

CATAWBA COLLEGE

Darlene Ball August 23, 2012

Address to students and faculty at the Opening Convocation of the 2012-2013 school year

Good morning – what an exciting time – the beginning of a great year at Catawba College

I am Darlene Ball, Chair of your Board of Trustees and an alumna of Catawba.

I graduated in 1962 and at Homecoming this year our class will gather to remember and celebrate our time at Catawba and our lives in the 50 years since we graduated. So don't be surprised to see a bunch of old folks poking around in the dorms and classrooms and hear our laughter as we reminisce.

Your Board of Trustees currently has 46 members and 39 of the 46 are Catawba alumni. For those 39, Catawba was their foundation to achieving success in many fields and they contribute significantly to the college through their knowledge, time and personal resources. As an example, 85 scholarships have been endowed by trustees and many of you are or have been beneficiaries of those scholarships.

The Board holds formal meetings three times a year on campus, and there are 8 committees that work outside the 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 e-mail, the web site, Facebook, twitter, etc. – well, maybe not so much on Twitter!

During the past year, the Board had the opportunity to find the best person to lead this college forward through today's challenges in higher education. We are blessed that Brien Lewis accepted the call and we are already seeing the results of his leadership on campus and in the community. Thank you Brien!

A major undertaking this year at the College is to define programs and projects in the "Values, Goals, Objectives, and Plans" project. Trustees began this work last year and it is now in your hands. We believe this is a major step for Catawba and as Board members we are grateful to each of you who are participating in this effort.

We hope that you realize the incredibly talented and caring support system of faculty, staff, coaches and administrators that you have here at Catawba. They are available and committed help you achieve your individual goals. Take advantage of those opportunities to learn and grow – you will NEVER regret it.

As Trustees and alumni we know from our own personal experiences that with a Catawba education you will be prepared to accept and be successful in life's challenges.

So, on behalf of the Trustees I rejoice in your individual achievements and wish each of you a fun and successful year.