, Governor
State of Mississippi
- Sep 29 Legion of Honor
Presidents Good Bye

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KIWANIS CLUB OF BIRMINGHAM

2019 4th Avenue North

Birmingham, AL 35203

Phone: 205-251-0032

Fax: 205-251-2841

Email: kiwanis99@aol.com



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ALABAMA

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