

## **Association of Research Libraries**

Seattle, Washington

April 28, 2010

### ***Globalization of Higher Education and Research Libraries***

Provost Phyllis Wise, University of Washington as introduced by  
Betsy Wilson, Dean of University of Washington Libraries

Welcome to Seattle and the great state of Washington. It is so wonderful to have you all here. We've been waiting for you for 34 years since ARL last convened in the Emerald City.

Welcome to the land of:

- The good rain
- Obsessive-compulsive recycling
- Giant octopi roaming the floor of Puget Sound
- Sasquatch (aka Big Foot) haunting the North Cascades
- Geoducks, orcas, and our sacred salmon
- Coffee on every corner, and
- Innovation oozing out of every pore

Welcome to the birth place of:

- Boeing
- Microsoft
- Amazon.com
- Costco
- Starbucks, and
- Nordstrom's (with the mother ship a mere 3 blocks from here, and I know some of you have already found it!)

Welcome to the home of the likes of:

- Jimi Hendrix
- Tom Robbins
- Bruce Lee
- Quincy Jones
- Ron Santo (for all you Cubbies out there)
- the late, great August Wilson, and
- Bill and Melinda Gates

You've landed in the epicenter of libraries. This is a city that loves its libraries and reading—and it doesn't matter if the book is hard copy or on a Kindle. Don't miss Rem Koolhaas' Central Library just around the corner with its stretched skin and peripatetic mixing chamber.

Tonight Jay Starratt and I will reach across the Husky-Cougar divide to host you for a memorable Northwest evening at the Olympic Sculpture Park. You'll feast on local, organic foods and some fine Oregon and Washington wines and microbrews as you gaze out on Puget Sound to the Olympic Mountains, and imagine the Pacific Ocean beyond.

I can think of no better venue than Seattle for an ARL meeting with a global theme. Seattle is indeed a global pivot point. Situated on the Pacific Rim, we are oriented westward to the Far East. We also align with the region whimsically called the Republic of Cascadia which stretches from Oregon to British Columbia. For 150 years, Seattle has been a gateway for immigrants, ideas, and outlandish aspirations. And now it is at the nexus of global health, global ecology, and global trade.

If Seattle is the right venue, then Phyllis Wise is the perfect opening speaker. Phyllis Wise is the Provost and Executive Vice President at the University of Washington with campuses in Seattle, Bothell, and Tacoma. It is with great privilege that I introduce her to you. I am especially appreciative that she is with us today given the developments on campus over the past 24 hours.

If you have read the official bio in your packet, you already know that Phyllis is a gifted administrator, an accomplished scientist with continuous National Institutes of Health funding, a National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine member, and a recipient of an impressive array of awards, including an honorary doctorate from her alma mater Swarthmore College.

You also know that since joining the UW in 2005, she has inspired broad-based coalitions to expand and enhance the undergraduate experience, global affairs, information and data management, and interdisciplinary programs. Her most promising venture may be the new College of the Environment—an unrivaled constellation of environmental research, education, and application.

You also may have read that Phyllis continues an active research program in women's health and gender-based biology. I think she has the longest professorial title on campus—Professor of Physiology and Biophysics, Biology, and Obstetrics and Gynecology.

But there is much you won't learn from her written bio. Let me tell you a bit more.

Phyllis is an extraordinary leader with a deep reservoir of integrity, stamina, and tenacity. She's tough as nails but has a velvet and compassionate touch. In our institutions of higher education where resistance to change is often a defining characteristic, she fearlessly embraces meaningful change and brings others along for the sometimes wild ride.

While many around us are career builders, Phyllis is an institution builder—building a 21<sup>st</sup> century public research university. And she knows research universities. By my count she has been associated with six of our ARL institutions—Michigan, New Mexico, UC Davis, Kentucky, Maryland, and now Washington.

Phyllis is a world class bio-scientist who is equally informed by theater and music. In fact, rumor has it that as a young girl she was a dragon dancer on the Dave Garroway Show. Could that have been her first foray into global exchange?

But that was yesterday. Today, Provost Wise will help us visualize tomorrow.

I am reminded of the time Charlie Brown of “Peanuts” fame was asked, “What is your favorite day?” He thought and thought, and thought some more, and then replied, “I have always been fond of tomorrow.”

I suspect if we asked Provost Wise the same question, we’d get the same answer. “Tomorrow,” she might say, “because tomorrow universities like ours will have made the world a better place through transformational research and by educating students to lead in a world we can’t even begin to imagine.”

Please join me in warmly welcoming Provost Phyllis Wise to the 156<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Association of Research Libraries.