

Investiture Ceremony
Selvin Passen, M.D. '60

GOOD AFTERNOON,

UNFORTUNATELY MY SON MARTY IS OUT OF TOWN AND UNABLE TO JOIN US TODAY. ON BEHALF OF MARTY AND MY DAUGHTER DORI, WHO IS PRESENT, I WANT TO TELL YOU HOW HONORED AND PLEASE WE ARE TO SUPPORT THIS WONDERFUL INITIATIVE.

THE MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HAS ALWAYS PLAYED A PROMINENT ROLE IN THE LIFE OF OUR MEDICAL SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY. DURING THE 1920S, THE ASSOCIATION PURCHASED A BUILDING ACROSS THE STREET FROM DAVIDGDE HALL, OPENING A BOOKSTORE AND CAFÉ FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY. LATER, IN THE 1950S, WHEN DAVIDGE HALL HAD FALLEN INTO A TERRIBLE STATE OF DISREPAIR AND WAS SLATED FOR DEMOLITION, IT WAS THE MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION THAT STEPPED FORWARD AND SAVED IT. WE RESTORED THE BUILDING IN THE 1980S AND ARE CURRENTLY IN THE MIDST OF ANOTHER PHASE OF RENOVATION. OVER THE YEARS OUR MEMBERS HAVE CONTRIBUTED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN SUPPORT OF THE SCHOOL. WE DO SO IN GRATITUDE OF THE SUPERB EDUCATION AND TRAINING WE RECEIVED HERE, AND WE'RE DOING WHAT WE CAN TO INSURE THAT THIS TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE CONTINUES. THAT'S WHAT MAKES TODAY'S CELEBRATION SO SPECIAL.

IT'S A LOT EASIER TO KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING WHEN YOU UNDERSTAND WHERE YOU CAME FROM. THE HISTORY OF THIS GREAT MEDICAL SCHOOL AND ITS UNIVERSITY, AND THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ITS FACULTY AND GRADUATES SHOULD NEVER BE LOST. OUR HERITAGE SHOULD BE WOVEN INTO OUR EDUCATION, PRESENTED AT FORUMS, AND READ ABOUT IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS. NEVER SHOULD IT BE SAID THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND IS ONE OF THE NATION'S BEST KEPT SECRETS.

AFTER HIS RETIREMENT IN THE 1980S, DR. WOODWARD SERVED IN THIS CAPACITY FOR NEARLY 25 YEARS. THROUGH HIS TEACHING, LECTURES, AND PUBLICATIONS HE MADE US PROUD OF OUR SCHOOL. ALONG THE WAY HE LOBBIED INTENSELY FOR THE CREATION OF AN ENDOWED POSITION THAT WOULD CONTINUE HIS WORK WHEN HE WAS NO LONGER ABLE.

IT WAS TIME TO GET THIS POSITION FUNDED.

PHIL, CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR APPOINTMENT. IT'S WELL DESERVED, AND I KNOW TED WOODWARD WOULD BE PROUD.

PRESIDENT PERMAN AND DEAN REECE, WE PLEDGE TO CONTINUE OUR WORK FOR THIS GREAT SCHOOL. OUR NEXT OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO INSURE THAT FUTURE MARYLAND STUDENTS WHO ENTER SCHOOL WITH A DESIRE TO PRACTICE GENERAL MEDICINE CAN DO SO, AND ARE NOT DRIVEN INTO A SUB-SPECIALTY BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL DEBT. OUR CITY, STATE, AND COUNTRY NEED MORE GENERALISTS. BUT THAT'S A CEREMONY FOR ANOTHER DAY, HOPEFULLY NOT IN THE TOO-DISTANT FUTURE.

THANK YOU.