

Senior Gift Speech – Carmen Lin

Thank you Addison and thank you to the Senior Gift Committee for all your hard work this year. It was a challenging process, but we are so proud of this class.

Whether you gave passionately to an initiative or were chased down several times before you “gave passionately to an initiative”, you all stepped up and contributed to an important Skidmore tradition; a tradition that has great impact.

As a first generation college student and the oldest child of a Chinese immigrant family, I understand that money does not always come our way so easily. Attending Skidmore for the past 4 years was, for the lack of a better word, truly a gift. It was due to the relentless love and hard work of my parents and the generosity of the Skidmore community.

As Addison mentioned, about a dozen scholarships are funded by contributions of less than \$100 every year. So yes, your dollar goes a long way and yes, it means a lot. For those of you who designated your gift to scholarships and financial aid this past year, I want to thank you on behalf of my family, fellow classmates, and future SkidKids; you made coming to Skidmore a lot easier for many of us.

In addition, we as a class decided in the fall of 2016 that a designation to diversity was necessary for this campus’ growth. Throughout my time at Skidmore I’ve been inspired by the passion of my peers and professors who mobilize for a climate of consciousness and community on this campus, but there is definitely more that needs to be done.

With your contributions we hope to see unchartered clubs get a chance to organize, Social Justice Month become a campus-wide movement, and for every individual to feel supported and empowered in this space.

This class also designated gifts to sustainability and athletics, two major areas on campus where students found their homes in the past 4 years. With your contributions, these two areas can continue to nurture students and provide them the opportunity to do remarkable things.

And lastly to everyone who participated, you’ve become an integral part of the cycle of “paying it forward”. Whether you’re teaching English abroad, working for a start-up in NYC, or just headed home to spend some time processing that college is actually over, think about how you’ve contributed to a someone’s success at Skidmore. Think about how someone else most likely contributed to yours. Find ways to keep this cycle going because the relationships that we created with one another is what we continue to carry with us after college.

As the members of the Senior Gift Committee and the Class of 2016 we want to wish everyone luck as they embark on their next adventures (small or large, near or far). Stay in touch and don’t be strangers. Congratulations and deuces Skidmore.