

MATRICULATION REMARKS
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AUGUST 22, 2020

SWORDS UP CAV NATION ... SWORDS UP! WELCOME!

WELCOME AND THANK YOU DR DUNPHY ... 2020 HAS BEEN QUITE A YEAR AND ITS ONLY AUGUST!

IN MARCH, IF YOU WERE ATTENDING A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SCHOOL, YOU WERE SENT HOME AND JOINED WITH THOSE WHO WERE OBTAINING THEIR HIGH SCHOOL CREDENTIALS BY OTHER MEANS ... THUS RADICALLY CHANGING YOUR FINAL YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL, A YEAR TO WHICH YOU HAD BEEN LOOKING FORWARD WITH EXCITEMENT AND ANTICIPATION FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

THE CLASS OF 2020 HAD TO FIND INNOVATIVE WAYS TO CELEBRATE THE MILESTONE OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION IN THE MIDST OF YOUR 'PEARL HARBOR MOMENT.'

YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY CELEBRATED WITH YOU VIRTUALLY, THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA, BY DRIVING BY YOUR HOUSE WITH SIGNS AND HONKING THEIR HORNS FOR ALL THE WORLD TO HEAR AND SEE, AND COUNTLESS OTHER WAYS, TO CELEBRATE YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

THIS IS WHAT WE DO IN AMERICA – WE HONOR ACHIEVEMENT. YOU OVERCAME MUCH AND DID NOT GIVE UP. YOU PERSEVERED. YOU WERE KNOCKED DOWN ... AND GOT BACK UP!

THOSE THREE WORDS I OFFERED YOU IN YOUR ORIENTATION THIS SUMMER I OFFER AGAIN TODAY ... GET BACK UP.

THIS IS THE SECRET TO YOUR CONTINUED SUCCESS ... IT IS A CHOICE ... AND WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU SEE THE JOY OF SUCH A CHOICE.

TODAY, WE CELEBRATE ANOTHER MILESTONE – THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT CHAPTER OF YOUR LIVES. TODAY, WE CELEBRATE YOUR MATRICULATION INTO COLLEGE. TODAY, WE CELEBRATE YOU!

WALSH UNIVERSITY IS COMPRISED OF NEARLY 375 FULLTIME EDUCATORS IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM ... ACROSS THE CAMPUS ... PLUS COUNTLESS ADJUNCT AND

VOLUNTEERS WHO LOVE THIS MISSION TO SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND ZEST FOR LIFE ... THEY ARE ALL HERE FOR OUR 2,600 STUDENTS.

AND KNOW, THEY ARE HERE FOR YOU, TOO ... TO HELP YOU GET BACK UP.

OUR ROLE – OUR MISSION – OUR DUTY COMES TO US FROM OUR DESIRE TO FURTHER A 200-YEAR LEGACY OF THE BROTHERS OF CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTION. THESE FAITHFUL MEN HAVE DEDICATED TWO CENTURIES TO PROVIDING ACCESS TO EDUCATION, ROOTED IN OUR CATHOLIC INTELLECTUAL TRADITION, AND WE BATHE OURSELVES IN THAT MISSION DEDICATED TO YOUR EDUCATION – A HIGHER LEVEL OF EDUCATION – ON THIS WONDERFUL JOURNEY FOR A FULFILLING AND REWARDING LIFE.

AS WE CARRY ON THE BROTHERS’ TRADITION, WE WELCOME OUR NEW STUDENTS TODAY TO THE WALSH UNIVERSITY FAMILY. THE EXPERIENCES YOU WILL HAVE ON YOUR CAMPUS IN THE TIME THAT LIES BEFORE US WILL PREPARE YOU TO ‘TAKE YOUR PLACE’ IN THE WORLD, AS INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE COMMITTED TO IMPROVING NOT JUST YOUR OWN LIVES ... BUT ALSO THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO CROSS YOUR PATH.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO PREPARING YOU TO BE LEADERS IN SERVICE TO OTHERS ... CERTAINLY.

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU BECOME MEN AND WOMEN WHO WILL SERVE OTHERS. WHO WILL BE LESS CONCERNED WITH DOING ‘SOMETHING’ AND MORE CONCERNED ABOUT BEING ‘SOMEONE.’

THIS IS OUR CALL ... AND NOW IT IS YOURS, AS WELL.

YOU EACH ‘TAKE YOUR PLACE’ TODAY ON A JOURNEY TO PREPARE FOR NOT JUST A JOB ... BUT YOUR VERY LIFE’S PURPOSE!

YOU HAVE CHOSEN AN APPROACH WHEN YOU SELECTED WALSH UNIVERSITY – AN APPROACH TO ENSURE YOU HAVE THE INTELLECTUAL, MORAL, EMOTIONAL, SOCIAL, PHYSICAL, AND SPIRITUAL TOOLS FOR A LIFE OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP.

THIS COMMUNITY – FACULTY AND STAFF – CAV NATION – HAS TAKEN THEIR PLACE TO SERVE YOU – TO PREPARE YOU – TO BE THERE FOR YOU – CONTINUING A 932 YEAR EFFORT, INVENTED BY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTECTING, GENERATING, AND TRANSMITTING HIGHER LEVELS OF KNOWLEDGE.

THE ROAD AHEAD WILL NOT BE EASY – IT SHOULD NOT BE EASY – IT CANNOT BE EASY. SETTING ASIDE YOUR OWN NEEDS AND DESIRES FOR OTHERS IS A DAUNTING TASK.

FOR THE DESTINY OF THE WORLD WILL BE IN YOUR HANDS – WALSH UNIVERSITY WILL GET YOU READY! IN LIFE – AS IN FOOTBALL – YOU WON'T GO FAR UNLESS YOU KNOW WHERE THE GOAL POSTS ARE.

TODAY WE SHOW YOU THEY ARE RIGHT HERE – WHERE I AM STANDING – AND IN FOUR YEARS YOU WILL APPROACH ME AGAIN, SURROUNDED BY ALL OF US AGAIN, SOME OF US IN OUR TRADITIONAL ACADEMIC REGALIA, WITH ALL OF US HERE TO HONOR YOU FOR AN ACHIEVEMENT YOU WILL HAVE EARNED – EARNED – YOUR DEGREE IN HIGHER EDUCATION.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO YOUR SUCCESS. WE ARE COMMITTED TO HELPING YOU BECOME BETTER SELVES. WE ARE COMMITTED TO HELPING YOU GET BACK UP AS YOU EXPERIENCE THE UPS AND DOWNS THAT ARE INEVITABLE WHEN YOU ARE DOING SOMETHING BIGGER THAN YOURSELF.

TO THE FAMILIES – AND ON BEHALF OF MY COLLEAGUES – THANK YOU FOR ENTRUSTING THESE STUDENTS TO OUR CARE.

WE WILL NOT FALTER ... WE WILL NOT FAIL YOU.

THE WORLD IS AN UNPREDICTABLE PLACE THESE DAYS. WE NEVER KNOW WHAT TOMORROW WILL BRING, BUT YOU CAN TRUST THAT WE WILL REMAIN TRUE TO OUR COMMITMENT TO SERVE STUDENTS, PREPARING THEM FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE, AND TO HELPING EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM TO UNLOCK THE INDIVIDUAL POTENTIAL THAT GOD SEEKS IN HIS DESIGN.

TRUSTING IN GOD'S GRACE AND THE CONTINUED PRAYERS OF OUR PATRONESS – OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP – WE KNOW – ARE CONVINCED TO OUR CORE – THAT OUR PURPOSE IS NOBLE AND OUR MISSION TO BUILD LEADERS IN SERVICE TO OTHERS – WITH A SET OF VALUES – IN THE JUDEA-CHRISTIAN TRADITION ... IS SAFEGUARDED.

LASTLY, TO OUR STUDENTS, I LEAVE YOU WITH TWO FINAL WORDS IN A SINGLE THOUGHT ... YOU ROCK!

WORDS UP!