

President Glotzbach, members of the Class of 2016 and your families, faculty, distinguished guests - on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I welcome you to the 105th Commencement of this amazing college. Fulfillment of one of the Board's most joyful responsibilities took place yesterday, when we proudly voted to grant degrees to 599 students – about to become alumni.

On this day we celebrate our graduates and honor you for your achievements, your perseverance, your hard work, your zest for life and the things we know you will accomplish in the future.

When you first arrived at Skidmore, I'm sure many of you only had a vague vision of this day, but from that day to this, we the Skidmore community have been observing your growth, your strength, your passion, your creativity and your swelling intelligence. In a very few moments we will be extremely proud to call you alumni.

You walk into a world that needs leadership, insight, open-mindedness and versatility. Through your energy and hard work and the education and life experiences you have allowed yourself to achieve and absorb at Skidmore, we know you are prepared to take on the challenges that are presented to you the moment you leave the campus, for the rest of your life.

Today we honor your transition from student to alumni, and ask that as you continue on life's journey, you'll remember and recognize that some small portion of your success may have come from the strong connections you have made with extraordinary faculty; the lifelong friends you have made; through your involvement in community service, or a club or SGA, or athletics or living together on campus, and yes even those evenings spent on Caroline Street. All of those experiences are part of your Skidmore education.

Class of 2016, Be Happy with Yourself, Work Hard and Have Fun.

Congratulations!