



High School Graduation

June 5, 2005

Speech by Ian Yaffee, Senior Class Gift Committee Co-Chair

Before we transition from being students to alumni of Georgetown Day School, the Class of 2005 would like to give thanks to the entire community for our wonderful experiences here. Six short months ago, we voted to establish the Class of 2005 Financial Aid Endowment for Summer Programs. In addition to the parents who have already generously donated to the endowment fund, one hundred and eleven seniors of a class have contributed to start this endowment at the fifty thousand dollar level. This is the first time in GDS history that 100% of a senior class has donated to the gift! I would like to take this time to thank both the senior and parent gift committees, most notably co-chairs of the parent committee Joan & Barry Rosenthal, Assistant Head of School Wes Gibson, Director of Alumni Relations Susie Ryan, and of course, the person whom I've had the privilege of serving as co-chair with, Mia Henry.

In establishing this endowment, the Class highlights the values of our mission statement: "to encourage students to wonder, to inquire, and to be self-reliant, laying the foundation for a lifelong love of learning." Before today, for many this exploration of self was limited to the school year. Our endowment will allow for a rising junior or senior to do anything that he or she is passionate about and to share something from this journey with the community. In short, to wonder and to inquire outside of the classroom, confirming a lifelong love of learning. For, as T.S. Eliot wrote:

We shall not cease from exploration.

And the end of all our exploring,

Will be to arrive where we started

And know the place for the first time.

As in the Romance cycle, it is during these explorations away from home that we learn the most about ourselves and truly come of age. Knowledge and perspective gained from them gives the most back to a community that values difference in both backgrounds and thoughts as much as ours does. Now, as we begin new explorations and continue old ones, we will forever share the

bond of having experienced GDS together.

Ladies and gentleman, esteemed faculty and staff, members of the board, honored guests, and Peter, as co-chair of the Senior Gift Committee, it is my greatest honor to present the School with the Class of 2005 Financial Aid Endowment for Summer Programs.