

1949 Freshman Convocation

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FRESHMAN CLASS

PRESIDENT STOKE, DEAN CALDWELL, MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY AND STAFF AND ESPECIALLY MEMBERS OF THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY CLASS OF 1953:

It gives me keen personal pleasure to add my greetings to those so eloquently expressed by the President of the University. As a class, I suppose, you ^{are destined} ~~will~~ speedily acquire a nickname. Perhaps, it will be "the lean class", or, ^{maybe you} ~~perhaps,~~ ^{know as} it will be, "the leap year class", to signify that, relatively small in numbers, you have a status not enjoyed this year by hundreds who would like to be with you but who ~~must do~~ ^{have been permitted to allow them} ~~for their plans to enter the University as Louisiana~~ ^{wait to grow for another year} ~~adds a year to its preparatory system.~~ ^{The appellation} ~~I hope you will collectively merit is that of~~ ^{"the lean class."}

You, as Freshman men and women students, are privileged to undertake a new and stimulating educational venture. It is one ~~which is~~ unlimited in its potentialities in terms of your individual development, in terms of your individual plans and aspirations, in terms of your future happiness and in terms of your ability to gain all the satisfaction which accompanies the ^{glorious experience} ~~acquisition~~ of a higher education.

On an occasion such as this, it ~~has~~ ^{is} ~~ever been~~ the ^{usual} custom to mete out advice. Youth will not always heed it. The result is ever what one makes it. Dean Caldwell has kindly allotted three minutes ^{for my part in} ~~to me on~~ this program. I should like to devote the first, the second, and the third of that allocation to advice - advice, though it be obvious, concerning the importance of diligent application to your studies if you are to make a success of the opportunity ^{that} ~~which~~ now unfolds before you.

It is related that a great monarch once asked Euclid whether there were ^{not some} ~~any more~~ easier way to master mathematical science than the method of application to study being then exacted even of a mighty prince. Euclid's ^{wise} reply has become classic; he simply said "there is no royal road to geometry." I ^{trust} ~~hope~~ that this Freshman class will not try to ^{find} ~~see~~ a non-^{existing} ~~existent~~ royal or easy road to the acquisition of learning. There

is no ^{certain} ~~sure~~ pathway save along the roadway of diligent application to ^{your respective} ~~the~~ educational tasks as they are assigned to you from day to day. My ^{whole lot of} advice is to acquire sound study habits from the very start. In this manner, the road can be made less rugged and you can make ^{of} it a joyful and meaningful intellectual experience. You can experience ~~the~~ thrills ~~and~~ ~~pleasures~~ that come from a task well performed, ^{that} ~~from~~ ^{come} ~~from~~ exhilarating explorations into new fields and new ideas. ^{of course,} L.S.U. does not expect that you all become book-worms, but the University expects and exacts of you a standard of competence which you must be able to meet.)

As one college President ^{has} put it: "Vague good intentions will not do. No amount of piety will compensate for a sloppy job in the classroom or in the laboratory."

As I look over these eager faces ^{I believe} you will measure up, I wish you all well. You realize, I am sure, that your studies constitute the "main ^{text} ~~trust~~" ^{Do not let yourself be diverted.} Enjoy a well balanced college life; form new friends and associates

enjoy the fun of college,

1. but ^{Never} ~~do not~~ lose the habit of study. It is the
sole
only guaranty of your success in achieving ~~an~~ a sound
education, ~~as young men and women of L.S.U.~~

→ it will make your sojourn
here as young men and women
of L.S.U. worthwhile. May
intellectual achievements characterize -
the lean but learned class of
1953.