Greetings from the Trustees

Darlene Ball, Chair of the Board of Trustees Commencement (May 14, 2016)

Good morning - I am Darlene Ball, a proud 1962 graduate of Catawba College. I am ever grateful for the education and opportunities that I received here and am honored to serve as Chair of the Board of Trustees at this time.

I want to be the first to welcome family and friends who have joined our graduating class for this very significant day and to congratulate you who in the next hour will move from Student to Graduate.

To you: Life has many starting points: your birth was a starting point, the education that led you to Catawba was a starting point and your graduation today is another starting point. You probably know that "Commencement" doesn't just mean "A ceremony to confer degrees" it also means: A BEGINNING, A START, LAUNCH, KICKOFF

You are ready – ready to leave these years at Catawba College and start your next journey. You are ready to be whatever you want to be, to step forward and step out – to accept challenges, to put your hand up to participate or lead in your job, in your community and in your family.

I am reminded of something Warren Buffett said – no not Jimmy Buffet who sings <u>MARGARITAVILLE</u> - the Billionaire Warren Buffett. When asked recently the secret to his success he said: GET UP EARLY EVERY DAY, WORK HARD AND STRIKE OIL.

Well, I believe we all "strike oil." It's that moment when we realize exactly what we are meant to do – what we can commit our life to - what makes us really happy.

That's what your time at Catawba has prepared you for – success wherever you go and whatever you do - just keep your eyes open, your mind alert, your courage up and your heart in every decision you make.

Remember to be thankful every day for those who help you on your journey – family, friends, associates and the committed faculty, staff and administration at Catawba College who have been so important in this part of your journey.

You know - Life is like a Camera – focus on what's important, capture the good times, develop from the negatives and, if things don't work out – take another shot.

So, our best wishes to you = take your time leaving – and hurry back! Homecoming is October 28th!!!

GO INDIANS