

reform our health care system, or entering public service. To put it as directly as I can - the world needs you; the problems facing us are too complex and too persistent to not have as many smart and talented minds as possible tackling them.

Not too long ago you helped elect our nation's first African American President on a message of hope and change - it is in the spirit of that message, I ask you to bring hope and change to the world. It may be that when you first stepped foot on this campus four years ago, you had expectations for a career in a certain field, which because of the Great Recession, is no longer viable. Instead of being disappointed, see this as an opportunity - your permission slip, as it were - to chart a new course. Embrace it, run with it, give it all you've got.

I'm often reminded of a chat I had on the eve of my Fairfield graduation with Father James Murphy -- the then Chair of History which was my field of study. While I knew I was going to law school the following fall, I wasn't sure what life had in store for me after that. Father Murphy promised -- somewhat to my surprise -- that I would have a wonderful and varied career but with that promise he challenged me to avoid the temptation to revert to the comfortable, the easy, the familiar. "Never shrink from the unknown, the untried," he said - "take it on and incredible things will happen". He also encouraged me to always keep my ears open along the way,

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