



## Admitted Students – Celebration Day

March 31, 2012

9:00 a.m.

- Good morning everyone and thank you for joining us for today’s celebration—it is great to be with you as you consider carrying the John Carroll legacy and becoming a part of the Class of **2016**.
- Many colleges and universities would call you “the freshman class of **2012**” because at many places it might take you 4, 5, or 6 years to finish your degree at *their* institution. At John Carroll, we call you the Class of **2016** with confidence—because we know you will most certainly FINISH in May of 2016 when you will walk across our stage as a John Carroll graduate with a valuable degree in your hand.
- This year as part of our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary we have reflected on and celebrated our history and traditions, but now we to turn to our future. What challenges and opportunities lie ahead in a 21st century world? How can a John Carroll education inspire minds and transform lives for future generations? And, of course, what does that mean for you?
- Let me share with you what I see.
- I see a world in transition—we are already moving at a faster pace than anyone has ever experienced.
- There is a line in T.S. Eliot’s “Choruses from the rock”: ***Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?***
- In our ever-changing, globalizing world, social media and other communications technologies have become a force in how we relate to each other, share information, create knowledge, and solve problems.
- But making sense of all that takes an education that will open your eyes to the world—helping you make connections with information, to find relevance, and to use that knowledge to guide us.

- One example of how this is done at John Carroll is in the emerging field of crisis mapping, where Dr. Jen Ziemke from our political science department is an expert.
- Crisis mapping takes real-time data from social media, cell phone texts, and sophisticated mapping technology—to name a few sources—to provide up-to-the-minute situational awareness about an area under duress.
- Crisis maps have been used to help in Haiti, Japan, and Lybia. Everything from helping humanitarian aid get to earthquake victims to reporting election fraud and human rights violations.
- This is how academics—combined with the latest real-world tools and technology—help our campus live our mission and be of service to others.
- That’s just one example of how we provide the quality and excellence that you need to enter this ever-changing world.
- The John Carroll experience is much more than learning a set of skills for your first job. Research tells us that today’s top 10 in-demand jobs didn’t even exist in 2004.
- So, in essence, the question is this... How do you prepare students for jobs that do not yet exist... that are driven by technologies not yet invented? More deeply, how do we prepare you to be the leaders that CREATE those jobs and drive innovation in your fields of choice?
- The answer is a well-rounded, liberal-arts-based Jesuit education. It’s more relevant now than ever.
- A Jesuit education is focused on facing the tough questions head-on. It’s about educating people to be the top-performers at work and in the community because they can think, write, work as a team, and solve problems.
- Our alumni have demonstrated time and time again have that they can rise to a challenge in this way.
- **The world needs this kind of leadership. The world needs more John Carroll graduates.**
- But let us not get too far ahead of ourselves. For you students here today, I imagine your focus is your specific needs in the present: trying to confirm your intended majors, what student organizations you will join, which residence hall you want to live in, and, of course, how the food is.

- The main point that I hope you leave with today is this: **Through four years at John Carroll, we will constantly push you to learn more, analyze more deeply and think beyond yourself.**
- You will learn to ask yourself in meaningful and deliberate ways, “what am I good at?”, “where are my gifts and talents most needed in the world?” “How can I make the most difference in my life and the lives of others?”
- These are deep questions and they will play out in big and small ways for you we challenge and support you on your own journey.
- It is easy to be a proud president and brag about our successes, and there is much for us to celebrate today as well. Rather than tell you more about it, **I encourage you to experience it.**
- **Meet as many of the people in the John Carroll community as you can today.** As you cross our campus you have the opportunity interact with scores of student volunteers and interact over 100 faculty and staff.
- Today, I hope that you see what I see—**a community of inclusion** -- a place where people of different backgrounds and experiences learn with one another. A place where we strive to learn in an environment of mutual respect and collaboration—creating a John Carroll of which we can all be proud.
- I am proud of the 4,000 members of our campus community and the nearly 40,000 alumni and friends of the larger John Carroll family.
- I sincerely appreciate the commitment that your family will make to be a part of the John Carroll community. I know **you can be a Carroll success story in your own special way.**
- Thank you for being with us today.
- God bless John Carroll University. God bless you and your families.