

7/84

I would like to take just a few moments to express my gratitude toward the people in this room. I do thank all of you from the bottom of my heart, for the help you have given me and the confidence you have shown in me. I would also like to say a few words about what I perceive to be the significance of this event, both for me personally, and as it relates to family medicine.

Several people have said to me, "Congratulations, Johanna, I'm very glad for you, but a reception? I've never heard of a department doing that for an associate professor." Neither have I. And I think this gesture, which is so welcome on a personal level, is important for what it says about family medicine as well. I think it is safe to say that this department, and family medicine in general, do things a little differently. And the way we do things makes a very important statement as to what we are all about. I believe family medicine has an important role to play in the future of medicine, and an important contribution to make. And what that role is, how that contribution is defined depends on family medicine owning, with pride and acceptance, what it is and what it is not.

As many of you are aware, over the past year on a personal level I have had to do a great deal of soul-searching, trying to understand and we in family medicine know the importance of family to the development and come to terms with who I was as a professional being. In that process, two of my most important models were my father, who has always embodied for me the true humanitarian scholar; and my mother, who taught me as a woman not to be afraid to create and achieve from the inside out. And I'm very proud that they can be with me here tonight. maturation of the individual, and I want to say a few words in that regard. I also want to thank my brother and sister, who with whom I have shared so much, and who have given me so much support and love. I also want to thank the members of my current family; my two daughters

Shauna and Jena, who took the brunt of my career aspirations when they were little more than toddlers, and who have hung in there with me for through babysitters and daycare centers, canned meals and hurried moments; and Joshua, who brought a great deal of chaos into our already pretty complicated life, but also tremendous joy. And finally, I would like to thank my husband, Dan, who has always encouraged me to be my own person, and has given me the courage to try for what I always wanted: family and career.

I would also like to thank this department, which is a very special and unique department. It would take too long to individually list the caring and support which has come from every individual in this room. But I think it is important to acknowledge that the qualities of this department which are so special are what make family medicine so unique as a field. Several people have said.....

Neither have I. I think it is unusual because this department, like family medicine itself, embodies certain values which in this highly specialized, technological age, perhaps seem unglamorous, a little old-fashioned, and yet are the critical foundation on which everything else must rest. In my experience in family medicine, I think some of these values include compassion and caring for the whole person; a concern for the individual as well as the policy; a generosity of spirit and a reaching out to be of service of others; a desire to heal not only the bodies, but the minds and spirits of our patients.

This past year was a kind of coming of age for me personally, a rite of passage through which I was able to look honestly at who I am, and how best I can serve the field of family medicine, and the academic community at large. I feel that family medicine is also coming of age. When I first joined this department, there was incredible controversy as to whether family medicine belonged in a scholarly environment. It was felt that

implied that family physicians were "nic" people, but were they rigorous academicians and scholars? I think developments over the last 6 years are extremely encouraging in that regard. Family medicine has developed a conceptual framework, and is beginning to develop a solid research base. And I think we can say with pride, this field bridges the gap between caring clinicians and committed scholars. When I first came to UCI, I was a bright energetic young woman without much focus or sense of direction; and in that sense I was quite inappropriate for the field of family medicine, which at that time was in a similar position. Through many years of struggle, I feel that I have found my professional voice, and have been able to better define what I stand for and its relevance to the academic community. I have observed the same problems in family medicine itself. We are both growing up. I look forward to many years of productive scholarly activity; and I could not be happier to do this in the context of family medicine, which increasingly is finding its scientific voice without losing its heart.