1949 Freshman Convocation

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Date: 1949-09-15

Repository Citation
PRESIDENT STOKÉ, 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 will speedily acquire a nickname. Perhaps, it will be "the lean class" or, perhaps, it will be "the leap year class", to signify that, relatively smaller in numbers, you have a status not enjoyed this year by hundreds who would like to be with you but who have been committed to allow their plans to enter the University as Louisiana State University's 1954 Freshmen. The application I hope you will collectively merit is that of "the class of 1954." 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 acquisition of a higher education.
On an occasion such as this, it has ever been the 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 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 now unfolds before you.

It is related that a great monarch once asked Euclid whether there were 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 reply has become classic; he simply said "there is no royal road to geometry." I hope that this Freshman class will not try to find a non-existing royal or easy road to the acquisition of learning. There
is no pathway save along the roadway of diligent application to educational tasks as they are assigned to you from day to day. My 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 it a joyful and meaningful intellectual experience. You can experience the thrills that come from a task well performed, from exhilarating explorations into new fields and new ideas. 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 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 trust." Enjoy a well-balanced college life; form new friends and associates.
enjoy the fun of college,

but do not lose the habit of study. It is the

sole
guaranty of your success in achieving a sound

education as young men and women of I.S.U.

It will make your sojourn here as young men and women

of I.S.U. worthwhile. May

intellectual achievements, character —

the lean but learned class of

1953.