

**Duke University**  
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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
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September 13, 1996

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Mr. David H. Manning  
22 West 90th Street, 5F  
New York, New York 10024

Dear Mr. Manning:

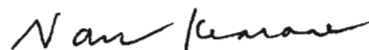
Thank you for your thoughtful letter of September 3. I am struck by your comment about the absence of references to art, in both the literal and the more symbolic sense, in our statements these days about Duke's character and purposes.

I read with special interest your comments on what Duke felt like in the 1960's and the invigorating implications of bringing the arts more centrally into focus on campus. I know you will be pleased to learn that the Provost is establishing a task force on the arts this fall in order to raise the visibility of the various arts activities on campus and coordinate them better. We will be discussing facility needs, program priorities, and the general role of the arts at Duke. I hope that the participants in this task force, who represent all the major arts activities on campus, will make some excellent and doable suggestions for moving the arts closer to the center of what we do here these days.

I agree with your observations about the special importance of creativity and imagination on campus, as well as more generally the central role of intellectual excitement. The decision to put all first-year students together on East Campus has turned out to be a very good one. Not only did we obliterate the distinction between East and West that was presented so disastrously to your friend's daughter when she came to visit, but we have also exposed the students early on to the arts facilities and the community environment that are special features of East. I think it will make a profound difference in the attitudes of Duke undergraduates over the future years.

Thanks again for taking time to respond to my plea for help with understanding the "Let Duke Be Duke" mantra. Your perspective is certainly among the most appealing I have heard.

Yours sincerely,



Nannerl O. Keohane