

**PATRICK LOGAN '22 – SALUTATORIAN SPEECH – JUNE 5, 2022**

*CARNESECCA ARENA, ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY*

Good morning, Administration, faculty, family, friends, and the Class of 2022.

Thank you, Mr. Auer, for your introduction. I am truly honored to speak before you all today.

It was October of my freshman year. I had already made some new friends at Molloy, but none of them were going on the upcoming retreat. I was nervous, but I wanted to go on the retreat and so I took the risk of going without any of my new friends. I had no idea what to expect, but when I arrived at Esopus, I recognized someone, the person who sat in front of me in Mr. Santos's Spanish Class. I took another risk and decided to sit with him for dinner on the first night. I did not think much of it at first, but that person quickly became one of my best friends for the next four years. The freshman retreat turned out to be a good experience that led to a great friendship.

It is also a big risk for me to be up here in front of you all this morning. When I began writing this speech, I was truly at a loss for words. It feels as if just yesterday I was a small freshman who was absolutely petrified at the idea of speaking in front of a class. Considering how I did not take Public Speaking this

year, I am still just a little bit terrified by the idea of speaking in front of so many people.

So, how in the world was I going to come up here and speak, and more importantly, what was I going to say? However, I decided to take this risk, and even if I give the most boring speech of all time, I hope you all remember this as a time in which I took a risk and faced a fear, not the time you all feel asleep at graduation.

I started each and every English paper, with a quote, even if by my third paper Mr. Kelly and Ms. Winters were starting to get annoyed with it. After a lot of searching, I finally found this saying from John D. Rockefeller. “Don’t be afraid to give up the good to go for the great.”

This speaks volumes to the current crossroads in which we graduates find ourselves. Once we receive our diplomas, we are done with Molloy, giving up what we all know was good. It is now our turn to take risks and face a very uncertain world.

The “good” of which Mr. Rockefeller speaks has come in different forms for every graduate. Whether it was sports, Esopus, your favorite teacher, a club, or the lifelong friendships you made here, this has been a good four years for all of us, and personally, the best four years of my life.

However, now we must imagine a life without Molloy in it. When I first sat down with that kid at the Esopus Retreat four years ago, I had no idea it would be the start of a long friendship, and I simply thought it was yet just another minor experience in my life. “That kid” is now “Frank,” one of my best friends. I easily could have not gone on that retreat and remained in my comfort zone at home, yet I gave up what I knew as good and comfortable and took a risk, and I ended up with a great experience and a great friend. After careful consideration of what it means to live my life without Molloy in it, I have come to the conclusion that it is not about being at Molloy, but rather, what you take from Molloy.

The world that the Class of 2022 is entering is an uncertain and often frightening one. We face war, mass shootings, and recently, a global pandemic. These things are certainly not the great that Mr. Rockefeller spoke of...and so how do we navigate this unclear and challenging world? While getting out of my comfort zone and going to Esopus back in freshman year may seem minor, it lends to a certain truth: we must never be afraid to get out of our comfort zones to better ourselves or the world around us. Sometimes it may seem easy to stay inside your comfort zone, with the good, but as Mr. Rockefeller said, do not be afraid to give up that good to be great. As demanding as this task may be, we must use what we take from Molloy, our experiences, and our knowledge, to be the great that our world desperately needs. And thinking of great, it is important to acknowledge and

thank those who have supported all of us, including our parents, family, and friends. Personally, I would like to quickly thank my parents, my brother, Gavin, and my aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents for always supporting and inspiring me. I would also like to thank my friends, Luke, Declan, Ryan, Frank, Matt, John and my girlfriend, Ally, for supporting me and having my back. These people have truly shown me what it means to do great.

Now, let us all take a moment to reflect on the values, knowledge, and great things that we will leave Molloy with. I will be taking a lot of things with me as I depart from Molloy, in addition to a life-long group of friends, I also have knowledge that will last me a lifetime. Thanks to Mr. DeSarno's bonus questions, I have an endless supply of random world history facts and thanks to Mr. Kelly, I will always remember to read to understand, and not just to get it done. I will also take with me a philosophy notebook that KK promises can help me deal with any sticky situation life throws at me. And most importantly, I now have four years chock full of memories and laughs I will cherish forever.

With all of this in mind, I leave with the confidence that we, the Class of 2022, can stand up to the challenges of today and be the great that our world needs.

As we leave Molloy and move forward into college and beyond, we are one step closer to accomplishing our dreams. It is our time to leave behind the good that

Molloy has provided us, so we can be great, and to use what we learned and experienced at Molloy to make a world of which Marcellin Champagnat would be proud.