

Logan College of Chiropractic Commencement Address  
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President Goodman and Dr. Elizabeth Goodman, distinguished faculty members, soon to be graduates of Logan College of Chiropractic, proud parents, family and friends. I am deeply honored to have been invited to deliver your commencement address.

Before I begin, I want to say a couple of things about Dr. George Goodman.

When I began my studies here in 1974, all I heard from upper classmen was how great George Goodman was and what I had missed by not having him as an instructor. I heard it tens of time...Goodman this and Goodman that. So what happens? Dr. Goodman comes back to Logan as president shortly after I graduate. Thanks a lot George for entirely skipping my years here.

And what a job he has done as president. I was in the first class that started on this beautiful campus. While the facilities were certainly adequate at that time and a great improvement over the Normandy

campus, there is no comparison to what they are today as a result of the efforts of Doctors George and Elizabeth Goodman.

When I visited last summer after being away for a few years, I unashamedly tell you that I had tears in my eyes when I saw all the magnificent buildings and improvements because I was overwhelmed with pride of being a graduate of Logan College of Chiropractic.

And you should have that same pride! Not just because Logan College now has the world's greatest chiropractic campus and buildings, but because of the first class, well rounded education you have received.

I know full well that the graduates not here to hear me. You are here to get that piece of paper that you worked so hard for. But before that happens, I hope I can make a point or two that you will remember.

I dare say that few if any of you remember anything your high school commencement speaker said. Or even your college commencement speaker for that matter. Well, I do.

31 years ago when I graduated from Logan College the commencement speaker was former ACA Chairman Dr. Ron Harris of Florida and he challenged the class of 1977 to return something to this profession. His comments motivated me greatly and if I'm able to that today for one, or two or three of you, I will be extremely satisfied.

You know, Commencement is an interesting word. Finally, after finishing 8 years of intensive study, the college awards you a degree in a ceremony that uses a word meaning "beginning." But that its exactly what this is. It is the commencement or beginning of your professional career.

As you begin your career, I hope you realize how fortunate you are to be just to be alive at this given time in the history of the world. Think about it. In all the 6,000 years of recorded history through all the wars, plagues and famines this is the best of all times.

But lets take it one step further. Of all the countries to have ever lived in throughout the recorded history of the world, this country, the United States of America is by far the best country to have ever lived

in. So in other words, not only are you living in the best of all times, you are living in the best of all countries.

And now you as a doctor of chiropractic are in the best of all professions. I guess what I'm trying to say is, appreciate it, savor it, cherish it...because it doesn't get any better than this.

Today, chiropractic care is accepted. It is covered under the Medicare, state workers compensation laws and doctors of chiropractic serve on licensing boards as equal partners with medical and osteopathic physicians,

Moreover, members of the armed forces and our nation's veterans can avail themselves of chiropractic services and that occurred in no small part due to Dr. George Goodman as a member of the Department of Defense advisory committee and Dr. Cindy Vaughn – my beautiful wife and practice partner – as a member of the Veterans Affairs Advisory Committees and I congratulate you both for those historic achievements.

Chiropractic has finally been discovered by the world. As a result of that discovery and acceptance, the future for you is bright indeed!

But those accomplishments did not just happen. The major reason that we have it so good today is because of the sacrifices past generations made for us.

I want to take just a few moments to discuss a pioneer hero who you may not be familiar with. I want you to meet a gentleman named Dr. Lyndon Edmond Lee. Dr. Lyndon Lee, who led the chiropractors in New York in the half-century struggle for licensure, died in his sleep 25 years ago on Sunday, October 23, 1983. He was 95 years old when he died and had practiced in Mt. Vernon, New York for 65 years. He retired in 1979 at the age of 91 only due to a fractured hip.

Dr. Lee's passing brought the finish to one of the more remarkable personal histories of the chiropractic profession. He graduated from Palmer School of Chiropractic in 1915 and was a charter member of the reorganized New York State Chiropractic Society and became one of the profession's best known figures. He helped draft every

licensing bill presented to the New York legislature between 1915 and 1963 when a favorable vote was finally obtained. During his career he had many roles including serving as vice-president-at-large of the American Chiropractic Association in the late 1920s and was all everything for the state of New York for decades.

But I want to tell you what I consider Dr. Lee's greatest achievement. In 1933, Dr. Lee was arrested and cited for "practicing medicine without a license." Although he would finally be acquitted, his case was in and out of the courts 30 times within the next three years. Dr. Lee and others like him were singled out and tested by those who were trying to destroy chiropractic during those early years. We have this great profession today because the Lee pioneers were willing to pay the price for what they believed in.

What a debt we owe these pioneers. I guess you could say at that particular time it was their watch. They were responsible for what happened to chiropractic and they were willing to go to jail to protect and defend chiropractic so that future generations would have this wonderful healing art. They paid the price during their watch and

because they did, chiropractic survived.

Think about that – 75 years later it may not seem like a big deal. But just think about it. They didn't know how long they would be in jail. Think about what it must have been like to hear that cell door clang shut. Think about how hard it would have been to explain to your children why the police had had come to your house and why their father or mother was now in jail.

Would you have had the intestinal fortitude to have done that? Not knowing if or when you would be free again? Would you have disobeyed the law and stood firm to protect this profession in its time of need?

Albert Einstein summed it up pretty well when he once remarked, “A HUNDRED TIMES A DAY I REMIND MYSELF THAT MY INNER AND OUTER LIFE ARE BASED ON THE LABORS OF OTHER MEN, LIVING AND DEAD, AND THAT I MUST EXERT MYSELF IN ORDER TO GIVE IN THE SAME MEASURE AS I HAVE RECEIVED.”

Perhaps the saddest thing about losing the Lyndon Lees of this profession is that I'm afraid we're not replacing them.

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Today, this profession fights for many things... equitable coverage under workers compensation, fair treatment under policies of insurance and full scope of practice for Medicare patients. Why? What's the purpose?

For some, it's for more money and prestige for the chiropractor. But ladies and gentlemen, that's not what it's all about. All of our actions must be aimed at what's best for chiropractic and our patients.

Danny Thomas once said, "ALL OF US ARE BORN FOR A REASON, BUT ALL OF US DON'T DISCOVER WHY. SUCCESS IN LIFE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH WHAT YOU GAIN IN LIFE OR ACCOMPLISH FOR YOURSELF. IT'S WHAT YOU DO FOR OTHERS."

In just a few short minutes, you'll be a doctor of chiropractic and you'll probably think that this wonderful healing art belongs to you. Well, if you think that, then I've got some bad news for you.

Chiropractic will not belong to you. In fact, the healing art of chiropractic does not belong to any chiropractor. It never has and it never will. Chiropractic belongs to humanity. We are only the caretakers of it for this particular generation.

What you do with it, how you preserve it, how you defend it, how you protect it, how you nurture it will affect many generations to come.

As doctors of chiropractic, you are now charged with a solemn trust.

Your primary responsibility is to take chiropractic and to pass it on to the next generation better and stronger than it was when you became its caretaker on August 23, 2008.

That's what it's all about. And the great thing is you don't have to sacrifice your freedom by going to jail.... like the pioneers were willing to do.

In closing, let me just say this. I challenge you to get involved with your profession. Support the Logan College Alumni Association, buy a seat in this beautiful building, join your state association and join your national association. Not in 5 years, not in 3 years, not in 6 months. Do it on your first day of practice.

Start now and never quit, so in 50 years you can look back and tell yourself that chiropractic is just a little better and a little stronger because you were willing to support the organizations that work diligently for the patients we serve.

If you do that, then your career will have had a worthwhile purpose.

Our chiropractic pioneers did their jobs so valiantly.

It is now your time to protect and defend this marvelous healing art.

DOCTORS...it is now YOUR watch.

Thank you so much for this opportunity...God's speed to you all.