



Chicago, IL, May 1, 2017: Motivational speaker Doug Dvorak, '84, served as the spring commencement speaker at Flagler College. During his talk, he spoke to the graduating class about the importance of leaving a lasting legacy. He emphasized the impact of retiring Dr. William T. Abare, Jr., who today handed out diplomas to graduating students for the last time as president of the college.



“Dr. Abare started in 1971, when Flagler College only consisted of the old Ponce de Leon hotel and Markland House,” Dvorak said. “He took a risk on Flagler, on building a college. Class of 2017, what will your legacy be?”

The alumnus encouraged students to be motivated, stay focused and finish something: “Take risks like Dr. Abare did, and dare to swim in the rough waters.”

Dvorak highlighted five legacy lessons for Flagler students: “You will fail often,” he said. “The quality of your life is directly proportional to the commitment of excellence you choose to make in your field of endeavor; keep moving forward; never, never give up; and remember that success is not getting what you want, but wanting what you have.”



At the end of his talk, Flagler College President Dr. William T. Abare, Jr. conferred on Dvorak an honorary Doctor of Laws degree for his distinguished career and accomplishments in sales and marketing.

> View photos from graduation: [Click here.](#)

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