

**COMMENCEMENT REMARKS**  
**SIBYL WATERMAN HALEY '71,**  
***President of the Alumni Association***

Hello, Class of 2017! Are we happy?

I am Sibyl Waterman Haley, Class of 1971, and President of the Skidmore College Alumni Association.

Mine will be the last hand to shake yours as you cross this stage. Don't pass me by; I even have a present for you.

And once you leave this stage, you will join me and more than 37,000 other graduates as members of the Skidmore College Alumni Association.

Welcome!!

I have some words of advice for you: slow down.

Before you leave this campus, pause to remember who you were while you were here.

Slow down and look at your friends, your professors, your families.

Don't race away too quickly.

Slow down and take a moment to let it all sink in.

Think of your hard work, your accomplishments, the education you have received here.

Slow down.

And once you've joined the hurly burly of the "grown up world," come back.

You will find class reunions to be a lot of fun and very reinforcing. Our homecoming weekends are also chances to reconnect with friends, faculty, and staff. You will make new friends at each one you attend.

Come back!

You can also discover the bonds among Skidmore alumni, and we are everywhere! All over the world! Come find us! We're eager to meet you! We're eager to assist you, whether in career or social networking. We're waiting! Come find us!

And as your busy lives swirl you around, get involved.

The alumni body supports each other, but also, the support that you can offer Skidmore with your time as a volunteer is invaluable. Get involved!

Join our regional alumni groups, our committees, our boards. Get involved.

Remember, the worth of your Skidmore diploma is as strong as the support you give to the place which presented it to you.

And also, please help make it possible for those less fortunate to have the Skidmore opportunities you have enjoyed. Your generosity can make that happen. Let's keep making Skidmore better and better. We need you.

Please give back.

So slow down. Look back. Come back. Come find us. Get involved. Give back.

The Skidmore Alumni Association is here for you now, and for the rest of your lives.

And now, congratulations and cheers to the great Class of 2017!!