

**WALSH UNIVERSITY
DPT KEYNOTE ADDRESS
DR. TIM COLLINS
MAY 7, 2021
FINAL**

SWORDS UP!

DEAN, DR MURRAY, COLLEAGUES, GRADUATES, FAMILIES, AND FRIENDS.

WHAT A JOY IT IS FOR ME TO BE OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY THIS EVENING TO SHARE SOME THOUGHTS AS A KEYNOTE ADDRESS.

KEY.

NOTE.

THAT IS A TALL ORDER, DR. PHILLIPS.

BUT LET'S LAY THE GROUND WORK ...

THIS HAS BEEN A LONG ROAD FOR YOU FOLKS.

THE PURSUIT OF A DOCTORATE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY DEGREE IS HARD ENOUGH WITH RIGOROUS COURSEWORK, LONG HOURS SPENT IN CLINICAL ROTATIONS, STUDYING, STUDYING, AND MORE STUDYING.

ADDED TO THE MIX HAS BEEN THE EMERGENCE OF A GLOBAL PANDEMIC.

SUDDENLY, EVERYONE – I MEAN EVERYONE—HAD TO PIVOT ... SCRAMBLE TO TRANSLATE A VERY HANDS-ON PROFESSION INTO VIRTUAL CONTENT ... WITHOUT CLINICALS ... AND THE NEED TO SHOW COMPETENCY IN NEW WAYS.

AND YET, YOU PERSEVERED. YOU WERE FLEXIBLE. YOU OVERCAME CHALLENGES, FACED UNCERTAINTY, AND EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS AT EVERY STEP.

ALL OF THIS IS VERY UNUSUAL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND IT'S NOT USUALLY "LIKE THIS" IN THE REAL WORLD.

MYTH BUSTER!

THIS IS THE ROUTINE LIFE OF A PROFESSIONAL ... IN NEARLY EVERY PROFESSION. NOW

ALWAYS SOMETHING ... NEVER THE SAME ... NEVER UNEVENTFUL.

AND Y' ALL HANDLED ALL OF THESE VARIOUS PRESSURE POINTS WITH BOTH STYLE AND GRACE.

SO NOW YOU SEE MY DILEMMA TONIGHT, BOBBY.

A KEYNOTE SPEAKER IS SUPPOSED TO INSPIRE HIS AUDIENCE, BUT IT IS YOU WHO HAVE INSPIRED ME!

BABE RUTH ONCE COMMENTED, "YOU CAN'T BEAT THE PERSON WHO WON'T GIVE UP."

NONE OF YOU IN THIS ROOM TONIGHT GAVE UP. YOU WERE NOT BEATEN.

THIS CELEBRATION TONIGHT IS EVEN SWEETER AS WE PAUSE IN THE MOMENT TO CELEBRATE YOUR ACHIEVEMENT ... AND EACH OF YOU!

THIS YEAR, AS WALSH CELEBRATES ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY, THE AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION IS CELEBRATING ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY – 100 YEARS OF ADVANCING THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST PRACTICE PAVING THE WAY FOR YOU AS YOU JOIN THE NATION'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IN THIS CAPACITY.

THAT PLACES THE ADDITIONAL BURDEN ON YOUR SHOULDERS TO "SET COURSE" FOR YOUR CHOSEN PROFESSION FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS!

RECENTLY, THE FOLKS THAT DEVELOP MORTALITY TABLES FOR THE LIFE INSURANCE INDUSTRY TELL US THAT A NEWBORN IN 2020 WILL LIVE TO BE 120!

THESE BODY PARTS ARE NOT "BUILT TO LAST" LIKE THAT!

WE WILL ALL NEED Y' ALL TO KEEP THESE MOTORS RUNNING!

YOU WILL DO THAT AS YOU JOIN A GROWING FAMILY OF PRACTITIONERS WHO HAVE DEDICATED THEMSELVES TO THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF OTHERS.

WHICH IS HOW YOU BEGAN YOUR PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION ... JOINING A UNIVERSITY THAT EDUCATES OTHERS WITH VERY SIMILAR VALUES.

WALSH UNIVERSITY STRIVES TO PREPARE LEADERS – MEN AND WOMEN – IN SERVICE TO OTHERS.

I THINK ALL OF YOU BEAR WITNESS TO OUR CALLING.

AND THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS WE CAN DO VERY LITTLE OURSELVES ... IT TAKES OTHERS TO HELP US ACHIEVE OUR GOALS.

HERE AT WALSH UNIVERSITY ... OUR WORKFORCE MAKES OUR MISSION “COME ALIVE” ... MEN AND WOMEN HERE TO SERVE.

AS WE ALL KNOW, OUR COLLEAGUES ON OUR FACULTY AND STAFF HAVE SUPPORTED YOU AS YOU HAVE WORKED TO EARN YOUR CREDENTIALS. WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE SUCH A GREAT TEAM IN THIS PROGRAM AND IN OUR MIDST.

PLEASE ... IF I MAY ... WOULD YOU JOIN ME IN SHOWING THEM OUR APPRECIATION FOR THEIR HARD WORK.

WE ALSO WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE CRITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY HAVE MADE ON THIS JOURNEY, THE FOLKS THAT HAVE BEEN IN YOUR CORNER SINCE DAY ONE ... THEY HAVE BEEN WITH YOU IN THE VALLEYS AND ON THE HILLTOPS THROUGHOUT THIS EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY ... CHEERED WHEN IT WENT WELL AND PERHAPS NUDGED YOU WHEN IT DIDN'T ... AND HAVE HELPED BRING YOU TO THIS MOMENTOUS OCCASION TONIGHT.

GRADUATES, CAN WE STAND UP AND ACKNOWLEDGE OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS?

THE END OF YOUR DEGREE IS NOT THE END OF THE STORY ... IT IS BUT AN INTERMISSION AS WE TURN THE PAGE OF LIFE TO A NEW CHAPTER.

YOU WILL HAVE MANY EXPERIENCES, MANY JOYS, AND MANY CHALLENGES AS YOU CONTINUE ON YOUR JOURNEY.

I WOULD LOVE TO TELL YOU THAT WITH YOUR DEGREE EVERYTHING GETS EASIER.

THAT WOULD BE UNCHARITABLE ... IT DOESN'T.

IN FACT, IT GETS HARDER.

YOU NOW MUST GIVE ASCENT TO A DIFFERENT SENSE OF EXPECTATIONS ... A DIFFERENT LEVEL OF MATURITY ... A GROWING DEPENDENCY THAT OTHERS WILL PLACE ON YOU AS YOU SHED A DEGREE OF DEPENDENCY YOU HAVE HAD ON OTHERS.

BUT ISN'T THAT WHAT SERVICE IS ALL ABOUT?

HELPING OTHERS THAT TURN TO YOU?

SO LET ME OFFER THAT TROUBLE COMES AND GOES.

NO ONE IS FOREVER FREE OF IT.

IF I HAD A FORMULA OR AN ENGINEERING CALCULATION FOR BYPASSING TROUBLE, I WOULDN'T GIVE IT TO YOU.

TROUBLE CREATES A CAPACITY TO HANDLE IT.

I DON'T SAY EMBRACE TROUBLE ... THAT'S AS BAD AS TREATING IT AS AN ENEMY.

BUT I DO SAY MEET IT AS A FRIEND – HEAD ON – FOR YOU WILL SEE LOTS OF IT AND HAD BEST BE ON SPEAKING TERMS WITH IT.

SO HOW DOES ONE MOVE FORWARD FROM THIS MOMENT, TONIGHT, TOWARDS THAT NEXT EXPERIENCE THAT AWAITS YOU AFTER COMMENCEMENT?

SEEMS SIMPLE ENOUGH ... “KEEP GOING” ... “KEEP MOVING” ... SORT OF AS EASY AS 1 – 2 – 3

1. IT ALL BEGINS WITH BEING ON TIME.

BE ON TIME FOR YOUR PATIENTS ... FOR YOUR COLLEAGUES FOR YOUR FRIENDS ... FOR YOUR SELF-STUDY AND CONTINUING EDUCATION.

MAKE TIME FOR SELF-IMPROVEMENT AND BE ON TIME FOR THOSE EFFORTS.

A HALLMARK OF YOUR EDUCATION AT WALSH UNIVERSITY IS LIFE-LONG LEARNING.

YOU HAVE TO PLAN IT ... YOU HAVE TO BE COMMITTED TO IT ... YOU HAVE TO START IT ON TIME.

FOR INSTANCE, I ENCOURAGE YOU TO READ.

READ A LOT ... WHEN YOU ARE TIRED READ MORE!

WHY?

BECAUSE READING IMPROVES YOUR ABILITY TO REASON, TO COMMUNICATE, AND PROVIDES YOU AN EXTENDED AND ACCURATE VOCABULARY.

SEEM LIKE IMPORTANT SKILLS FOR ANYONE HEALING OTHERS WITH PHYSICAL THERAPY?

FOR YOU SEE, RESEARCH HAS LONG SHOWN A CORRELATION BETWEEN THE TIME A PERSON SPENDS READING AND THE NUMBER OF INNOVATIVE IDEAS AND CREATIVE SOLUTIONS A PERSON HAS.

HOW TO START NOW THAT YOUR FORMAL EDUCATION IS COMPLETED?

START WITH A BOOK-A-MONTH ... IN 10 YEARS YOU ARE 120 BOOK SMARTER.

IN MY OWN LIFE, I HAVE A GOAL FOR 55 BOOKS A YEAR ... BETTER THAN A BOOK-A-WEEK ...

SO ... BE ON TIME FOR YOUR READING, TOO!

BUT BEING ON TIME AND BEING PRESENT IS NOT ENOUGH

2. YOU HAVE TO BE COMMITTED – COMMITTED – TO OVERCOMING TROUBLE AND NOT GIVE UP.

CS LEWIS REMINDS US THAT EXPERIENCE IS THE MOST BRUTAL OF TEACHERS.

THE SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS, AS IT WERE ... NOT FOR THE FAINT HEARTED.

OTHERS WILL COME TO YOU FOR HELP ... THEY EXPECT YOU TO ASSIST THEM IN OVERCOMING THEIR AILMENTS OR FINDING NEW WAYS FOR A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE ... THEY ARE NOT COMING TO BE DEFEATED.

LEAD!

LEAD WITH CONTINUING TO WORK THE ISSUES ... OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES ... WITH GREAT EMPATHY AND MODEL FOR OTHERS THE ATTITUDE NEEDED SO AS NOT TO QUIT.

YOU DIDN'T QUIT THIS PT PROGRAM ... AND ON A DAY OR TWO ALONG THE WAY YOU LIKELY CONSIDERED DOING SO ... THAT IS LIFE AND THAT MOJO YOU STIRRED UP IN YOURSELF NEEDS TO BE SHARED!

DON'T GIVE UP WHEN TROUBLE KNOCKS ... DON'T LET OTHERS GIVE UP WHEN TROUBLE KNOCKS.

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT INGREDIENTS TO NOT GIVING IN OR GIVING UP IS ...

3. REINFORCE THAT YOU CAN AND SHOULD BELIEVE IN YOURSELF.

THAT IS A LITTLE BIT OF WHAT TONIGHT IS ALL ABOUT ...

HENRY FORD WAS ONCE ASKED, HOW CAN I BECOME A SUCCESS?

HE REPLIED, "IF YOU START SOMETHING ... FINISH IT!"

THIS WAS A LESSON HE LEARNED EARLY.

FOR YOU SEE, HE WAS HAVING THE TIME OF HIS LIFE ... EATING AND SLEEPING LITTLE ... AS HE WENT ABOUT BUILDING THAT FIRST AUTOMOBILE. IT WAS EXCITING WORK!

BUT OVER TIME, HE REALIZED HOW INFERIOR THE PRODUCT WAS GOING TO BE ... HE KNEW WHAT HE HAD TO DO IN ORDER TO MAKE THE CAR EVEN BETTER ... SO WHY CONTINUE WORKING ON SOMETHING HE ALREADY KNEW WAS NOT GOING TO BE GOOD ENOUGH?

BECAUSE HE BELIEVED IN HIMSELF ... HE WAS A DREAMER.

SOMETHING INSIDE FORCED HIM TO FINISH THE JOB AND STILL DREAM ABOUT HOW HIS CREATIVE TALENTS COULD DO EVEN MORE THE NEXT TIME.

AS IT TURNED OUT, HE MADE A BETTER SECOND AUTOMOBILE BECAUSE HE FINISHED EVERY DETAIL OF THAT FIRST ONE.

HE BELIEVED IN HIS OWN ABILITIES TO TAKE WHAT HE LEARNED AND MAKE SOMETHING BETTER FOR OTHERS.

THINK ABOUT THIS ... WHAT IF HE LOST INTEREST AND HAD GIVEN INTO THE TEMPTATION TO STOP WORK ON AUTOMOBILE #1?

IT IS POSSIBLE THAT #2 WOULD HAVE NEVER COME ALONG!

ALL OF THAT IS TO SAY, GRADUATES, ... MANY PEOPLE STRIVE TO BE PERFECTIONISTS.

{ASK ME HOW I KNOW!}

IT IS JUST TRUE ... THAT THOSE WHO MEET TROUBLE HEAD ON AND BECOME THE COMPLETIONISTS ARE THE ONES WHO ACCOMPLISH MORE IN LIFE.

SO THERE YOU HAVE IT ... EASY AS 1, 2, 3.

BE ON TIME. DON'T GIVE UP. HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF.

YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED YOU CAN DO ALL THREE – SIMULTANEOUSLY – DURING YOUR EXPERIENCE HERE AT WALSH UNIVERSITY.

YOU GOT THIS!

FINALLY, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT DRENDA AND ME ARE PROUD OF YOU AND WILL BE PRAYING FOR YOU.

YOU HAVE CHOSEN A LIFE OF SERVICE, THROUGH A PROFESSION WITH STRONG VALUES AND IMMENSE IMPACT ... AND WE HOPE WALSH UNIVERSITY HAS HELPED TO NURTURE A SERVANT'S HEART AS YOU GO ABOUT YOUR WORK.

YOUR TIME WITH WALSH UNIVERSITY HAS PREPARED YOU FOR THE PROFESSIONAL WORLD AND HOW TO PROVIDE COMPASSIONATE SERVICE TO OTHERS.

YOU ARE READY TO TAKE YOUR PLACE ... TAKE WITH YOU THE WIND OF WALSH UNIVERSITY AT YOUR BACK KNOWING THAT GOD HIMSELF WILL GRANT THE INCREASE.

I ASK THE FIRST LADY OF WALSH UNIVERSITY ... KNOWN AROUND THE WORLD AS OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP ... FOR HER INTERSESSION AND PRAYERS FOR OUR GRADUATES, OUR TEAM OF COLLEAGUES AT WALSH UNIVERSITY, OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS, THAT EACH GRADUATE HERE TONIGHT WILL BRING HEALING TO A WORLD OF PAIN, WILL BE A BEACON OF JOY AND HOPE TO OTHERS WHO ARE SEEKING A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE, AND THAT THROUGH THEIR SERVICE TO OTHERS WILL SEE THE FACE OF CHRIST IN EACH ONE OF THEM.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

SWORDS UP!