

2016 Scholarship Celebration Luncheon Script

Thursday, March 17, 2016
Ullman Conference Center

Program Script

12:15 PM WELCOME CHRIS KIMBALL

Most of you know that I love the sport and history of baseball. It's been a part of my life since I was a child and a subject that I have studied and that I teach. So I'd like to share a quote from a famous baseball player that is relevant to all of us in this moment. The quote is from **Jackie Robinson** who, in 1947 as you may know, became the first African American baseball player in the major leagues. That same year he was named Rookie of the Year, two years later he was named the National League MVP, and in 1955 was a World Series champion. This athlete was so accomplished and had achieved so much that you might find his quote surprising. Here's what he said:

The measure of a life is not what that life accomplishes but rather the impact that life has on others.

(Repeat)

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Jackie could easily have tooted his own horn: he certainly had much to be proud of. Yet, his focus, what he valued most, was the effect he had on people, how his actions inspired, motivated or changed people's lives.

Now please take a moment to look around your table at the people you are seated with. Among them are our scholarship benefactors who, just like Jackie Robinson, have had an effect on the lives of others. Donors, through your empathy, thoughtfulness and generosity, you have made a significant impact on students in many ways. You have taken an interest in students and helped them to advance in their education and career goals. The

knowledge that someone cares enough to recognize achievement and offer support is tremendously encouraging and confidence-boosting to students. It's no secret that a college degree opens doors to wider career opportunities and improved quality of life. It's also no secret that student debt is at an all-time high in this country. Through your actions, Cal Lutheran students are well on their way to achieving their educational goals and reducing their debt, significant factors in the path to successful careers and lives.

I thank you, dear donors, for all you do for Cal Lutheran and for our students. We could not do what we do without you. You have not only provided critical support for hundreds of students but you have also set a wonderful example for them to emulate as future role models. We honor you and express our heartfelt gratitude. Would each of our endowed scholarship benefactors please stand.

(applause)

Endowed scholarship has been a longstanding tradition at Cal

Lutheran since the University's very beginnings in 1961. Our very first scholarship, marking 55 years, is the **Bell Medical Fellowship Fund**, initiated by former Cal Lutheran biology professor, Dr. A. Weir Bell, to support a Cal Lutheran graduate during the first year of medical school. Although Dr. Bell passed away only two years after establishing this fund, his generosity and foresight have made a tremendous difference to many Cal Lutheran graduates over the years and will continue to for many years to come. Much gratitude to Dr. Bell's widow, Josephine, who kindly maintained the scholarship.

Since that first endowed scholarship there have been many, many more created. In your program you will see 51 funds currently marking significant anniversaries from 50 years to five years. We are humbled by the generosity of these contributors and honor each of you for your commitment to the University.

(applause)

I would like to celebrate our newest scholarships created this past year. The **Willis Family Scholarship in History**, endowed by Richard and Karen Willis; the **Jennifer and Craig Zobelein Endowed Scholarship**, endowed by Jennifer and Craig Zobelein who are both Cal Lutheran alumni; and the **Pastor Carl O. and Edith W. Nelson Endowed Scholarship**, established by the Rev. Carl Nelson in honor of his parents. The Zobelein family is here today. Please stand and be recognized.

(applause)

Our gathering today is an important opportunity for us to express our appreciation and to provide you, our supporters, with the opportunity to spend time with the actual recipients of your scholarships. I'm confident that you will be as impressed as I am by these accomplished young men and women. Thank you for helping students discover and live their purpose.

I would now like to introduce Lana Clark, Cal Lutheran's Director of Stewardship and organizer of today's event.

Thank you, Chris. As an alumna, and former scholarship recipient myself, I have a personal understanding of the deep impact our scholarship benefactors have on our students. Each student's journey is different, but most often the themes I hear are, "My Cal Lutheran experience would not be possible without my scholarship," and "I'm grateful someone believes in ME enough to create a scholarship."

I would like to applaud **our students**, our scholarship beneficiaries. Through your work ethic, your many accomplishments, your enthusiasm and dedication, you are exceptional representatives of your generation. You are our future leaders, teachers, doctors, lawyers, journalists, scientists, researchers among many other professions and we take great pride in you. Our student recipients are seated with their benefactors.

Students, please stand at your table and share your name, your hometown, what you are studying and something unique about yourself.

(pause as students introduce themselves)

Next, I'd like to call on two of our scholarship benefactors who you were introduced to a few minutes ago: **Jennifer and Craig Zobelein**. We've been lucky to count them as neighbors at University Village, and their presence will be missed as they move to Las Vegas later this month to be closer to family. The Zobeleins have been generous supporters of the Cal Lutheran music program, and we had the pleasure of hearing the world premiere of Craig's piece, "Another Waltz" performed at the University Symphony concert a few weeks ago. I now turn the mike over to Jennifer and Craig to share why they were inspired to create a scholarship.

(applause)

12:25 PM

CRAIG AND JENNIFER ZOBELIN

- *Lana to provide guidance to the Zobeles on their remarks – regarding their named scholarship and why they give*

12:32 PM TRANSITION TO BLESSING LANA CLARK

- *Lana thanks the Zobeles for their remarks and gifts, introduces Desta Goehner '96 Director of Congregational Relations to give blessing*

(applause)

12:33 PM

BLESSING

DESTA GOEHNER

12:35 PM

LANA CLARK

- *Lana invites guests to help themselves to the buffet lunch*

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