



*Doing a world of good...*

A COMMITMENT TO HEALTH AND EXCELLENCE

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

ANGELA L. WALKER FRANKLIN, PH.D.  
15TH PRESIDENT OF DES MOINES UNIVERSITY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2011



*Angela L. Walker Franklin*, PH.D.

ANGELA L. WALKER FRANKLIN, who became Des Moines University's 15th president on March 1, 2011, has worked in higher education for more than 20 years. Previously, she was executive vice president and provost at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, where she oversaw academic and administrative departments for three schools within the college as well as other departments. She served as acting president during the summer of 2009 and held a professorship in Meharry's department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences.

Prior to her role at Meharry, Dr. Franklin held several positions at the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia, including vice dean, associate vice president for academic and student affairs, associate dean for student affairs and curriculum, assistant dean for admissions and student affairs, director of counseling services and assistant professor of psychiatry.

A licensed clinical psychologist, Dr. Franklin is in her fourth term on the board of trustees of Furman University, a small liberal arts college in Greenville, South Carolina. She earned a Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Emory University in Atlanta.

# *Installation Ceremony*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2011

## PRESIDING OFFICIAL

Larry J. Baker, D.O., *Chairman-Elect, Board of Trustees*



## PRELUDE

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF PURPOSE

Roberta A. Wattleworth, D.O., M.P.H., M.H.A., FACOP  
*University Faculty President, Chief Marshal*

## PROCESSIONAL

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

DMU Choir

### AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

Karen Parks  
*Operatic Soprano*

## INTRODUCTION

Dr. Baker

## GREETINGS

Richard M. Ryan Jr., D.Sc.  
*President, 1996-2002, President Emeritus,  
Des Moines University*

The Honorable T. M. Franklin Cownie  
*Mayor, City of Des Moines*

Renee Hardman  
*Senior Vice President, Human Resources  
Bankers Trust Company*

## ACT OF INVESTITURE

*Calls to Service*

## STUDENTS

Matthew W. Treat, *College of Health Sciences, Physician Assistant Program, Class of 2012*

Casey C. Ebert, *College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery, Class of 2013*

Akash M. Shah, *College of Osteopathic Medicine, Class of 2014*

FACULTY

Traci Bush, M.S.P.T., O.T.R./L., D.H.S.

*Chair, Program Director and Associate Professor, Doctor of Physical Therapy Program*

ADMINISTRATION

Karen P. McLean, Ph.D.

*Provost*

ALUMNI

Marcia Hammers, B.H.A.

*College of Health Sciences, Class of 1988, President, Alumni Association*

W. Hal Hatchett, D.P.M.

*College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery, Class of 2000, Board of Trustees*

William G. Anderson, D.O., FACOS

*College of Osteopathic Medicine, Class of 1956, Board Emeritus*

FRIEND, MENTOR AND CHAIRPERSON  
OF HONORARY INAUGURAL COMMITTEE

The Honorable Louis W. Sullivan, M.D.

*Founding President and President Emeritus,*

*Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia,*

*U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, 1989-1993*

PRESENTATION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

James A. Grekin, D.O.

*Chairman, Board of Trustees*

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Grekin

RESPONSE/INAUGURAL ADDRESS

*Doing a World of Good... A Commitment to Health and Excellence*

Angela L. Walker Franklin, Ph.D.

VOCAL MEDLEY

Ms. Parks

STATEMENT OF COMPLETION

Dr. Wattleworth

RECESSIONAL

## *Inaugural Address*

**T**hank you, Dr. Grekin and Dr. Baker! Other esteemed members of the Board of Trustees; distinguished members of the platform participating in the ceremony; members of my honorary inaugural steering committee; my colleagues in the academy, i.e., the delegates representing colleges, universities and associations around the country; faculty; students; alumni; staff; family and friends: I am so pleased and proud to accept the challenge to serve as the 15th president of Des Moines University and I am honored and privileged to gather with you on this very exciting and special day.

I accept the medallion and the articles of incorporation as symbols of the leadership of this institution, and I accept the calls to service and the charges of the students, the faculty, the administration and the alumni in the expectations you have for me in lifting this institution up to the next level. The artifacts presented by our deans, reflecting our beginnings, will be treasured and protected. As I listened and reflected on the many words of encouragement and the excitement conveyed, I am confident that we, together, can achieve and continue to strive for excellence in all that we do. We will continue to boast of our record of academic excellence and a track record of providing compassionate and patient-centered professionals for this region, this country and the world.

I would also like to extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation to my family for traveling alongside me on this journey. My husband, Thad, and my sons Wesley, Grant and Jordan have been a constant source of pride and support, many times making their own personal sacrifices and adjustments for the good of the entire family, and I thank you for that. We made a family commitment and I am pleased that we now are all here together. And, as you know, we traveled a long distance to get here. My hometown of McCormick, South Carolina, is some 1,100 miles away. Of course there were a few stops along the way; four years in Greenville, South Carolina, at Furman University; 20 years in Atlanta at Emory University and Morehouse School of Medicine; and four years in Nashville at Meharry Medical College. But my roots were firmly planted in a little town in South Carolina. My parents, Hervey Wesley Walker Jr. and Leola Grant Walker, still live in McCormick and are here with me today. My sister, Dr. Maria Walker Thompson, and her family are here with me from Atlanta. Of course, there are so many other family and friends who have made this journey with me, some here today in person and others sending well wishes in spirit, and I am so pleased.

Those who have known me for a while, know that I have often talked about the fact that I tend to “gather people along the way” as I journey through life, and I have made lifelong friendships. There is a phrase that “it takes a village”...to raise a child...and sometimes it appears as if I have formed a village of friends, well wishers, mentors and supporters along the way. Perhaps it resonates from the early teachings from my parents of adhering to the principles of the Golden Rule. I have come to know and value the intrinsic power of this very simple message as I first think of how I would like to be treated as I engage with others. So I thank my friends and colleagues from my alma mater, Furman University; from my graduate school, Emory University; from my first place of employment, Morehouse School of Medicine, where I lived for 20 years; and Meharry Medical College. The relationships I established and the friendships I will always cherish, and I thank each of you for making this journey with me.

I must also take a few minutes to acknowledge my new community here in Des Moines,



Iowa. As a southerner, you grow up hearing of the virtues of Southern hospitality. I must admit that Midwestern hospitality is equally strong and positive, and my family and I have been impressed with the considerable outpouring of support from this community. I have again begun the process of acquiring new friends here in this great city, from Governor Terry Branstad, the immediate past president of Des Moines University, who is traveling internationally; Mayor Frank Cownie, who has welcomed me into the city; colleagues in other institutions of higher education; businesses; social and civic clubs; churches and various other associations. I thank you for the warm welcome and look forward to partnering with you on many initiatives for the good of this community.

The words of welcome and support give me considerable personal satisfaction, because this has been quite a personal and professional journey for me to this place. However, the focus of today should not be on any one individual. The leaders of the past will number 15 as of this day; however, there is so much more that defines this institution and its greatness and hope for the future. I stand upon the shoulders of the leaders of the past but also acknowledge the commitment of those tolling in the trenches who helped to define who we are. The committed faculty and the dedicated staff over the years have stood up when they sometimes felt like falling down to ensure that we were forever mindful of the fact that our reason for being was for the students, the trainees who will go out to be of service.

As I have said from the very beginning, this day is not so much about me, but about this great institution, Des Moines University. So today, we celebrate an institution. We gather to rejoice in the University's history, its traditions, its successes and its rich potential.

So where did this all begin?

Des Moines University has evolved from its very modest yet noble founding in 1898 by Summerfield Saunders Still, nephew of the founder of osteopathy, Andrew Taylor Still, and his wife, Ella Daugherty Still. We began as the Summerfield Saunders Still (S.S.) Still College of Osteopathy, and over this period of 113 years we have undergone several name changes and locations. What has been preserved, however, are the spirit and tenacity of our founding fathers and mothers who were forever striving for validation and excellence in the delivery of care. We have had a long and distinguished history. We are:

1. One of the first osteopathic institutions to offer a diploma rather than a certificate to its graduates
2. Among the first to lead osteopathic education to adopt a four-year program of professional studies
3. The first college of osteopathic medicine and surgery to be accepted into membership into the Association of Academic Health Centers



4. The first health sciences university to be born out of an osteopathic college
5. The first osteopathic medical school to begin a physician assistant program
6. The first College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery established in a health sciences university

There were many early accomplishments, and this institution has persevered sometimes in spite of its many challenges. This very point was acknowledged in the address President Leonard Azneer, our 11th president, made in 1983 at the first Founders Day program: "There were dark days when many believed that this institution could not survive even as a college of osteopathic medicine. Its demise was foretold and the obituary had already been written when, like a zenith rising almost from the ashes, the future of this institution began to unfold anew. This time it was painted in the bold strokes of hope and courage, of faith in self, and commitment to the osteopathic medical philosophy."

Although he is no longer with us, we acknowledge the contributions of President Azneer, who was described as a builder and led this institution forward in spite of the many challenges before him.

In that same Founders Day program, keynote speaker Dr. Murray Goldstein – a noted alumnus from the Class of 1950 and the first D.O to work for the National Institutes of Health, and at the time the assistant surgeon general of the U.S. Public Health Service – also challenged this University to "decide what it will be when it grows up." He challenged us to "reach maturity...become a University of Health Sciences" and "enter the community of scholars." He challenged us in the spirit of rededication to "direct this University to being a center of academic excellence in education, in community service, and in the pursuit of new knowledge."

The challenge was addressed in the establishment of additional training programs during the 1980s to expand the health care team to include training in podiatric medicine and surgery and several programs in the College of Health Sciences – physician assistant, physical therapy, post-professional doctor of physical therapy, public health and health care administration.

Those statements were made in 1983 at our first Founders Day and acknowledged and reaffirmed by President Richard Ryan in our 100-year anniversary in 1998. And to the credit of President Emeritus Ryan, our health sciences university again raised the bar and realized a period of growth and stability in our academic programs, which focused on excellence and credibility. Governor Branstad continued the push forward in raising greater awareness of the University, its mission, its vision and the impact that it has on this city, region and the nation.

So here we are today...a health sciences university...a unique configuration of colleges and programs that now defines us. What a wonderful journey, what a wonderful track record we now enjoy. So I come to this place understanding and respecting this history, and I am mindful of the challenges, the worries, the setbacks, the revolutions and the successes of the past. However, I intend to take the wisdom of the leaders from the past, the good will and personal triumphs of those who soldiered on down in the trenches, those who endured but were for-

ever focused on what could be, and I combine that with a desire and willingness to be so much better than we ever imagined before.

What an amazing transformation there has been from those early days from the Still College building at 1428 West Locust Street in downtown Des Moines to the now sprawling 24-acre campus at 3200 Grand. There is so much we can be proud of today.

So where do we go from here?

At my first commencement this year in May, I gave a charge to the graduating class. The charge began with a favorite quote of mine, which is: "Know that you will make your living by what you get, but you will make a life by what you give." I asked that they go and serve by fulfilling the mission of this school in the delivery of medical care, in the advancement of knowledge and in strengthening our system of health care. I asked that they reach far, dream colossal dreams, set audacious goals, be bold in leadership and, in the name of service to mankind, be possessed of an outrageous ambition to make things better.

In a similar way that I charged the students, I would like to also give a charge to the entire campus community.

We have been very deliberate in the past few months in working together – the Board of Trustees, the alumni, the administrators, faculty, staff and students – in helping to define who we are and what we hope to convey as our purpose, our core values and our vision for the future.

So whereas we are in the midst of this process, I am asking that we, too, reach far, dream colossal dreams and set audacious goals. Our collective vision for the future should be rich with an outrageous ambition to make things better, not just for our students, our faculty, our staff, but for the larger community. I ask that we dream big and set aspirational goals, but be forever mindful of the steps, sometimes first steps, sometimes baby steps, that we must take to move forward.

I have taken to heart the position recently offered by Steve Wartman of the Association of Academic Health Centers, who states that "health sciences universities like us should no longer be able to say that their missions are solely education, research and service/patient care. Missions instead must be viewed as functions that enable institutions to achieve their overarching mission, which ultimately is the improved health and well-being of their communities."

In order to do this, we must be deliberate in what has been called a "recalibration," a value proposition for all academic health centers.

As we look to the future, we must make sure that education is more explicitly linked to societal needs, research to health, and patient care to specific community and regional needs. We cannot do that alone without the community and the recognition of the fact that there are other members of the team who will be there with us in shaping the future of health care. Interprofessional collaborations and interprofessional training will be at the center of these new recalibrations.

So what are the expectations for the future of health sciences universities like DMU?

I would offer that we be very deliberate and be bold in our vision. I believe we, too, must recalibrate. Not only does it mean a new way of thinking to embrace best practices, but also a boldness in approach, which requires that we become very deliberate in our effort to connect with the community at large.

So I can imagine a Des Moines University of the future that has become a destination institution where we will be recognized nationally for our innovative health education programs that promote lifelong learning.

We will be recognized as a leader and partner in the delivery of premier services that impact health, wellness and education in our communities.

We will partner to engage in transforming our communities to be healthy and well.

And we will value the discovery of knowledge and cultivate distinctive faculty and student researchers with a commitment to health and excellence.

Personally, I have a passion for higher education and a commitment to academic excellence. My vision for the future of Des Moines University centers around a simple principle of EXCELLENCE.

In order to raise the bar and strive to be bold in our vision, we must never forget and be forever mindful of the fact that we are all in this together. In all that we do, we place the highest priority on respect for the dignity and diversity of the members of the entire campus community – patients, students, faculty, employees and volunteers. We are committed to supporting professional, intellectual and emotional growth so that all may have the opportunity to fulfill their potential and achieve their goals. We also embrace the values of honesty, accountability, collaboration and inclusiveness as the basic tenets of integrity. We are committed to fostering a climate that doesn't just tolerate differences but treasures them, because we become better citizens of this world and better health care providers when we embrace the rich opportunities afforded to us when we learn from our differences.

I see DMU becoming a destination institution for individuals committed to learning in an environment that promotes excellence, from the delivery of the curriculum in state-of-the-art facilities and hands-on learning experiences that stress the personal touch in a compassionate and holistic manner, to a curriculum that addresses culturally competent care. And as we promote health and wellness, we embrace a philosophy which challenges us to shift from an illness model to a wellness model of care.

We cannot be excellent...we cannot be great...until we focus and prioritize our efforts.

How we get there will take additional resources, which is the focus of a concerted effort that began in conjunction with the inauguration to provide fiscally for all that we hope to become. The Educational Excellence Fund is central to this vision for the future, and I would like to publicly thank all of you who have made a commitment to join with us in this journey by lending support.

So here again I reflect on the phrase, "it takes a village." Not just for raising children, but for raising up an academic health center, a health sciences university, a Des Moines University. We are all in this together, this Board of Trustees, the administrative staff, the faculty, the students, the alumni, the community and business leaders, and our friends and supporters.

We ARE doing a world a good.

What it means is that we will be very deliberate in our mission, we will be very intentional in our approach, and we will be committed to doing what is right with integrity and compassion, all for the good of others. And since our mission of improving lives in the global community by educating diverse groups of compassionate health professionals is at the heart and soul of who we are and our purpose, we *must* be very deliberate in charting our path for the future.

And how shall we do it?

Given our purpose, given our vision for the future, we will continue to stand on one simple principle – that is we will remain committed to health and committed to excellence in all that we do.

I accept the calls to service, and I challenge us all to move forward together in striving for excellence. And as I heed the call to service, accept the challenge for leadership and reaffirm my own personal core values of inclusivity, diversity, integrity, compassion and collaboration, and my own commitment to integral leadership and servant leadership, then let us all go forward in celebrating Des Moines University, for all that it has been and all that it will become, for we are truly doing a world of good with a commitment to health and excellence.





DES MOINES UNIVERSITY

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