

Senior Gift Speech – Addison Bennett

Hello! My name is Addison Bennett, and this is Carmen Lin. As the chairs of the senior gift committee – don't worry, we are not asking you for more money – we're here to tell you about the work our exceptional class has done.

When I spoke with classmates about Senior Gift, I was occasionally asked, “why should I contribute more to Skidmore when I've already given so much to come here?” And with the rising cost of tuition, parents, I'm sure you're wondering the same thing.

To this question, I ask in return, “what at Skidmore do you care about?” Is it the relationships with professors, your favorite events – like Big Show, chicken finger Friday, Comfest —those two times Stephen Colbert has mentioned Skidmore on TV? Or is it affording all students the ability to attend our alma mater?

For me, it's *definitely* Colbert...and so much more. It's the summer internship funding I was generously granted that allowed me to apply my Government major in Washington, DC. It was touring the east coast with my entire improv team. It was creating a fund at the school that allowed students to pursue ventures to improve student life. It's working collaboratively with our whole campus community as a member of student government to make Skidmore the college we want it to be. It was chicken finger Friday.

So, to answer the question of my skeptical classmates: there is a very real monetary benefit in our donations, and even a little goes long way. Each year, donations of 100 dollars or less contribute enough to fund about a dozen scholarships, and financial aid was just one of many projects senior gift focused on this year.

But more than that, I believe there is a symbolic value in our participation. Donating means we see something in Skidmore that's worth supporting; in this election year, it's a vote “yes” for all of those things that we care about here. It's a vote of confidence and appreciation in Skidmore.

We're thrilled to announce that this year, __ % of the senior class participated in Senior Gift, contributing a total of \$__ to the Skidmore annual fund. We set out to get high participation, and we proudly reached that goal.

We want to thank all of the seniors who participated in Senior Gift this year – you know who you are. We also want to thank our senior gift committee members: Caroline Hobbs, Miles Calzini, Cindy Lan, Roslyn Wertheimer, Charles Tetelman, Asher Siegel, Claire Lipsman, and MJ Lynn.