

“How generations define and achieve success”

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Good evening! First, let me thank Dean Dai as well as the faculty and the students of the College of Science and Technology at Temple University for giving me the honor and privilege of being here with you today. This is such a wonderful day and I congratulate all of you and salute your accomplishment. After four years of hard work, and I hope some fun also, you have received your degree. For many of you, this will be your last degree. For others, more degrees will follow. But for all of you, please remember that education and the pursuit of knowledge is a life-long endeavor and you now have the tools and the skills to allow for a successful continuation of this process.

Today, you are surrounded by your families. Your Moms and Dads, your brothers and sisters, grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles. I have been where your parents are today 3 times. My oldest, Patrick, age 37, graduated from American University, Joey, age 30, from Boston University and Katie, age 25, from Boston College. From personal experience, I can assure you that your parents are bursting with pride. They love what you have accomplished. Today, you are perfect. All of your family feels this way about you. This is your day.

You, on the other hand, owe them your thanks. You did the hard work these past four years, but they supported you without hesitation both financially and emotionally. Their foresight, their planning and their hard work also contributed to this special day. So for you, I will say to your families: Thank you!

I sat where you are sitting today 38 years ago. It is hard for me to imagine that 1970 was so long ago. I am the product of an immigrant family. My paternal grandfather, Santo, came to America at the age of 8 after his graduation from the third grade in Sicily. Here he learned English, sort of, and apprenticed as a barber and began his career in cutting hair at the age of 10. He cut hair on Walnut Street. The old barber shop is now a Jefferson Medical school building. He got married in 1910; he was 22 and my grandmother from Naples was 17. This young couple had five daughters and my Dad came along in 1921.

My Dad was a really smart person, but, like many in his generation, was not educated. He went to the old South Catholic high school but had to leave after the 10th grade to work. He was away for three years during World War II and married my mother on Valentines Day in 1946. I came along in 1948 and my brother in 1953. My Dad was a printer for the Philadelphia Inquirer, and amazingly for an uneducated person, he was able to have a career that spanned three iterations of his trade — from hot type to cold type to computer generated news print. As I said, he was a smart person.

We were poor. We just didn't know it. We lived in Philadelphia, went to Catholic school and always knew that going to college was in our future. For us, education was a means to an end. I was like most kids in the Catholic school system. I was a good student and also a good athlete. I had scholarships to all of the major Catholic colleges in the area; Villanova, La Salle, St Joseph's.

My Dad, to my continued amazement, asked me to consider Temple. It had just become part of the State System and he liked it for its diversity. I decided he was right. Initially I did not have a scholarship to Temple but managed to get a Pennsylvania

Senatorial Scholarship, which back then paid ½ of Temple's 225 dollar tuition. The cost of dorm life was not an option for our family so I commuted in my 1963 VW, paying 22 cents per gallon for gas and getting 40 mpg, even in Philadelphia traffic.

I had a wonderful four years here.

My first year, I met a young professor in the Chemistry Department named Guy Allen. He taught Honors Chemistry and I did well in his class, and he offered me an opportunity to do research in his laboratory. I spent the next three years with him and published my first four papers in the journal of Chemical Physics. Temple and its faculty gave me opportunities as an undergraduate that I do not think exists in many universities.

When I was in medical school, Dr. Allen was diagnosed with a lymphoma and he unfortunately had a very malignant form of this disease. At this point, my connections with Temple take on a surreal character. It turned out that Dr. Allen's college roommate was Dr. Vincent De Vita, who at that time was in charge of the Medicine Branch at the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Allen was treated there in Bethesda and died 6 months later. On weekends, I was going back and forth from Hershey to Bethesda to see him and I got to meet and know Dr. De Vita. Three years later, after deciding to be a Cancer Physician, I was interviewed by Dr. De Vita to be one of the ten Cancer Fellows at the NIH. You have to remember the times. This was the height of the Vietnam War and everyone wanted a position in the Public Health Service. There were 8000 applicants for these ten positions. The only question asked of me during the interview was "How can we get you to come here and be part of our training program?" I became the only fellow in the program from a non-Ivy League medical school and during my four years there published another 40 manuscripts, was responsible for developing the drug Tamoxifen for use in breast cancer and for popularizing the estrogen receptor as a marker for breast cancer. All made possible because of Temple. Scary!!

My first career was in academic medicine. I was a full Professor by age 33 and the youngest chairman of a Department of Medicine in this history of modern medicine. I received every University award available from Distinguished Teacher to Distinguished Administrator to the Affirmative Action Award. I left academic medicine when I realized that I did not want to be a Dean of a medical school and left the practice of medicine when I began worrying about my patient care successes and no longer could enjoy the success of women with breast cancer who were doing well and began obsessing on what I would do when their therapies no longer worked. Subsequent careers have however kept me close to medicine and to my original science background first formulated here at Temple. I have founded numerous health care oriented companies both private and public and now have an investment company which is also focused on health care.

The reason that I have shared with you so much information about my background and my career is to propose to you what my generation is the lucky generation. Lucky in the following sense. Each generation defines success in a particular way. One way to define success would be to create a quality of life that surpasses that achieved by the previous generation. Since in my generation's case, the previous generation was largely uneducated, our path to success was simple and straightforward; hence the term lucky. A college education with or without advanced or professional degrees virtually guaranteed that our quality of life, our success, would surpass that of our parents. I also believe that since our parents were products of the great depression of

the 1930's that we became a generation of counters. Success for us was to have and not to do without. Success was the accumulation of wealth. Materiality was an easy yardstick to compare to the previous generation. I do not believe that any of this was in any bad sense, and quite the contrary, the accomplishments of the generation of baby boomers are legion.

So what does this mean for you? First, you are not as lucky as the previous generation. The bar is different for you. Your parents are largely educated so your path to success is not nearly as simple and straightforward as ours was. The best my children could do was to attain a similar education to me. They did not have the chance to be the first Allegra to graduate High School or the first Allegra to graduate College or the first Allegra to become a physician. Are they going to be as wealthy? I doubt it! They have different priorities and I actually applaud them for that accomplishment. I would tell you that you need to develop not only different priorities than your parents but you also need to redefine success and change how one measures success. You cannot be counters as we were.

Let me give you some examples. Two of my children are high school teachers. Together they don't make \$100,000 a year. I can't be more proud of them nor can I think of a more important role in life than being entrusted with the education of a future generation of Americans. They redefined for themselves success and what makes them happy and what contributes to their quality of life. My third child works in the field of drug development and is playing a role in bringing new pharmaceutical agents to patients with various diseases. Temple University within its Colleges of Science and Technology and Education has new programs to enable science and math teachers to develop the skills to be more effective classroom teachers.

My son Patrick has two small boys. Jackson is almost 3 years old and Beckett is about 3 months old. In both cases, my son stayed home 4-6 weeks surrounding the birth of his two sons to be with his wife and to bond as a family. Now I have to tell you that it is hard for me to relate to this. If I had done this in the 1970's my employer would have had me committed. It is a good example, though, of different priorities and a different way to define happiness. I frequently say to my wife that I just can't believe how smart my grandson is and she always reminds me that yes he does appear smart but that our three children also did similar things at similar ages. My problem is that I have no memory of any of that behavior because I was working 15 hours a day. That was what was expected of us and my generation and your generation will set its own expectations.

In medicine, half of the graduating classes are now women. I graduated with 6 women in my class. Women today are not only 1/2 of the class but a disproportionate share of the upper 1/3 of the class. I believe they are being very savvy about their careers and how they manage their career goals with the quality of life they desire. They have pioneered some of the major efforts in outpatient medicine and have also brought into medicine the concept of job sharing which has benefitted both the profession and the individual.

So in carving out your niche for success and in making your quality of life as good as it can be, you have your work cut out for you. You are not a member of the lucky generation but you will figure it out. You will be successful. You will be happy. You have a great foundation in the love of your families and your Temple education.

Thank You.