

It is a pleasure and an honor to welcome all of you to this 75th Birthday Celebration of Jackson Library, on behalf of Dean Joss and the GSB. I'm standing in for Dean Joss, who unfortunately cannot be here today. Dean Joss did email in some remarks that I would like to read....

As I began to think about what to say in these remarks, I thought first of the place of libraries in schools and universities. We're building a new campus, and it is no coincidence that the signature building on the new campus, the building that will be in the postcards, that people will think of as THE VIEW of the Knight Management Center, and the background to 10,000 subsequent powerpoint presentations, will be the new library. The architects simply assumed that this would be the center of the campus. No question about it: The library is at the center of the campus and is the signature building. They assumed this would be so, and no one thought to question this hypothesis.

And, as I think about other campuses that I've visited, the monumental buildings, the centers, are more often than not, the library. In fact, in a historical sense, many universities were built around great libraries---the founding gifts of a number of great colleges and universities, including one that sits on the banks of the Charles River and whose name will not escape my lips, was a gift of 400 books that formed the core of the library of the new college.

Why is this? Why are libraries so often the monuments and centers of centers of learning? It is clear---because the library is the place where knowledge is stored. Universities and colleges are where knowledge is created and imparted, they deal in the flow of knowledge, and the center of any such operation will be where the stock of knowledge is kept and accessed, the library.

So it has been with Jackson Library. For 75 years, Jackson Library has been at the center of the Graduate School of Business. Some believe that, in this new age of electronic information, this will no longer be so. But I think those who believe this are wrong. In another 75 years, the shape and form of the Jackson Library will probably be different, in ways we can only begin to imagine. But I'm willing to bet that the library will still be at the geographical and, more importantly, the intellectual center of the GSB. So here is to 75 great years, and also to the next great 75.