

Commencement Speaker Introduction

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John Carroll University

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Thank you, Jeanne (Colleran). This is Jeanne's first graduation as Provost. I would like to take a moment to formally thank Jeanne for her hard work, service and dedication to make John Carroll University what it is today.

My thanks to all of you who join us on this joyful and wonderful occasion. It is a special pleasure to welcome everyone -- our graduating Class of 2015; and all who have come here to celebrate their accomplishments-- parents; family and friends; alumni; my colleagues the Carroll faculty and staff.

I am also joined on stage by our honorary degree recipients; commencement speaker; Alumni Medal Honorees; distinguished

guests; and the extremely dedicated members of the John Carroll Board of Directors.

I am pleased to welcome honorary degree recipient and our commencement speaker, David W. Short, Class of 1981, a member of the John Carroll University Board of Directors since 1999, and Chair of the Board for the last six years.

It is a personal delight as well to welcome honorary degree recipient, Rev. Casimir R. Bukala, S.J., a Carroll alum of 1954, a graduate degree recipient in 1955, and now 2015!! Fr. Bukala who has taught philosophy to generations of John Carroll students and often finds himself teaching the sons or daughters of former students.

Most importantly, on behalf of the entire John Carroll University community, I extend my congratulations to our 750

undergraduate and 208 graduate-degree recipients on this important occasion. I am proud to call you sons and daughters of John Carroll University.

There are other people here with us today who are also feeling incredibly proud...and relieved.

To thank them for all they have done, I invite the Class of 2015 to stand, turn around, and applaud your parents, grandparents, professors, and everyone else who supported you in your college experience.

Four years ago, the majority of you graduating today set foot on campus as freshmen. Chances are, your greatest concerns then were finding new friends and finding your way to class.

Today, many of the friends you've made along the way are like family to you, and you've earned your ***John Carroll*** degree, which is much more than a piece of paper or a credential.

Your Carroll education has given you a strong foundation of knowledge and skills that will transcend any job or career. It ***has*** prepared you for life.

Our graduates are known to be innovative, ethical leaders in the workplace, and in their communities. The world *needs* compassion, a message so often and well-articulated by Pope Francis: Human beings compelled to serve others, which is as meaningful and relevant today as ever.

Generations of Carroll faculty, staff, and administrators have inspired and challenged John Carroll students to think beyond themselves and to make lasting contributions to society through

their leadership and to see others' needs and to serve. Today we launch you, the Class of 2015, to do the same.

Many of you have found jobs and will enter the work force. You will begin careers at companies like: Eaton Corporation, Howard Hanna, Quicken Loans, Steris Corporation, The Sherwin-Williams Company and the Cleveland Clinic. Go confidently and take your John Carroll values out to communities near and far. Feel free to take your Carroll logo stuff too. You will find Carroll connections all over the world.

Others of you are headed to graduate programs at institutions we have know --- Duke University, Case Western Reserve University, Ohio State University, University of Michigan, University of Washington, Cleveland Marshall College of Law, Loyola of Chicago and University of Akron. Study hard, read often, and strive to become content experts. Continue to grow, continue to serve

and to make us proud. We wish you every success as you pursue your studies.

Others among you have committed to lives of service: in serving in the U.S. military; and others have committed to a year or more of service in volunteer roles teaching, living and serving others directly.

Thank you for your decision to serve others. Learn from your new surroundings. Let compassion guide your heart, and your desire to serve will guide your journey.

We are extraordinarily proud of all of you.

Please know that your education and engagement do not end today. You have been *alumni-in-training* these past four years.

Today, we send you forth as *alumni ambassadors* for John Carroll; you join a valuable network of over 41,911 other John Carroll

alumni.

I invite you to come back for Reunions and other University events; stay connected with your John Carroll friends and network; and participate in any other way you can.

John Carroll has taught you values that will serve you well for the rest of your lives. Lead lives of integrity and purpose, and be agents of positive change where you are and around the world.

May God's grace be with you and your families as you commence to this wonderful new phase of your lives.

(INTRODUCTION OF DAVID SHORT)

It is with great pleasure that I introduce our commencement speaker, David W. Short. Dave has served on the John Carroll University Board of Directors, since 1999 and as Board chair for

the last six years. His term was extended from the usual four years to six for good behavior! He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Communications at JCU in 1981. During his tenure as chair, he has celebrated numerous campus improvements including the Murphy Hall Renovation; decommissioning of the Bohannon Science Center; installation of the Hamlin Quad; the establishment of the Tim Russert Department of Communication and Theatre Arts in honor of Mr. Russert, a 1972 graduate; and the successful launch of the \$100 million Forever Carroll Campaign, which has raised \$86 million to date.

As a student at Carroll, Dave was a member of Iota Chi Upsilon (IXY), captain of the tennis team, and member of the soccer team. In his senior year, he was selected by his classmates to serve as Millor Orator for the 1981 Commencement exercises.

Dave returns to campus often, including every fall to play in the Dewey McCarthy Memorial soccer game, and he remains active with his fraternity, helping to raise funds for the IXY Scholarship, which benefits undergraduate students who are IXY legacy students.

He retired in 2008 as chairman and co-chief executive officer of the American Funds Group, an organization that manages in excess of \$1 trillion in funds for individual and institutional investors.

Since his retirement he has quietly given back at the grass roots level in his community supporting St. Joseph Catholic Church, Sharpsburg Worship Center, Pittsburgh Food Bank and the homeless, and the DZI Foundation. An avid cyclist, he rode his bike across the country in 2009, and rides twice his age every year on his birthday.

Dave and his wife, Beth, reside in Pittsburgh, where they have graciously hosted JCU freshman sendoffs at their home and many alumni events. They have four grown children: Sarah, David, Emily and Benjamin. David Jr. is a 2014 graduate of John Carroll.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in a warm John Carroll welcome for our 2015 commencement speaker, David W. Short.