

Francis Crowe Society

Acceptance Address

May 8, 2010

Stu Rich

Good morning. Congratulations to today's graduates and welcome to the great final exam which is applying your knowledge to the problems of the world for the rest of your life. You will be graded by your harshest critic... yourselves.

I am greatly honored to be invited into the Francis Crowe Society. I am an alumni of the University of Maine, I have two sons currently enrolled here, and this is an institution that I deeply love. My window into the College of Engineering is through Dr. Worboys and the Spatial Engineering Department. I am always inspired and excited when I get a chance to be with his team and learn more about the awesome work they are doing. They are a great group and I enjoy working with them very much.

I was very fortunate to spend the past week in England on business. At one point during the week we found ourselves driving down one of the few nice straight roads in England, the A1 highway. As it happens the road that is now known as the A1 was originally laid down by some long-forgotten Roman civil engineer in around AD 43 when the Romans attempted to conquer the Britons the first time. That engineering solution continues to serve humanity brilliantly today almost 2,000 years later though the name of the engineer will never be known.

There are few that will receive the notoriety of Francis Crowe. Regardless, the work that you do will change the world, and often in ways that are impossible to appreciate at the time. The world is desperate for your energy, your vision, your passion. The world is desperate for the solutions that have yet to unfold from your creative minds.

I will be very excited to watch as your vision and creativity takes form in the world. You are a group of amazing, bright, and very talented individuals and I am tremendously honored to be counted among your number.

Thank you very much.