

As we draw to a close our senior inspiration ceremony, I would like to reflect on some of the things I have learned, and I think we all have learned, from our final years in high schools. Four years can seem like a long time for some people. For others, four years flies by. But I think we all can agree that this chapter of each of our lives has been a very challenging, memorable, exciting, unexpected, painful, beautiful, and changing. Each of us started to create our own journey, confined in the same building, with the same people, five days a week, for four falls, four winters, and four springs. And through the creation, we began to build the individuals we are today, taking pieces of friends, lessons from teachers, and snapshots from experiences. High school, the common bond that tied together our individual journeys, is now coming to an end. Now our pathways will be lighted with the excitement of opportunities and choices. I think it's so important for us to take on our future step by step, and use these memories and friendships as motivation and support to push us along. While we know that the days ahead will be equally difficult as inspiring, there are a few things we must take with us, that I personally have learned from my four years at Lafayette. Remember to take chances. Find the courage to avoid the easy way out. Appreciate everything that happens, both the good and the bad. Bring Happiness to someone who needs it. Push yourself to be a better person. Love the little things. Cherish your family. Recognize your mistakes. Forgive yourself. Keep in touch with old friends. Be a good listener. Exceed expectations. And always know that tomorrow is a new day, with the potential possibility to make it better than you think it's going to be. In the song *The Heart of Life* by John Mayer, he says:

Pain throws your heart to the ground.

Love turns the whole thing around.

No it won't all go the way it should

But I know the heart of life is good.

So, class of 2009, I think we are all ready to graduate, and write our ending to this detailed four year chapter of our story, but let's enjoy these final days together, and get excited for all the days left to come.