



William C. Yoh '89
Board Chairman

Thank you Dr. Nagl. I'd like to add my welcome to everyone here today. It's my honor to make a few remarks on behalf of your board of trustees.

To all you parents and other family influencers in these young men's lives – I will leave your formal acknowledgement to Dr. Nagl. But please know that the board understands and appreciates the sacrifices of time and treasure you have made to enable your sons to attend Haverford and to earn Haverford School diplomas.

The academic training your boys have received, the life skills they have developed, and the incredible network they now join, have put them on a pathway to success – and to a life of serving others – the likes of which very few young people have. The value you parents receive – *your* return on your enormous investment – doesn't end today. It starts. And it will reward you and your families for the rest of your lives.

Thank you for honoring the commitment – with your sons, with the faculty and staff, and with each other – to embrace our principles of community – and for providing an environment that has allowed these young men to grow, to make good decisions, and to support each other in positive, health-conscious ways. You have been the principal difference makers in their lives. I hope each of you knows that and feels proud.

The board wants to thank Dr. Nagl and the 200 women and men who comprise the faculty and staff of The Haverford School. You too are difference-makers – other than the boys' parents, likely the biggest difference makers for these graduates. Dr. Nagl, you continue to lead our school and our community during a time of national and international change, opportunity, and discontent. Your sage perspective, steady hand on the tiller, and strong leadership team assure us that the school – and our boys – are in safe hands.

We applaud the teachers' partnership and candor with the boys to surface and wrestle with topics of not just local, but national and international prominence, including race relations, respect for women, drug and alcohol use, and honesty and stealing. Haverford – like any other school community – is not immune to these critical issues.

What differentiates us are the openness of our discourse and the pursuit of appropriate freedom of expression *and* respect for others. You teachers know that there are times to teach students *what* to think and times to teach them *how* to think. In short, you have helped build the character in these young men that the world needs now more than ever.

Dr. Nagl and the faculty and staff of The Haverford School, please stand and be recognized.

Just as the faculty and staff have prepared these boys for the future, your board is focused on the future as well. Our priorities include continuing to monitor and shore up the financial foundation of the school: focusing on the affordability of a Haverford School education, as well as the costs to create a strong community of boys, to supply our difference-making curriculum, and to meet the long-term needs of our campus.

This spring we entered the public phase of the Character at Our Core capital campaign. While much of Haverford's business model is funded by tuition, the need for endowment and annual giving to attract and retain

students and teachers and deliver our program continues to increase. We literally would not be here if not for the generosity of donors from prior campaigns – today *we* stand on *their* shoulders.

Thank you to those of you who have generously supported Character at Our Core. And to those of you who have not, please know that *any* contribution you can make will pay it forward, enabling *tomorrow's* Haverford students and graduates to stand on *your* shoulders as they go through life.

In addition to endowment and annual giving, Character at Our Core is also focused on our facilities – the places and spaces where learning and growth occur. As you likely noticed on your way in, work has begun on the middle school project, the last major piece of a two-decades-in-the-making campus master plan. In the coming weeks, Crosman Hall be demolished, and a new future-oriented, economically-designed and -constructed three-story academic building will be built in its place.

As a student in Crosman Hall in the 1980s, and now as a trustee and middle school parent, I can assure you that the building's best years are long behind it. However, we should reflect on what Crosman Hall has given us over its 70-year history. Middle school is a unique time in our students' lives. They enter as *boys* and exit, physically anyway, as young *men*.

Crosman has been the desktop, the lab bench, and the book locker, for 1,000s of students' boys-to-men transformation. Can we please have a round of applause for Crosman Hall and for the many teachers who have called it their professional home for so long.

Your generosity to this project, as well as to the many other places and programs that make Haverford what it is, enable us to achieve our leadership position as not just the best *boys* school in the Philadelphia region, but the best school *for* boys in the Philadelphia region - and one of the most important schools for boys in the nation and the world.

This year your board, in tandem with the faculty and staff and many of you, embarked on a strategic planning process, focusing on 21st century education; character, culture and community; and financial sustainability. We're forging a five-year plan with a 10-plus-year impact. We expect to publish the new plan in 2020.

As important as any aspect of our planning efforts, of the board's priorities, and of our collective attention, is our mission of preparing boys for life. These graduates . . . and those just before them and certainly those after them . . . are heading into a world where they will experience more change and more diversity than any previous generation.

Our graduates will need proficiency in a new competency – being comfortable being uncomfortable. Their colleges and future employers will insist on the ability to collaborate with a broad array of people. Part of our responsibility is to help Haverford boys develop an appreciation for differences, the ability to facilitate civil discourse, and the toolset to harness the power of inclusion in their communities.

Someone has to produce the male role models and leaders to guide society in the future. I ask, “why not Haverford? Why not us?” Tomorrow in our year-end meeting and this summer during a special two-day retreat, your board will wrestle with these critical and often divisive topics.

How do we *join* together rather than *judge* apart? If we allow our community to judge rather than to join, we devolve into white versus black, gay versus straight, rich versus poor, MSNBC watchers versus Fox News watchers. But if we join rather than judge, our community can focus on what *truly* matters – preparing our boys for an adult world different than the one any of us entered. We need to galvanize around the virtues and principles of community that we stand for as one, united Haverford School community.

Today, regrettably, there are far more institutions – schools and colleges, businesses and not-for-profits, governments and public sector organizations – that are getting it *wrong* as opposed to *right* when it comes to building the capacity to disagree without being disagreeable. As an institution and a community engaged in these topics, again I ask, “why not us?” Haverford leads in many areas, and now . . . with these issues of community, respect, and possibility . . . we have another opportunity to show the world what true leadership looks like.

For all the discussions, debates, and *difference-making* around all these critical topics, I want to thank the women and men with whom I serve on the board – and also thank those who have served on the board in the past. Would all current and *former* members of the board of trustees please stand and be recognized.

Finally, your board wants to address the biggest difference-makers in the room, our graduates. Congratulations to you all. You have each left your mark at Haverford; *you* have made a difference here. And Haverford has done much to prepare you for life – as it did for me when I was in your seats.

At that time, I never envisioned having the opportunity to be involved in our community . . . and to give back to the school . . . in the ways that I and hundreds of other alumni volunteers have. I wonder who among you will have the desire and the opportunity to serve the school in a similar fashion?

Regardless of what you do in college and beyond, please make a difference for those around you. Be kind. Have fun. Give love and receive love. Recognize and honor the dignity in others. You owe that to yourself, to your families, to your classmates, to your teachers, and to the almost 7,000 proud Haverford School alumni whose ranks you now join. Welcome to the alumni, gentlemen.

So good luck, thank you for what you have meant to Haverford, and continue to make us proud. Thank you all.