

Gail Dudack '70, P'11

Remarks

Skidmore College 101st Commencement

May 19, 2012

Good morning and Greetings to the Class of 2012!

My name is Gail Dudack, a proud Member of the Class of 1970, parent of Ross Colombo class of 2011, and president of the Skidmore College alumni association. As president, my role at commencement is to keep the college's traditions. Our first tradition is to recognize all the alumni who are here today. So I would like to ask all alumni to please stand and be recognized.

These are just a few of the more than 30,000 Skidmore alumni who have graduated before you and are living throughout the US and in many countries around the world. In just a few minutes, each of you will come to this stage, entering as a student and leaving as an alum. Graduation can be a bittersweet day as you prepare to leave your friends and professors. But I want to let you know that your time on campus was really just the beginning of your Skidmore experience. The Alumni Association offers you a path to many new Skidmore friendships and new experiences. It can be a way receive (and some day to give) career and life mentoring from fellow alumni. Or, if you are like me, the alumni association is simply a way to meet and have fun!

But being connected and being a skidmore alum is not a spectator sport. As fellow alumni we hope you will give your time, and your resources, so skidmore can continue to grow stronger. A strong and vibrant skidmore network adds value to your degree and will assure that skidmore will continue to attract the best and the brightest, just as it did you.

So, our second skidmore commencement tradition is: When you cross the stage, I will shake your hand, welcome you to the alumni association and give you a small gift!

And finally, our last tradition, is for me, as President of the Alumni Association, to speak on behalf of the 30,000 alumni and say -

Congratulations! We are proud of you!

Good luck, have fun, take care of your health, your family and your friends AND remember the Skidmore alumni motto: stay connected, get involved!