

# A JOB WELL DONE

Remarks for Final Convocation  
April 26, 2018

We gather today to recognize the curricular and co-curricular achievements of our students. We recognize that the close of an academic year is less of an endpoint than simply a moment to pause—it's worth underscoring that we call our graduation ceremony, "commencement," but it is nevertheless important for us to mark this occasion by honoring and congratulating those who have excelled in their studies and leadership roles here. This is a campus of outstanding men, but today we honor those who have distinguished themselves in our classrooms, laboratories, studios, and across this campus. You honorees set the bar for your fellow students and, leading by example, contribute to making Hampden-Sydney the extraordinary place of learning that it is.

Even as we honor your accomplishments, it is important to remember that few of our accomplishments are singular achievements. We have been endowed by our creator with intellect and talent. And, behind almost any student achievement is the teaching and mentoring of one or many members of this College's faculty and staff. We offer our students a very personal approach to higher education. Since day one, faculty and staff members have gotten to know you, they have appreciated your strengths, challenged your weaknesses, learned about your passions, and suggested opportunities for you to become your best self.

It is important also to recognize today parents, teachers you had in grade school and high school, and other mentors who prepared you well to excel here at Hampden-Sydney. Not only did they provide you with a foundation upon which you could build your college life, but through their financial contributions, your parents also made it possible for you to have all of the benefits of a Hampden-Sydney College education.

Finally, let us also acknowledge and honor those who have gone before us today who have done so much to make Hampden-Sydney College an extraordinary place of learning. As we move through the program today, you will see that most of the awards that are presented today carry the name of an individual. In some cases, these individuals are students who passed through these halls and walked this beautiful campus before you; in other cases, they are professors or College staff members who made the education of Hampden-Sydney students their life's work; and in other cases they are benefactors, who, without their support, we would not have this great College.

To today's award winners, our most enthusiastic congratulations on a job well done!