

NEW COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE

NEW COLLEGE, SARASOTA, FLORIDA
FURMAN C. ARTHUR — INFORMATION

SARASOTA--New colleges will continue to be developed throughout the country, New College President John Elmendorf told members of the Ivy League Club Tuesday, for new needs for our society demand new ideas, new approaches, and new possibilities.

In a talk which he called "The Geography of Excellence," Dr. Elmendorf told Ivy Leaguers that in recent years "dynamic new institutions, experimenting with 'quality education'" have appeared.

"Each contributed new ideas, new vitality, new opportunities, and their graduates in increasing numbers brought pressures on your graduate schools for continued studies at ever higher levels of excellence," he said.

Summing up a segment of history of higher education in the United States, Dr. Elmendorf said that the "aristocracy of learning," the Ivy League, could be depended upon to produce the nation's leadership.

About 100 years ago, thought, the dramatic increase in higher education began, said the New College president. Land grant colleges grew in numbers and in size. Enrollments soared.

In the midst of this explosion the undergraduate colleges of the traditional Ivy colleges remained relatively stable. But the demand for quality education led to the founding of other institutions.

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Still another phenomenon has been the founding by some of the very large universities of "smaller centers of excellence in their midst," and he cited Monteith College of Wayne State University and the recently announced experiment at Florida State University. They are characterized by selectivity of students, independence, flexibility, development of responsibility, strong orientation toward learning, and the development of maturity. "It is in this frame of reference that New College was born here," said President Elmendorf. Citing the fact that others will follow he said "some will be good, some bad, some excellent, some mediocre. Those who opt for excellence will have the hardest time -- finding faculty, facilities, and above all, students capable of being prepared for leadership roles in society." He said such colleges will need the financial support of the public to provide scholarships, buildings, and other needs, and if the progress of excellence in education -- begun in the U.S.A. over 300 years ago -- is not to stop, we are going to have to find it."