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ALFRED UNIVERSITY

College Opening Addresses

by

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The President's College Opening Address

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The opening of the eighty-fourth year of Alfred University is marked by new and varied interests.

For the past two years the college has opened amidst the stress of war. The call of the country rested upon the minds and hearts of all young men of college age. From the peaceful pursuits of culture, men hurried away to military training camps and on to the field of blood and battle. Most college men echoed in their hearts the words of Joyce Kilmer, who gave his life in France, and who wrote:

"It is wrong to be listening to elevated trains when there are screaming shells to hear, and to be sleeping soft in bed when there's a cot in a dugout awaiting, and the bright face of danger to dream about and see."

So, many of the boys had gone when we assembled in 1917,  
and more still in 1918.

Last year also the Student Army Training Corps  
turned our campus into a military camp. Army officers  
and the distractions of drill and military exactions  
took away from our college life much that we most prize,

But, thank God, our gallant armies and those of  
our allies have well fulfilled their part in the stu-  
pendous task of "making the world safe for democracy."

Victory has brought a cessation of hostilities and  
the beginnings of a pact of peace.

Nevertheless there are things which armies of brave  
soldiers and mountains of munitions of war can never ac-  
complish. Cannon, and bayonets are futile in the accom-  
plishment of the tasks which involve the building up

of the intellectual, spiritual and moral forces of the people.

The tasks of removing ignorance and superstition and selfishness, so that individuals or nations who were once belated or ~~de~~ debased, may emerge from their barbarism or their baseness and put on the beautiful garments of civilization, are tasks not of war but of peace; not of armies and navies, but of colleges and universities.

Fortunately now, to that task, the colleges of our country may once again turn their faces with a more firm assurance than ever before of the importance, the sacredness and the urgency of the task.

The college opening of 1919 is marked by a national and international social, economic~~al~~ and political un-

rest never before so widely witnessed. The dangers of peace seem even greater than those of war.

These conditions which to some degree are the reaction from the war, are a challenge to the colleges, and to college men and women to unite in a program of education which shall be adapted to present reconstruction needs; and which shall offer a steadying hand to storm tossed humanity.

There is a transition in educational interpretations and in the evaluations of subject matter and of methods which have heretofore passed unchallenged, and unquestioned. For two or three years yet, colleges are agreeing to an elasticity in requirements for entrance and in college, which shall help all men who

have been in the service to get into college and to complete a college course. The national Government is advising such elasticity, and colleges are responding with cordial acceptance of the new situation. Psychological tests are being substituted in some instances for the old standard tests.

A whole new evaluation of mental power is thus being opened up. It is likely to influence college methods and subjects matter as much as entrance ~~conditions~~ <sup>requirements</sup>.

There is likewise a new point of view shown by making education adapt itself to individual minds and to new social needs. It is a willingness to sacrifice some of the doubtful discipline of courses as formerly conducted and required in order to gain the genuine

interest in the subject, which the student feels, who sees his subject related to life or adapted to meet a need which he can see and understand.

All these varied conditions and movements in education go to make up the cause for congratulation which every college student should feel who can in this reconstruction period of education, share the blessings and benefits of college life.

But a new and added responsibility attaches to college men and women today because of these new and enlarged conceptions of education. Whatever may have been the excuse for listless and indifferent scholarship under a system of narrowly prescribed college studies, there is no excuse for such indifference with the wider opportunity for election and the more

definite application of our studies to the current problems of life such as are now supplied by the college curriculum. If the grind of unrelated and unenjoyed subject matter which once passed for discipline has been exchanged for the popular estimates of education in a theory of culture which seeks to acquire conscious power by the mastery gained in the pursuit of tasks which are stimulated by interest and relation to life, then there is no longer justification for men and women to remain in college who can not acquire interest, enthusiasm and earnestness in the pursuit of courses of study which they elect in college.

Our elective system has been developed with much care in the hope of providing opportunity for grouping subjects about special interests and of preventing the



miscellaneous scattering of interests which would preclude unity and power in culture. If a student under these conditions is unable to be interested in his work and to give it his earnest and loyal endeavor, it is time for him to discontinue his college membership and find a place among the hand toilers rather than the brain toilers of the world.

Another distinctive characteristic of this reconstruction period is emphasis which is laid on social and religious purpose and activity in education. This is an era of unprecedented activity in reorganizing and redirecting the forces of religion and social service. In almost every denomination and in every organization for human uplift, there is felt today as never before the drive spirit and the drive enthusiasm, and

the greatest things ever conceived for human betterment are today being pressed upon the attention of all people. In harmony with this <sup>outlook,</sup> larger opportunities are offered in religious education and in sociology than in former days.

Genuine student spirit will be sensitive to these new opportunities and new appeals. Recreation, amusement, pleasure will all be made subservient to the higher interests of humanity, and the true student will feel that wherever his play life or recreation hinders the development of these higher motives and tastes, they should be recast and readjusted to the values that are premanent and constructive.

Excellent opportunities are provided in college for putting these principles into practice. Your sev-

eral professors in the departments in which they are experts will be constantly making suggestions to this end, and your own initiative and purposeful thought will supplement and enlarge, ~~in~~ fulfilling these ideals.

I would like to suggest their practical application in two or three things that <sup>it</sup> seems to me would materially benefit our student life.

The old study method when the classics and mathematics were the chief content of education, has been largely exchanged for the method of laboratory and ~~the~~ library. A public library however to fulfill its purpose, as a place of study must be so conducted as to make study possible. Every student and professor should have the right to use the library as a laboratory and to be free from distraction, annoyance and confusion

which the thoughtlessness and indifference of other people often produce. Our library, particularly in the evening hours has seriously suffered in the past from this thoughtlessness and indifference.

The opening of the library for evening use ~~a~~ is not for the purpose of making it a visiting place or a place for dates. Students occasionally justify themselves in talking and whispering in the library on the ground that they are studying together. Studying together however does not justify any two individuals in disturbing the work of a dozen or twenty others who desire a quiet orderly place in which to work. If studying together continues to produce such annoyance and complaint, it will be necessary for the faculty to prohibit studying together and all communication except with the Librarian

in charge. A reasonable amount of thoughtfulness and consideration for the rights of others on the part of all who use the library, will make drastic legislation unnecessary.

Furthermore the taking of books from the library when they have been put on the reserve shelf, or taking them without having their drawing recorded by the Librarian, is an offense against justice and order which will necessitate prohibiting such offenders from the use of the library.

Complaint has also ~~been~~ occasionally <sup>been</sup> ~~made~~ made that articles accidentally left in the library, such as fountain pens, private books etc., are picked up and carried away by people to whom they do not belong. This is nothing short of petty theft and should be pun-

ished as such not only by the public sentiment of the student body but by the enforcement of the law, if that becomes necessary.

There is a growing interest and development in the student clubs or fraternities of the college. Three such organizations are now housed outside the college dormitories. The administration of the college is in sympathy with this interest and development and will give all possible assistance toward bringing these organizations to their fullest and highest responsibility to the college and to the student membership.

Such organizations should rival each other in the high marks and successful student work of their members. Comparisons have been made in the past and will be made in the future, and the results will be made available

to the members of these organizations so that you can know which organization is excelling in high class work and which is falling behind. Delinquent students who are members of these fraternities can be helped by their fraternity members more than by anyone else, to raise their standings and to improve the character of their work.

I am glad to note a movement among these organizations for a fraternity association for the adoption of general rules which shall guide each organization in the matter of <sup>the</sup> time of pledging new members. It is unfair to your fraternities to take in Freshmen immediately upon their arrival at college without having had time to determine their character and the kind of work which these men are likely to do. It is as unfair to <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~

man to be pledged to an organization immediately upon ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> arrival at college without having had opportunity to decide which of the fraternities is better adapted to his needs and which is preferable to him, providing he is so fortunate as to receive an invitation to membership when he has become well enough known to justify that invitation. An arrangement can easily be made through the fraternity association for pledging all men to all fraternities during the same period of time and for accomplishing in a dignified and scholarly way the desirable results which are here recommended. This movement will be distinctly in the line of progress and I hope to see the day in the not distant future when these local fraternities will own their own homes and be on a thoroughly established and sound basis.



The student body will be interested to know some of the forward looking plans which are being adopted by the Board of Trustees.

For the first time in the history of Alfred, the Board held its autumn meeting this year in New York City. By the invitation of a member of the Board, Hon. William J. Tully, general counsel for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, the meeting was held in the directors' rooms of that society at #1 Madison Avenue. Probably no more handsome or elaborately equipped directors' rooms exist in the United States than those which were used, and are placed at the disposal of the Board of Trustees of Alfred University for their autumn meetings.

The largest attendance of trustees at any meeting in recent years was the result of this new arrangement

which was inaugurated at the meeting October 2. Twenty-four members of the Board were in attendance.

Two very important actions were taken. First, resolutions were adopted affiliating Alfred University with the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and providing for retiring allowances for the members of the teaching and executive staff. The resolutions adopted by the Board are as follows:

"RESOLVED: That the Trustees of Alfred University propose to participate in the contributory plan of old age annuities offered by the Teachers' Insurance and Annuity Association of America upon the following terms:

- I. Alfred University will cooperate under the plan of contributions proposed by the Teachers' Insurance and Annuity Association of America in the purchase of an annuity policy for each member of the college teaching or

or executive staff, giving full time to its work and drawing salary for such service, and who elects to enter the retirement system;

II. Alfred University will contribute annually in monthly installments, during the period of employment, an amount equal to five percent of the annual salary of each member making a like contribution to such annuity policy;

III. In order to provide for retirement on an annuity at least equal to half pay including those members whose contributions may not be sufficient on account of advanced age to procure such an annuity at retirement, Alfred University proposes to raise and set aside a special endowment fund of \$100,000 from which

(a) annuity contributions shall be made as above provided for, and

(b) supplementary annuities will be provided under the following conditions, viz. -

(1) Half pay shall be held to mean one-half of the average annual pay during the last five years of service.

(2) Members in the service of Alfred

University, as stated above, on July 1, 1920 who enter into the annuity plan before July 1, 1921, and contribute toward the annuity as provided in section II, shall be entitled, after at least ten years of service in Alfred University, to retirement upon at least half pay upon attaining the ages shown in the following schedule, -

<u>Age July 1, 1920</u>	<u>Entitled to retire at</u>
50 years or over	(age) 68
Over 40 years and under 50	67
Over 35 years and under 40	66
Under 35 years	65

IV. Failure of any member to cooperate in the annuity plan prior to July 1, 1921, in case of present members, and prior to one year after the date of appointment to such membership in case of future members, shall be considered a relinquishment of any right to participate in the plan, and shall be considered as releasing Alfred University from all obligation in the mat-

ter of annuity."

While this program necessitates the raising of a fund of \$100,000 to provide for contributions from the Trustees toward these annuities, the Trustees are promised from the Carnegie Foundation a contribution of \$25,000 toward this proposed endowment fund.

Alfred has been fortunate in having upon its faculty members who have been willing to stay for many years and labor with untiring fidelity for a meager salary. It is only fair to these members and to the future of Alfred University that provision be made for an adequate maintenance when these have reached the years that make retirement necessary. The alumni and student body will hail this forward movement with sincere delight, and will help to make possible the achievement toward which many

have looked forward with hope and anticipation.

The second great advanced step which marks the opening of this college year, is the inauguration of a campaign to add \$1,000,000 to the endowments and equipment of Alfred University. While it is not expected that the full amount can be realized within the present year, this year marks the beginning of a new era in Alfred's history. It is the inauguration of a real program that looks toward bigger things than we have ever before dared to undertake.

Alfred has made more or less steady progress during the 83 years of its history, but the eighty-fourth year marks an epoch in which a program is made that will double the resources of the college and enhance in every way its efficiency and its public recognition.

The resolutions adopted by the Trustees at their recent meeting in New York by which this million dollar drive is inaugurated, are as follows:

"RESOLVED:

I. That the Trustees of Alfred University authorize and direct that a fund of One Million Dollars be raised for increasing the endowments and improving the equipment of the College at Alfred University;

II. That this fund be raised, with all possible speed, and as far as practicable, in the following amounts and for the purposes herein specified, viz.,

12<sup>x</sup> Endowment to provide retiring allowances \$100,000.

" for increase of salaries----- 150,000.

" for the President's Chair----- 75,000.

" for four professorships now

without endowment(English-\$50,000

(Romance

Languages/50,000

(Chemistry/50,000

(Biology 50,000-200,000

" for Library Fund----- 50,000.

" for fifty new scholarships----- 50,000.

Endowment for general purposes \$50,000

2nd Building and equipment:

Heating and lighting plant-\$50,000.

Gymnasium----- 50,000.

Science Laboratory-----100,000.

Auditorium-----100,000.

Miscellaneous, building

improvement and equipment- 25,000.-325,000.

Total-----\$1,000,000.

III. That the Trustees direct the Finance Committee in conjunction with the President and Treasurer, to organize a general campaign for raising this fund, employing Dr. A. S. MacKenzie, under present contract, as Assistant to the President in promoting the campaign and in soliciting gifts; to utilize and cooperate with agencies likely to be of assistance in raising the fund, such as for example, "The Interchurch World Movement."

This Million Dollar Improvement Fund Campaign is similar to the campaigns that are being organized by most of the progressive institutions of our day. It is proposed



by the raising of this fund to keep Alfred steadily pushing ahead toward the highest ideals of efficiency, scholarship and Christian manhood and womanhood.

This eighty-fourth year of Alfred's history is the twenty-fifth year in the administration of its present President. It is particularly gratifying to me, that the Trustees and alumni are making this quarter century anniversary year the year upon which Alfred steps out into its future enlargement and growth with the most definite and comprehensive program in all its history. With unbounded confidence in the loyalty and support of the student body, of the faculty, Trustees and alumni of our Alma Mater, we therefore step forth into the new year with the highest hopes and most confident expectations; looking for wisdom and guidance to Him who is the source of infinite wisdom and grace and power, and whose blessing has been so

abundant and rich in all the history of our beloved

Alma Mater.