

Commencement Chapel Talk
Morgan Scoville
May 30, 2010

Seniors, parents, admirers, this graduation holds special meaning for me. In the fall of 2005 I began my work at St. Andrew's just as you all began to tour, interview and apply. I interviewed a lot of you and I read every one of your applications. I've lived with you on dorm, proctored your evening study halls, coached many of you, cheered for all of you, and watched closely in amazement as you flourished here. Your progression as individuals and as a class over the past four years is quite remarkable and I am proud to have been on that journey with you for legs of the way. Your success as a group gives me great strength and courage as I too depart the shores of Noxontown Pond. I want you all to know that this group of young adults has afforded me a priceless foundation from which I can further develop my career in education. You've given me the necessary experiences, learning moments, fond memories and practice that will continue to sustain me as I progress. *Thank you* from the bottom of my heart. But our journey together does not end today. Today marks the 10th anniversary of my own St. Andrew's graduation, which means that all of our future class reunions are aligned. I'm eager to see you all on the front lawn again in five years to hear of all the St. Andrew's ethos you have spread, and to talk about how great the classes of 2010 and 2000 were and are.

What sage remarks could I offer you at this point when your brains should be just about as full and exhausted as they can get for now? These past few days you've be given plenty of advice, direction, praise, hugs, kisses, high-fives, gifts and goodbyes, and I don't want to try to compete with all of that. I just hope that when you reflect on your graduation day, at the very least, you'll remember that it began in this chapel.

On Friday, a brave few of you shared some personal reflections on how the chapel program here had either shifted your faith or challenged your convictions in unanticipated but positive ways. The depth and eloquence of how each of you spoke left me believing that each one of you has experienced a moment so profound in this chapel that it sparked the beginning of an epiphany or that it facilitated the growth of your human spirit. The

transformational power of this space and your time in it is palpable. For me, the chapel program consistently gathers this community and opens us up. It helps us explore our differences. It helps us confront our fears. It helps us seek deeper meaning, it pushes us to seek truth and understanding, it allows us to reflect, and it teaches us that support for one another is paramount. Spending time in this space reminds us that we are part of something bigger than ourselves and that we are capable of enhancing the lives of others and that it is the right and necessary thing to do.

Class of 2010, take a moment to look around at those who have come here to celebrate with you today. You all have someone to turn to. *Could you have done it without them? Would you be who you are today with out them?* What you have accomplished over the last four years as a group and as individuals is a direct result of collaboration, of support, of selflessness, and of faith. We need one another to be our best. The values and lessons of the chapel program here have been surrounding, teaching, and influencing each one of you your entire life. The values and lessons of the chapel program transcend this space and your time here. As all of us continue to pursue and develop our passions and engage in the world around us, we must offer friendship to strangers, we must share our belief with doubters, our motivations with the uninspired, and our dreams with the hopeless. We do that by gathering, by discussing, by listening, by being open and by connecting. Our efforts will create courage, it will foster peace, and it will unleash hope. It will unlock the full potential of the human spirit.

When you reflect on your graduation day, at the very least, I hope you'll remember that it began in this chapel.