





## President Nora Demleitner, Inaugural Address

Good afternoon.

I'd like to start by thanking the St. John's polity for your generosity in welcoming me into this  
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Maybe you've felt confidence in your intended choice,

Or perhaps trepidation over what unknowns may unfold as a result.

Sometimes it is both.

Stringfellow Barr and Scott Buchanan

- The number of high school graduates was increasing year over year;
- Federal government support was growing;
- And there was a tremendou

And for decades, the college has admitted internatio

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We owe the spread of democratic ideas and the accessibility of the great books in our very curriculum to a technological innovation that sparked monumental controversy in the fifteenth century—*the printing press*.

So, these are not new challenges.

Still, just as it must have been in 1937 when the new Program was founded, it can be hard to find hope amidst the trends of *our time*.

It is easy to wonder if we—as humans—will find g





As we reach new inflection points, I believe we are well positioned to face these and other challenges.

We have the brain power, the p



My parents are no longer with us, but I know they would be very proud

And I'm delighted to see so many of my friends here today.

I am also deeply touched by the contributions of those who took part in today's c



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*These* are conversational virtues in the classroom, and they are the foundation of the trust that has taken hold in campus leadership.

The qualities through which she watches out for the college, are ones essential, too, to our learning, and this happy consonance augurs well for our polity.







Daniel A. Wubah, PhD, President,

In 2013, none of the large size photos on the walls of the Law School was for a minority or a woman.

Nora initiated a conversation with her colleagues to develop criteria for putting up new photos.

This required a lot of tact and diplomacy because of the prevailing culture at that time.

Ultimately, new photos were added to express the diversity of distinguished alumni including a former president of the American Bar Association, who is an African American.

She was tenacious but tactful in how she addressed this





We look forward to co

Josephine "Gigi" Escalante (A92), President, St. John's College Alumni Association

" Read.

Read all the time.

Read as a matter of principle, as a matter of self-respect.

Read as a nourishing staple of life."

This David McCullough quote is one that President Demleitner .

(Well, according to a tweet she sent out last year.)

If anyone had doubts about the president's fit for our unique institution, her love for this quote on READING, should dispel them.

Because newsflash: we love books

The College Polity states that institutions of learning should “develop the moral and intellectual powers of their students to enable them to...

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I am so heartened that at this unique moment, President Demleitner has joined this charge to enable a rising generation of Johnnies to take a necessary part in shaping the Future - - where the finest Johnnie attributes of critical introspection and circumspection is much needed.

Buried in our archives is a 1962 book - “Portrait of Graduates” including essays from alumni discussing St. John’s.

As President of the Alumni Association, I want to highlight a timely passage from this book of alumni.

In it, Aaron Bisberg, Class of ’49, states that Johnnies bring “both a searching and a sympathetic viewpoint to the world.”

By Bisberg’s description, President Demleitner *is* “Johnnie” and brings this spirit of questioning that is the bedrock of understanding.





I realized that St. John's was up to the challenge to, as President Demleitner says, "*meet the moment*," by encouraging more diversity whilst still maintaining the core principles of this education.

I had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Demleitner as she was walking on to the college grounds for the first time.

I realized that she and I shared a lot of things in common.

We had both grown up overseas – she in Germany, I in Italy.

We both share a passion for learning.

And, well, we are obviously both women.

When she was appointed President of the Annapolis campus, it was reassuring.

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Through your visits to our convening weekends;

And last, but not least, through following me on Twitter.

But in all seriousness, I would like to thank you for your support and interest in the work of the Centre for the Study of the History of the Church of England.