



## Statements about Chancellor Gearhart

*(University Relations will continue to add to this document as other quotes are received.)*

### Quotes about Chancellor Gearhart

“I have seen a remarkable transformation in the academic reputation and physical facilities of the University of Arkansas during my 10 years of service on the UA Board of Trustees, the last seven of which overlapped with Dr. Gearhart’s term as Chancellor. The institution has grown in numerous ways including enrollment, quality and diversity of the undergraduate student body, and the construction and renewal of many academic and athletic facilities into state-of-the-art status. Dr. Gearhart has placed the institution on a solid upward trajectory and it is exciting to consider what the future will be given this progress. The UA System Board of Trustees appreciates Dr. and Mrs. Gearhart’s many contributions and we wish them much success as they enter this next phase of their lives, knowing they will always be an important part of the Razorback family.”

*Jim von Grempp of Rogers is chairman of the UA Board of Trustees. He is a real estate investor, communications consultant and former Wal-Mart executive.*

“Dave’s leadership as vice chancellor for advancement and chancellor has been impeccable. He has worked hard to bring our University to new heights with the tremendous increase in enrollment all the while increasing the number of students with a GPA of 3.75 or above. And, most importantly, under his leadership and guidance the graduation rate has increased. No small feat! His and Jane’s dedication to the University of Arkansas and the state of Arkansas has been exemplary. Dave’s leadership is going to be missed by all. It is with

much respect and sadness that I accept his desire to spend more time with his family and step down as chancellor,”

*Jane Rogers of Little Rock is secretary of the UA Board of Trustees and a freelance organizational consultant. She has served as executive director of Riverfest, Inc., and the Department of Arkansas Heritage. She is a UA alumna.*

“Chancellor Gearhart has worked with faculty, staff, students and administrators to develop a shared vision not only to make the U of A a better place, but to help our great state in the process. We’ll continue to focus on making improvements that enhance our academic quality and reputation, and contribute to being recognized as a top 50 public university. The Chancellor has worked tirelessly for the university and he and Mrs. Gearhart have earned this well-deserved time with their family.”

*Sharon L. Gaber, Provost*

“What an honor it has been to have been selected for my position by the gentleman who literally wrote the book on fundraising. Not a day has gone by since becoming vice chancellor for university advancement that I haven’t learned something valuable from Dave’s leadership. His humor, perseverance, humility and above all, his love for the U of A are inspirational. While I hate to see him go, I am delighted for the entire Gearhart family. As we enter into this next phase of the life of the University of Arkansas, the good news, is that we have strongly established the foundation for our fundraising and advancement efforts.”

*Chris Wyrick, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement*

“Chancellor Gearhart has been committed to diversity in all of the ways that matter. Not only has he rhetorically supported issues and policies that expand access and equal opportunity, the chancellor has also better aligned university resources to reflect his commitment to achieving a more diverse and inclusive university community. I will forever be grateful to have been a part of his

administrative team. His leadership has allowed us to make historic accomplishments relative to diversity on this campus.”

*Charles Robinson, Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Community*

“Chancellor Gearhart is not only an amazing leader but a fundraising icon. When he asked me to serve as treasurer for the Campaign for the Twenty-First Century, I could see he was ambitious. Indeed, he brought a new level of understanding not only to the volunteers and the campus faculty and staff for what could be possible – he raised the bar and the expectation for what could make the University of Arkansas successful. We made supporting the university a priority because we were able to see significant private gift support would ultimately transform the school and the state, and we knew the goals were attainable with Dave leading the fundraising.”

*Johnelle Hunt, philanthropist and longtime UA volunteer. J.B. and Johnelle Hunt provided a \$5 million gift that pushed the Campaign for the Twenty-First Century past its \$900 million goal. The campaign goal was subsequently raised to \$1 billion.*

“I have known and worked with Dave and Jane since they came to the University in 1998, and I don’t know of anyone who has worked harder for the development of a University than these two. They were instrumental in the most successful fundraising effort to date in raising over \$1 billion for the University of Arkansas. Since his elevation to Chancellor our school now enjoys the highest rankings in its history among several colleges and for the University as a whole. David Gearhart is certainly one of the very best chancellors of a major university in the country and will be very difficult to replace. I wish he and Jane the very best as they take a well-deserved break from the position of Chancellor of the University of Arkansas.”

*Reynie Rutledge, of Searcy, is a member of the UA Board of Trustees, UA alumnus, chairman and CEO of First Security Bank. He has served on the Sam M.*

*Walton College of Business Executive Advisory Board and was recognized with the Chancellor's Medal for distinguished service to his alma mater.*

“The vision and extraordinary leadership of Dave Gearhart has been integral in the continued growth and development of the University of Arkansas in both enrollment and national reputation. His tireless efforts on behalf of our students has transformed our institution and positively impacted our entire state. His unwavering support of our intercollegiate athletics program and the more than 460 student-athletes who compete as Razorbacks, has allowed us to field one of the most successful athletics programs in the nation.

“I will forever be grateful to Chancellor Gearhart for his role in helping bring me to the University of Arkansas. I look forward to working alongside him in the remainder of his tenure as Chancellor and want to wish him, his wife Jane and the entire Gearhart family the very best in his upcoming retirement.”

*Jeff Long, vice chancellor for athletics and Arkansas director of athletics*

“I'd like to thank Chancellor Gearhart for all he has done for the University. We have made tremendous progress under his leadership and he will be sorely missed. On behalf of the faculty, we have greatly appreciated not only the respect he has demonstrated for us, but that you have included us as active partners in the growth of this campus. Both he and Jane have been such gracious hosts and effective advocates for the university. This campus is a much better place because of Chancellor Gearhart.”

*John Rupe, professor of plant pathology in Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences, chair of the Campus Senate*