Borland said it nicely when he said, “year’s end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us.”

Good-evening, As the President of River Valley Community College, it is my absolute pleasure to welcome you to the first annual President’s Holiday Reception in honor of our faculty and staff.

It is my pleasure to introduce my husband Major Donald W. Smith and my brother Carlisle Conrade Harvey III who have joined me tonight. I would also like to recognized members from the RVCC Advisory Board and other special guests and thank each of you for joining us for this special night.

The long patch of road stretched on forever,

Oh, if the road could speak

Telling the tales of its travelers

Seeking renewal

The rain cleansed the weather beaten paths and ushered in a new day for passage

Just barely over the horizon, a glimpse of forever

Long road traveled collapsing invisibly as time passed

Forgetting not those who traveled, struggling for new beginnings and

Renewal in times of uncertainty

On August 20, we began our first semester together. I shared the poem “Renewal’, from my book Eclectic Insights as it perfectly fit where we were as a college, as we set out on a journey to elevate River Valley Community College to its next level of success by “Envisioning The Future – Our Future By Design”.

It’s hard to believe how quickly the semester has flown or that Christmas is less than two weeks away. As I reflect upon the vision that I shared and the work that
is emerging through our redesign process, I am so proud of our accomplishments. We are preparing a detailed report delineating benchmarks and successes achieved during this period for wide distribution in the spring.

We are still in a phase of renewal, where we have come over a long patch of road; that appeared to stretch on forever to a place of re-examination and envisioning of a new path, a new road, and a new beginning.

There is still much work to done and community to build, yet I am more confident than ever, that together, we will do it.

The vision remains that River Valley Community College will be a leader in “Innovation, Instructional Pedagogy, Student Services and in the establishment of solid Corporate and Business Partnerships” that will enable us to provide greater access to students throughout the region and beyond.

As we build our infrastructure and remain committed to having the right people, in the right seats, with the right tools, moving in the same direction, our vision will most assuredly manifest.

“As the rain cleansed the weather beaten paths of our yesterdays, it has also ushered in a new day for passage” for each of us and for each of the students that we serve.

As we celebrate this holiday, one that symbolizes hope and new beginnings, I invite you to once again envision the future. Envision the possibilities that lie before us and what will be required from each of us to get there. I ask for a recommitment to RVCC and its students as we make 2014 the most amazing year ever!

I wish for each of us, renewed excitement, passion, optimism, creativity and determination in pursuit of positive outcomes, knowing that our future will be what we make it and that we will succeed or fail together.
I ask that we believe, plan, work and support each other through this exciting quest. My family and I wish you much peace and joy during this season and I look forward to your safe return as we continue this important work of transformation and redesign.

In closing,

I wish each of you a happy and prosperous new year and as Rajma states, “may your walls know joy, may every room hold laughter, and every window open to great possibility."

Happy holidays and enjoy the rest of the evening.

Thank You!