Address to Graduates from the Faculty
Dr. Lyn Boulter

On behalf of the faculty, I would like to extend our warmest welcome and congratulations to the excited and proud parents, family members and friends here today to celebrate the commencement of their loved ones. And most of all, congratulations to the Class of 2014!

Even though you are leaving us today, our hope is that you will continue to be life-long learners, respectful of all cultures, people of good character, and leaders in your work and community.

What is a leader anyway? Many people think leadership requires a great deal of visibility and giving speeches in front of crowds. And many of you might be thinking, “That’s certainly not me!”

But Kevin Kruse, author and public speaker on leadership, defines leadership as “a process that maximizes the efforts of others towards the achievement of a goal. “

Leaders makes a difference.

Let me share a metaphor with you told from the pulpit many years ago by a former pastor of mine, now retired, who also urged us to be leaders who make a difference.

He held up a watch (a face watch like this one) and said, the visible face of a watch has “the big hand and the little hand” of course, maybe some numbers. These few parts provide important information, but they really have very little, if anything, to do with keeping the watch running.

Then he removed the back and held up the watch, clearly showing the rhythmic movements of the gears and wheels.

He continued. A jeweler told me it takes at least 115 parts just to make the movement of this watch. If even one part is missing or the least bit off sync, the watch cannot run.
Where do you see yourself on this watch? As you find a position in the workforce and settle into a community, how will you become a leader in some way?

A few of you might be the “face” of your work or community, providing important information.

But if not the “face”, we hope you will be the type of leader that maximizes the efforts of others to keep your work or community running smoothly, and makes a difference. Think about being a leader who, as defined by Bill Gates, helps to “empower others.”

Catawba graduates, (soon to be Catawba alumni!), please keep your professors in your thoughts and keep touch with us! We will be delighted to hear from you! We wish you a lifetime of peace, fulfillment, and happiness.

Thank you.