

CATAWBA COLLEGE

Darlene Ball August 25, 2011

Address to students and faculty at the Opening Convocation of the 2011-2012 school year.

Good morning – what an exciting day – the beginning of a great year at Catawba College. Mr. Paul Fisher, the chairman of the board of Trustees, is unable to be with us today but sends his best wishes.

I am Darlene Ball, Vice Chairman of the Board and an alumna of Catawba, who majored in chemistry and biology but whose career path took me through 11 different opportunities in a number of fields. I graduated in 1962 - so, as I remembered while preparing to talk to you, 50 years ago I participated in the opening convocation just like this one at the beginning of my senior year. How time flies

Your Board of Trustees is made up of 48 members residing in many states on the east coast with one in the state of Washington. 39 of the 48 Trustees are alumni. Catawba was their foundation to achieving success in many different fields including education, church relations, IT, real estate, Entrepreneurism, financial management, insurance, banking, retail, manufacturing, law, publishing, accounting, politics, medicine, etc. and they contribute significantly to the college through their knowledge, time and personal resources.

The Board holds formal meetings three times a year on campus, and there are 8 committees that work outside our formal meeting times. While Trustees are not often visible on campus, we are in fact very much in touch with what goes at the college every single day through email, the web site, twitter, facebook, etc..

One of the Board's key activities this year is the Search for the 22nd President of Catawba.

Also, as Catawba enters its 160th year, a committee of Board members, faculty and staff are providing the leadership for development of a long-term Strategic Plan for the College. Be assured that each and every one of you – all of Catawba's constituents - students, faculty, staff and alumni - will have the opportunity to participate in the development of this plan.

We hope that you realize the incredibly talented and caring support system of faculty and staff that you have here at Catawba. They are available and committed help you achieve your individual goals. Take advantage of it! It may be the best you will ever have.

As Trustees and alumni we know from our own personal experiences that your success at Catawba will give you the skills and tools to pursue not just your first undertaking after you graduate, but all of the opportunities that will become available to you in your future.

On behalf of the Trustees we rejoice in your individual achievements and wish each of you a successful year.