

**November 10, 2015**

**Remarks for Master's degree graduation**

**Ellen Harshman, Ph.D., J.D.**

**It is indeed a pleasure for me to be with you this evening and I thank the dean for his kind invitation to congratulate this group of master's graduates.**

**As you know, I am from Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri. Some of you may have been there----we describe ourselves as in the heartland of the country, at the center geographically and in terms of population. We are situated on the Mississippi River, close to the mid-point between Chicago and New Orleans.**

**As you can imagine, the location of the city was important in its founding and development over the centuries. It is at the eastern edge of the Louisiana Purchase through which the territory was acquired from France through the Louisiana Purchase. The French heritage is evident even today.**

**In addition to sharing our French roots with St. Joseph University, we also share our Jesuit traditions. Saint Louis**

**University was founded in 1818, and the Jesuits arrived shortly thereafter to take over the fledgling college.**

**As graduates of a Jesuit University, your education is rooted in enduring and distinctive traditions. Not only have you had an excellent business education, that education is in the context of values that have endured over 5 centuries. As graduates, you will carry those values forward into your personal and professional lives.**

**We talk of the magis ---the more---doing more and being more. You have been challenged to excellence in your studies. You will carry that challenge into your professional lives as you strive to excellence in all you do.**

**In addition to the rigor expected in the education at a Jesuit university, you are also challenged to a life of integrity. Ethical decision-making and a perspective of social responsibility take you beyond simply mastering the skills of business transactions to providing leadership from a deeply rooted understanding of your values.**

**The notion of cura personalis is another of those hallmarks associated with our Jesuit traditions that set us apart. You are expected to demonstrate the care and concern for others that**

**helps make a difference each day in the lives of others. Think about what that means to the ways you think about your role in business.**

**Chris Lowney is a former Jesuit who left religious life to go to work on Wall Street. He has written several books that draw on his experiences in both roles. His first one was called “Heroic Leadership.”<sup>1</sup> He saw how the values he learned in studying in the Jesuit traditions translated to his experiences in the world of finance. He challenges business leaders to Heroic Leadership.**

**He outlines 4 principles leading to heroic leadership (pages 27-35).**

**Self-awareness: Understanding your strengths and weaknesses, values, and worldview. Leaders thrive by understanding who they are and what they value, by being aware of unhealthy blind spots or liabilities that can derail them---and by cultivating the habit of continuous self-reflection and learning. (page 27)**

**Leaders demonstrate ingenuity by confidently innovating and adapting to embrace a changing world. This means**

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<sup>1</sup> Chris Lowney, HEROIC LEADERSHIP, Loyola Press, Chicago,2003.

**you will learn to make yourselves and others comfortable in a changing world and eagerly exploring new ideas.  
(pages 27, 29)**

**As a leader you will face the world with greater love than fear. This means you will face the world with confidence and dignity and recognize and encourage these qualities in others. You will create environments bound and energized by loyalty, affection, and mutual support.  
(pages 27, 31)**

**The forth principle that Lowney describes is what he calls “heroism.” He says that heroes extract the gold from the opportunities at hand rather than waiting for golden opportunities to be handed to them. This means that you will imagine an inspiring future and strive to shape it rather than passively watching the future happen around you. (pages 27, 33)**

**So I congratulate you on your achievements. With those achievements, you have the ability----and I would say the responsibility---to become heroic leaders.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to be with you this evening and all the best wishes as you go forward.**

