

Grinnell College 2015 Commencement — Live Captions

The following is a copy of the captions provided live during the 2015 Grinnell College Commencement Ceremony.

A polished and more accurate transcript is posted a few days after the event and available through www.grinnell.edu when completed.

Event Started: 5/18/2015 3:00:00 PM

>> [Music]

>> Gracious God we gather on this meeting day to an honor -- to honor these students as they transition into the next chapter of life. While at 10 when they have journeyed together. They've endured and have weathered a social firestorm and remained a vibrant an engaged community one that probably celebrates diversity and continues to take way -- ways to support each other to grow. We are grateful that as a community our students are wonderful diverse and remarkably resilient. The air leaders and. They have vision and courage. We pray that they continue to flourish and share their gifts where needed in the next place they call home. We acknowledge with joy and appreciation the family and friends who have supported the students. Those who are here this day in person and those who are here in person -- in spirit. On this morning to celebrate as we are grateful for support of mentors and friends. For faculty who have challenged these students and students who have challenged these faculty. For staff Monday -- for staff members who have worked with and help to guide students during their time with us. And so we honor these graduates to our contribution to our campus community in town work for their courage and strength, for their commitment to learning and for the person -- perseverance. We begin with the posture of joy giving thanks for the privilege to be in each other's presence and to mark and celebrate this milestone. Amend. Please be seated.

>> [laughter]

>> Ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to present our 2015 commencement speaker. Best selling author will McKibbin environmental activist and -- bill brings with us passion and a model to build a sustainable planet. His dedication to thinking globally and acting locally and his impassioned plea for radical life renewing change and his unceasing activation students for our students. Please welcome Bill McKibben.

>> What a pleasure to be here on this glorious day. It's always good to see the shining pieces of the parents and grand parents and the slightly haggard faces of the graduating class have it was decided to spend one last night in the library hard at work. [laughter] it's always fun for a commencement speaker to relish the temporary the immense power that has been granted to him after 18 or so years after education for you all, the last obstacle you face is me.

>> [Laughter]

>> If I went on speaking forever -- I won't. None of you can remember the first speech you heard in kindergarten but likely it had something to do with the theme of playing nicely together. And in a way that is my message today with the emphasis on together. This is a day for individual pride, yes, but it is also one of the last days in your life where you are by necessity, not by choice, part of something larger than yourselves. I can't hope to know you well as individuals. No one can. But I have some sense of you as a group.

>> I spent a lot of time at small liberal arts colleges like this one which are the unique core of American education and of which Grinnell is such an exemplar. And I spent some time here, too, over the years the way the child draws their first picture of the house and that is their platonic ideal of the house. My platonic ideal of a college is the image of Grinnell because my aunt and uncle with the classics department here or a large part of it for almost 40 years and I can remember so well we -- watching them as we would come to visit. They were my idea of what professors were like. They were great scholars. The family joke was that if my uncle Bill was late coming home for dinner, Tim or Andy would be dispatched to the library to go find him and there he would be standing in the stacks for looking for yet another book. Above all they were members of a community, the College of -- the college community and they took it with great seriousness. I can remember the nights watching students cram into their house for beatings and study. Grinnell is a great place precisely because it is a community.

>> That's the remarkable thing about college. It's four years an average American life when you get to live as most human beings have lived through most of human history. That is in close physical and emotional proximity to lots of other people. It's rare in our society except for college. And, sometimes, during that four years it's a pain when someone is playing the stereo at 3:00 a.m. or whatever it is. But most of the time it is the great joy when the old grads like me totter back for reunions for reunions and talk about college is the best four years of their life. But not really, they're not really wishing they could take introduction to sociality once more more. They are remembering what it felt like to be in that community. And one of the great ironies of higher education is that we spend that four years preparing you to earn enough money so that you never have to live that one -- live that way again.

>> But you can be as creative as you want to be and we hope that you will because you emerge into a world by serious problems that can only be solved by joint action. One hesitates and the joyful day to talk about problems. But, in a sense, this is the date that any last training wheels come off and it's at a moment when we desperately need you as full-fledged citizens. And so a certain kind of frankness is required. There are always troubles in the world. But there are two in particular that the generations before you are not only not solving, but making daily worse and that will effect and shade your lives unless you are able to work to change them that the first is what we have come to understand now is the radical inequality in this country and in this world. This year watching events in places like Ferguson, we got some strong sense that the American experience is not the same at all for everyone that but that is not just anecdotal. It is backed up by every kind of statistic you could ask for, and the numbers are painfully stark. Yesterday's newspaper carried the

story that the six heirs to the Walmart fortune together have more money than 47.3% of the entire US population combined. The bottom half of America has less assets than those six people. Yesterday's paper also carried the news that the 25 most highly paid hedge fund advisers in the country make more money, those 25 people, than every single kindergarten teacher in America combined. All 158,000. That gives you some sense of where our priorities at the moment are lying. At the moment -- a few of those people are redeemed by the generosity, but on average rich people are less charitable than poor, but even so this is not healthy for the society in which we live and of course if you look at this globally, all of us hold roughly the same position too much of the rest of the world as those Walton Walmart heirs have towards us. You are now equipped, all of you, to try and join that top-tier if you want to.

>> In fact, most of you will end up in the stratosphere than in one or two orbits down. And the question is how will you react.

>> Closing in? By choosing the gated community? Or by reaching out. The second crisis that we face why the stakes are even higher than children ages in the past and why reaching out will be so important. The second crisis, of course, is the physical one. Climate change is the overwhelming reality of our time. College commencements go back to the 11th century. Until the last few springs, all of those college commencements took place in what scientists call Holocene. That. New line Climatic stability that coincided and not coincidentally with the rise of human civilization, not years. In your lifetime the most important thing that has happened is that this planet crossed over some invisible boundary from policy into something else, maybe what scientists call the anthropic scene, the world made by man. How is the anthropic scene going? Not very well. Last week came news from NASA that the ice and be ice is poised to tip into the ocean in the Antarctic. You've seen the pictures in the last few months from California and during a drought unlike anybody -- anyone has recorded in the past. As usual, these things are bad where we are but we have enough money for the moment to cope with them. In the rest of the world, it's an unmitigated disaster. What Desmond Tutu called the greatest human rights challenge of our time.

>> The thing that makes this so tragic is that it is no longer necessary. The best thing that's happened in your four years in college is that the price of the solar panel has fallen 75%. The engineers have done their job and made it possible for us to imagine a world that runs in a very different way. We could do this. Denmark yesterday generated 150% of the power that it used from the sun and the wind and shipped the extra off to the rest of Scandinavia. It is possible to do this as we can tell. Denmark has no monopoly on wind. But at the moment, it is not happening this transition, fast enough to matter. And it's not happening because of that same pervasive inequality.

>> The fossil fuel industry is the richest enterprise human beings have ever conceived. And those which is had been used to keep -- use for keeping -- keeping us from making that transition with speed. The two Coke brothers that worth out shadows anybody else. They would announce they will spend \$900 million on the next presidential election. A lot of it will be spent here in Iowa. They will spend it to make sure that nothing changes. They will spend more money than the Republic

committee or the Democratic national committee on the next effort. It is hopeless to try to outspend the exons and shows of the world.

>> The answer has to be citizenship. Aggressive. Engaged and occasionally impolite citizenship. You are now well trained not to do something useful from 9:00 to 5:00 5:00 or 9:00 to 6:00 or 7:00 in your first job, okay? I'm not worried about that. It's your evenings and weekends that we need some love. The time that we do the work of citizenship once in a while that means voting or electioneering. Usually it means to figure out how to come together to apply pressure on our systems the other 364 days of the year.

>> These are not individual problems. It is a good idea to change your light bulb. I solar panels all over the roof of my house and they drove the first electric hybrid car in my state they do not try to fool myself that we are solving climate change those ways. This is a structural and systemic problem which means that the answers are structural and systemic.

>> I'm reminded of a friend of mine a guy name Gus Speth who went the golden resume that I've ever seen, he founded the natural resources Defense Council. Then he went to work as chair of the President's Council on environmental quality. Then he headed the United Nations about my program. Then he was dean at Yale. I got to spend the most time I ever spent with him about 48 hours, and central cellblock in DC with a two of us have been arrested at the first protest against the Keystone pipeline. At a point in the course of that 48 hours -- German -- last by then Kitimat Gus looked over at me from the next cell through the bars and said I've held a lot of important positions here in Washington but none of them seem as important as the one I am in right now. This doesn't mean that all of you need to go to jail. [laughter]

>> No does it mean that those that are older of us are exempt from the challenge. The young people are leaving most of the fights, it probably isn't the greatest single thing for your resume time an arrest record right away. For the rest of us, once you are past a certain age? What the hell are they going to do to you? [laughter]

>> Something that goes triple for someone who has tenure. You don't know you don't all need to go to jail but you need to be citizens of all kinds of communities. Including, very shortly, alumni. Citizens of this Grinnell community and you will be in the Dias brought but still connected to your college college. We are very hopeful that Grinnell will come to join this to investment movement from fossil fuels that's Mark Stamm furred and Syracuse last week the University of Washington and so many other places. Is beautiful to see as the Rockefeller family, the first family of fossil fuel said last September that the most important step they could take was to sell off their families investments in coal and gas and oil in an effort to weaken the political power of that industry.

>> But you also need to be citizens of the country and the planet and you are at a great moment for which to do that. The sudden advent of the Internet -- it seems obvious to you, but to all the rest of us it seems still like something new and unusual the sudden advent allows you to imagine connection in a visceral way the people before you have not been able to. Don't think that you can change the world by sending each other e-mail petitions. You can't.

>> You can take that beautiful connection and use it to go to work in the real world. All of it only works if you are part of something larger than yourself faced with the

kind of crises that we face. The most important thing that an individual can do is to not always be an individual. To join together with others. And here is the paradox. In my experience that joining together with others leads to the most deep and hopeful pleasures that you will find. There was a story in the paper last week about a survey of lawyers around the country. What they found is that those core happiest with a one score making the least money. The ones for working in some kind of public service law. It is all all relative of course, their lawyers. They are not starving and everyone is doing fine work but the ones that were devoted to something else finding deep satisfaction.

>> Your task is not to be poor. Your task is to think about where riches lie and to see if perhaps the answer isn't that they lie with others. We are all, all of us who are old now, we are also grateful for the work and intelligence and good humor and spirit that has brought you to this point.

>> Appear in behind you among the ranks of your parents and grandparents, what we know if we know anything, is that all of us are in this together and so we are overjoyed that that us is today so magnificently enlarged. Congratulations.

>> [Pause]

>> -- [Applause]

>> President came 10, is my pleasure to present those persons of high accomplishment and extinction -- distinction who the faculties which to record honorary dizzy -- degrees. I have the honor to present Bill McKibben for the honorary degree Dr. of humane letters.

>> Bill McKibben is a writer, environmentalist, and activists. But perhaps his most remarkable skill is his ability to see where our society is headed long before the rest of us. He is the veritable beacon in the night warning us about the dangers that lie ahead if we fail to pay attention and take action. Bill McKibben burst on the scene in 1989 with the end of nature. The first book about climate change for a general audience. Book provoked a nationwide discussion it was reprinted in 20 languages. That help -- that book helped launch his career as an activist fighting climate change.

>> In 1992 Bill McKibben became the country's first television bench watcher work as a vast experiment, Bill McKibben recorded days worth of programming from nearly 100 television stations then watched all 1700 hours of it. He compared those hours to a single day spent in nature near his home. The result, the 1990 book the age of missing information, explores what we lose when we spend our time in front of screens instead of in the world. He continues to use his writing tapas focus on issues that deserve our attention that his recent books have addressed the shortcomings of the growth economy that the dangers of genetic engineering, and what it means to live more lightly on the planet.

>> For his perceptive writing, that urges all of us to take action at the individual and global level, we are pleased to recognize Bill McKibben.

>> Bill McKibben on recommendation of the faculty of this college and the approval of the Board of Trustees admit you to the degree Dr. of humane letters on his cousin -- Dr. of humane letters. -- a Dr. of humane letters.

>> [Pause]

>> What more can I say? It's a great pleasure to join your company today is a graduate of this institution. Thank you.

>> [Applause]

>> President, I have the honor to present Mary Catherine Sealy for the honorary degree Dr. of sciences sciences.

>> With the scientist mind in the humanitarians heart, Mary Catherine Sealy has at the transformative impact on the southern African nation of Namibia. Said she arrived in Namibia in 1967 as a postdoctoral student she is moved the field of arid zone ecology forward with our perceptive research on desert ecology. She's been instrumental in helping residents and animals thrive in this harsh desert landscape. And her scientific work at the University of Namibia, she's published more than 160 papers and his co- supervised dozens of Masters and doctoral's candidates. In 2013 the geological Society of America gave Dr. Sealy and award for Desert research, an honor that recognizes the vast scope and significance of our work. Some of our most remarkable accomplishments, however, have come in the form of policy. For more than 25 years she's been a central feature admit Desert research found it -- foundation of Namibia which, among other goals helps combat the countries to certification. Through coordinated efforts decertification. Through coordinated efforts with farmers and other organizations, Sealy has greeted strategies and policies to manage critical water and sanitation issues. Her work has helped unite the interest of these diverse groups to create lasting solutions. And 2008 the Namibia nature foundation named her the conservationist of the decade. For our diligent efforts to understand and observe fragile desert environments we are pleased to recognize Mary Sealy. [Applause]

>> On a recommendation of the faculty of this college and with the approval of the Board of Trustees I hereby admit Mary Catherine Sealy to the degree Dr. of science.

>> Good morning, graduates, faculty, and guess. 1st and foremost let me thank Grinnell College for the incredible honor being bestowed upon me today -- today. I would particularly like to thank the many Grinnell faculty and students with whom I've had the pleasure to learn and work over the past 16 years, when we first established Grinnell. On behalf of me and my colleagues let me say how grateful we are the continuing partnership with this college that has been so transformative. My goal today is to be sure all of you, and your parents, that you are more than ready for the challenges that await you. I say this based on experiences with 34 Grinnell students over 16 years newly graduated like yourselves that came to Namibia to sit - - to assist the training center and our mission to build an environmentally sustainable future through education and training. These people are able to dive in and perform the difficult work we asked them to do because of the valuable education they have received like you they earned a degree and so much more. I recently saw the Grinnell College mission statement for the first time and was amazed to see the quality of our Grinnell Corps fellows rather rail -- rather well articulated. I want to remind you these are the valuable attributes that you have gained over the past four years and are now graduating with.

>> And Namibia I see newly minted Grinnellians using these abilities daily to facilitate teaching and learning amongst a variety of Namibians including elementary school children, resource managers, parliamentarian days -- parliamentarians and core there to live in the driest country.

>> In conclusion, the outstanding Grinnellians I've had the pleasure to interact with, embrace challenges, think on their feet. Learn as they go and are always ready to seize the opportunity that serendipity provides, yet, at the same time the Grinnell experience has taught them firsthand the value of taking advantage of the enduring relationships that they have made here on this campus. I am here to tell all of you graduates, you are all the newest crop of outstanding Grinnellians. I encourage you to remain open-minded, flexible and ready to take full advantage of what comes your way using your wonderful education to make the world a better place today and in the future. Best of luck to you all.

>> [Applause]

>> President Kington, I have the honor to present Penny Sebring and Charles Lewis for the honorary degree Dr. of laws. Penny Sebring and her husband Charles Lewis both build successful careers.

>> Sheer in educational research at the University of Chicago, he and investment banking at Merrill Lynch Lynch. Later they combined their expertise to become active Flintridge -- philanthropists with the nation changing vision for professionalizing teaching. Dr. Sebring has spent our career at the University of Chicago studying urban education and putting research into practice. She's the cofounder of the University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago school research. A 25-year-old organization that informs school improvement efforts in Chicago and beyond. Mr. Lewis.

>> Nearly 35 years at Merrill Lynch. He is also passionate about improving public schooling for diverse low-income students, helping among other things to build the University of Chicago's urge -- urban education Institute. The pairs combined expertise led them to a big idea that the key to attracting the best and brightest to careers in pre-K-12 teaching and related fields, is professionalization. Just like in medicine and the law. To that end, the couple is helped to found and is funding three collaborative careers in education professions programs at the University of Chicago, Amherst College and here at Grinnell. These programs help students at these elite colleges enter with an interest in public education and developing the experience for hands-on experience and prepare for education and careers for internships, alumni engagement, advising and other guidance.

>> For their strategic and philanthropic efforts to improve education in America, Grinnell is pleased to honor today Penny Bender Sebring and Charles S B Lewis.

>> On the recommendation of the faculty of this college and with the approval of the Board of Trustees admit you to the degree Dr. of laws -- Doctor of laws.

>> We are an unlikely pair to be standing here today. A longtime educational researcher and a veteran investment banker, first generation college goers who were -- whose worlds were enlarged by our liberal arts education. I did not know my biological father that my adopted father had in eighth grade education. My mother was a Rosie the riveter during World War II and did not finish college. I arrived here freshman year by train from Denver, never having seen the campus before. My bags were packed with some clothes that I had made. I don't make them anymore. I came to Cornell on the recommendation of a friend from my church and it turned out to be perfect for me.

>> It feels to have -- it feels good to have this codon because it's a little warmer. Actually one of the last times we were here was 2008 for the caucuses and it was about this temperature in January of 2008.

>> I grew up near Albany, New York just 90 miles west of Amherst College. But I had never heard of the place until senior year I was recruited to play football there but yes I know the football part is hard to believe.

>> Tran3 open my eyes to possibility. First I was a Peace Corps volunteer, then social studies teacher then ironed my doctorate from Northwestern University finally cofounded the University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago research project ever fails to remind me what a mouthful that name is.

>> The long and the short of it here. [laughter]

>> With that quintessential pioneer background, Penny was skeptical, to say the least, about dating and investment banker. Assuming I could not possibly share her values. It's worked out okay. Probably, in part, because we share a deep faith in the transformative power of education. Over the years I've read a lot of research about the critical role that good teachers play in public schools, like the ones that we attended. Realizing the need to professionalize teaching and the central interplay of status and talent in doing so, we seized on the opportunity to start the careers and education profile -- program -- [Applause] -- go pros -- as you heard earlier here at Grinnell and Amherst and you Chicago where it is -- University of Chicago where we are proud trustees of those three great colleges.

>> We believe that public school teaching will become a much more viable career when relatively more graduates from top colleges like this make it a career. We are grateful to President Kington, Professor Katter, the program director Schaefer, to Dean Peltz, and many others are helping to make the education professions program a reality here. And we appreciate our friend George Drake, president emeritus of the College. Not only was he is a marvelous teacher, he and Sue were Peace Corps volunteers and their son is a dedicated public school teacher. We also applaud you here at Grinnell for your leadership in making it possible for more first generation students like the two of us to attend an elite college like this, and we are humbled to be honored today. Thank you.

>> [Applause]

>> President Kington, I have the honor to present Kit able Hawkins for the honorary degree, Doctor of social studies.

>> Kit able Hawkins is a teacher who was always seen the enormous potential of our students. But even more important she is this the -- a teacher who can tap into the vast potential themselves. Hawkins is the founder and director of the Arbor school of arts and sciences sciences, a Portland area schools who teaches students from kindergarten through 8th grade. The school has a deep focus on developing students and elect, character, and creativity. Hawkins of both demands and expects excellence from our students while always providing the support they need to achieve at the highest levels. She is particularly skilled at connecting students with the work they were meant to do. With an uncanny ability to see the connections between our students skills and passions that she helps students find projects that they throw their hardened 24 semester, year, or even the rest of their lives. Such was the case for a Grinnell student, Rebecca Gardner, who credits Hawkins to

pursue her love of both art and science through projects that focus on graphite growing as an Mendelian genetics. She credits this early work as her decision to double major in both visual art and biology majors that she says contain surprising and beautiful connections. We are pleased to recognize kit able Hawkins for our life long commitment to bringing out the best in our students.

>> [Applause]

>> On the recommendation of the faculty of the college and with the important -- approval I admit you to the degree of Doctor of social studies.

>> What a deeply moving form of recognition has been conferred on me today. Extend my profound thanks to present kingdom and team laid them. Professor were soft and the honorary degree committee and for the privilege of joining processions of educators on whose work Grinnell has chosen to shine a light. It is an honor to address the Grinnell class of 2015 and to offer you the gift of a poem. The way it is by William Stafford, poet laureate of Oregon.

>> There is a thread you follow. It goes among things that change, but it does not change. I hope a thread has become capital to you are years -- to you in your years at Grinnell. By the time Rebecca Garner was in the 8th grade, Rebecca had begun to recognize that she had a thread she was following. One that spun together elements of art and tendrils of biology. At that time she formulated a senior project, for that is what we call this -- the year-long work each eighth-grader takes a work at Arbor in which superb drawing of rappers accompanying upper socialist -- Depakote Bish -- a precocious pattern. She followed her thread and distinguishes himself as an artist and scholar here at Grinnell. Stafford goes on. People wonder what you were pursuing. You have to explain the thread but it is hard for others to see. While you hold it you can't get lost. Following your thread means you know what you are made for. What it is you have to offer up to a world whose broken parts must constantly come under repair to the agency of those who care. I was fortunate I felt the thread in my hands when I was young. I went off to Overland college with the thread's Shirley gripped in my hands, determined to develop the intellectual background I needed to teach ambitiously and ultimately to build and lead a school. Me your collegiate experience prove as generative and lastingly, important as has mine. Holding onto the thread makes not -- means not getting lost in it means finding joy. Finding joy in work that suits you and makes a a difference. There are obligations that are entailed by your calling, whatever it is, those obligations will exact their toll. If the deep well of quiet joy that arises from following your thread is sustaining.

>> Tragedies happen, Stafford continues. People get hurt or die and you suffer and get old. Nothing you can do can stop times unfolding. You don't let go of the thread.

>> Yes I am getting older, but I have not let go of the thread. To to tell I never still tire of helping a student navigate the maze of long division, or guiding a reading group to a great piece of literature, or supporting and eighth-grader she crafts a project that displays her promise. I continue to be restless and pursuing new ideas for Arbor to improve its capacity to inspire learners. And since Rebecca was with us, I created a new arm of the school devoted to attracting engaged and broadly educated people like you to the world of teaching. Three cheers for what Peggy and Chuck are doing, and for those of you doing it with them. I laud you all.

>> Those -- there are consolations for growing old. The thread go stronger, more resilient and more vibrant. Here with you today are your beloved families in this esteemed faculty that those who have nurtured you, chided you, encourage do, worried too, too, chaired and comforted you as you work to reach this point that the point at which no point what you are good at will help you know what you are good for. Me your threads shine. Thank you.

>> [Applause]

>> It is now my privilege as president to recognize right -- members of the faculty who after long and devoted tenure are entering emeritus status. I will now ask Clint Allen McClellan, professor of sociology, to please rise.

>> For more than 30 years your chapter -- champion the quantitative and literacy of Grinnell students in the social sciences. You are an early adopter and have continually lead your students and colleagues to effectively use technology in the classroom and research methods and in statistical analysis. Your courses over three decades have represented many subdisciplines of sociology and across interdisciplinary lines and team teaching. A strong supporter of the peace and conflict studies program, you are the first to teach courses on conflict resolution and management and to assert as a member of the college's steering committee says that inception.

>> Your mission, too, have to make Grinnell students critical thinkers and effective writers. Whether working one-on-one with hundreds of students in your courses or assisting faculty colleagues the other writing program, your set exceptionally high standards for strengthening and assessing -- the written word. Your research on perceptual control theory itself crosses disciplines, yet you have established yourself among scholars of this series regionally publishing in the legal -- leading journal of your discipline and continuing to work on a collection used b researchers in diverse fields.

>> And the local community of offered you expertise to direct an extensive list of campus and community surveys providing statistical and methodological sport as a volunteer. Throughout these dedicated activities of certain more than half of your career here as chair of the Department of sociology, which is grown significantly and numbers of majors and diversity faculty representation. Respect fast commitment to the pursuit of excellence in liberal arts, we honor you today as professor emeritus of sociology. [Applause]

>> I know ask Edward Phillips Junior, professor of classics come up to please rise.

>> Your discipline dates to the earliest academic institutions and throughout your 40-year career at Grinnell you have remain through to and instructed countless others in the traditions of liberal arts education. Your teaching has included not only the classical language of Greek and Latin also the rich history, literature, archaeology, mythology, and philosophy of the ancient world's. When you arrived at Grinnell you expanded long tenured deeply held tradition by developing new courses. You also over some brick from tradition when during your tenure, East Asian languages were introduced through the curriculum through the Department of Classics. Research on the work of humanness and Latin scholar led to a 2009 translated volume in the collective works of [indiscernible] been the University of Toronto. That volume has led to your review of the succeeding volume in great. Your

decades of campus survey and commitment Chronicle timely changes in the college's curriculum, faculty organizational structure and campuswide planning. Many times you represented the faculty on administrative task forces, review and selection committees. Said the lot since arriving in 1975 you've lived a strong voice to the college and community course now properly we known -- upper plate known as the Grinnell society. You also led the mid-iowa committee action, community day care and Grinnell and local leadership. Today let us in the same year any as college [indiscernible]. For your dedication and service to the tradition of liberal arts education, we honor you today is professor emeritus of Classics.

>> I now ask the following people to stand. Is my honor to recognize these faculty members moving to senior faculty staff are taking early retirement. Senior status recognizes those members of the faculty who wish to be released from full-time teaching to pursue scholarly and professional activities associated with the college. Thank you. You may be seated.

>> [Applause]

>> I would also like to take this time to recognize Henry Walker, for his long-standing tenure as assistant Marshall. This here is Henry's 35th and last year being the assistant Marshall since 1977. We appreciate his many years of service helping our graduates across the stage, literally.

>> [Applause]

>> President Kington, ladies and gentlemen, the dean of the college will now present the candidates for the degree of bachelor of arts.

>> [Laughter]

>> [Applause]

>> Will the candidates of bachelor of arts degrees, please rise.

>> [Applause]

>> [Laughter]

>> [Laughter]

>> Resident Kington, on the recommendation of the faculty of Grinnell College, I present to you these candidates for the degree of bachelor of arts. Having fulfilled all of the academic requirements they are deemed worthy of and entitled to this degree.

>> As president of Grinnell College I recommend to the Board of Trustees, do you one of its members members, that each of these students be graduated to the degree of bachelor of arts.

>> [Applause]

>> A little bit more.

>> [Laughter]

>> President Kington, the charter of this fine institution is to promote the general interest of education and qualify young people for the different professions for the Honorable discharge of the various duties of life. It is a pleasure for me to acknowledge that the students have not only completed a course a formal study at this institution them up but have come to know the demands and rewards of a shared experience and learning. As such they have indeed furthered the general interest of education qualified themselves for the honorable discharge of the various duties of life. The Board of Trustees is therefore pleased to accept your

recommendation, and authorizes you as president to grant this degree. In doing so we also want to acknowledge the outstanding work of the faculty and the staff and appreciate the contributions to these students.

>> [Applause]

>> It's not over until I say it's over. Of the authority vested in me by the trustees of Grinnell College I now officially declare that having met all of the requirements your today granted the degree of bachelor of arts and admitted 12 the rights, privileges, and responsibility that it confers. Congratulations. You may be seated.

>> President Kington, professor Tyler Roberts called the graduates in the division of humanities.

>> Will the graduates from the division of humanities please come to the platform, as instructed by the Marshall.

>> [Applause]

>> [Pause]

>> [Graduates names being read]

>> I think the wind took away a page.

>> [Applause]

>> [Graduates names being read] [Captioners transitioning]

>> [Graduates' names being read]. Sandeep. Allison. Joanne. And. Lev. Jeremy. Alexandra. Caitlin Isaac. Linneah. Kevin. Mary M -- Miriam. Nicholas Hannah. Daniel. Marissa. Connor Michael. Elliott Joseph. Kristin Taylor Joseph. Rodney. Clayton Patrick. Kenzie. Benjamin Karina. William. Jessica. Natalie. Jennifer. Lee Walker. William Gallagher. Theodore. Olivia. John Thomas. Elizabeth. William Robert. Christopher Michael. Lexus. Evan Fitzgerald. Roman. Edward Thomas. Jacob. Soonho. Mackenzie. Emily. Eugenia. Patrick. Chinheli. Brittany. Alexis. Ashley. Terrell. Sarah Elizabeth. Hannah.

>> Danielle -- Daniel. Terrell. Tessa. Catherine Meredith. Yuki.

>> Catherine Michael. Call-in Clark clearly Morgan. Connie Daniel. Spencer. Jason. Danya. Perry. -- Harry. Riley. Devon. Edith Aaron. Jacob. Lingyo. Emily. Joseph Elliott. Petr. Matthew. Breanna. Austin. Elizabeth. Daniel. Nata. Chen. Santiago. Sarah. Christie. Stephen Daniel Jolene. Lane. Alexandra. Worry. -- Very -- Laurie. Andrea. Elliott. Ethan. Richard. Daniel.

>> Michael. Julia. Rebecca. Alayna. Diana. Kerry. Keith. All right good. Silverman. Patrick. Kaylee. Caleb.

>> The Archibald over the donor the real friend Andrew Archibald who served as a distinguished member of the College Board of Trustees. It is my pleasure to present the Archibald prize medalist the 2015. James Francis. St. Germain folder. --

>> Emily. Morgan. Jack. Then. Julianne. Janice. Patrick. Michelle. Selena Emily. Isaiah Arena. Rachel. Just and. -- Just and -- Justin. Joshua. Zachary. Viquez. Ross. Allison. Shanice Claire. Anthony. Summer. June. Leefen. Tieg. Yu Xan. Jason.

>> President Kingston, these of the graduates from the division of science. [applause]

>> Professor. Carter Erickson will call the graduates in the division of social studies.

>> Will the graduates from the division of social studies please come to the platform as instructed by the Marshall. Ervin. Julie Wille.. Peter Douglas. Michael. Yan. Sonja Dylan. Kimberly. Peter. Alyssa. Walker. Bonnie. Jacqueline. Jennifer.

>> The area -- Daria. Joseph. Irene. Hannah. Andre. John. We are glad he is here. Congratulations. Bethany. Glenn Sarah Elizabeth. Austin. Ryan. Rosalee you. Usmah. Colin. Mark Christopher. Jade. Benjamin. James. Natalie. Jennifer Hale. Tallulah. Farida. Emma. Clark. Elaine. Catherine. Ronnie. Allison. Nathaniel. Johannes. Lindsay. Isaac. Phase. Shannon. Emilio. Abby. Mohammed. Jordan. Georgina. Ryan. The lease. Quindlen. Brian Michael. Jillian Sandra. David. Kimberly. Joseph Azariah. Torsten. More to come. Emma.

>> Karima. Erin. Nathan. Christopher. Sang-Wu . Sean. Diane. Mu-Chen. Charlene Courtney. Lucy the president's medal is awarded annually at each commencement. To the senior who exemplifies an ideal Grinnell student with superior scholarship, demonstrated leadership that could it's both the student and the college. Compassionate and since the behavior and individual responsibility are among the qualities that must be demonstrated. It is my pleasure to present the president's medal for me 15 to Austin McKinney.

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>> Erin. John. Uriel. Louise. Maxwell. Sureka. Kiersten Christian Peter. Samuel. Tracy. Lockard. Catherine Rebecca. Mia. Adrian. Ways. Amit Charles. In Joshua Rebecca Elizabeth. Jordan. Liam. Luisa. Alexei Gabriel. Devon. Robert. Caitlin. Yoki. Annamaria so. David Anthony. Matthew Lewis. Julianne. Samuel Ronald. Jacob Matthew. Joseph. Christopher Thomas. Look Michael. Sally. President Kingston these of the graduates from the division of social studies. President, local Nathan will call the graduates to the Dutch of arts degree with into independent and interdivisional mission is. The graduates for the bachelors of arts degree is interdivisional majors please come to the platform as instructed by the Marshall?

>> Alex Anderson. Grace.

>> Lillian. Annamarie. Briand. And Chase. Macy. Lucas. Devon and Braunie. Tonya Murray. Luisa class Seo. -- Luis Ignacio. Aaron. Abigail. Samantha. Laura. Scott. Margaret. The summary. -- -- Jordan. Parker Benjamin.

>> President Kington these are the graduates with independent and interdivisional majors. President Kington I wish at this time to recognize the members of the class of 2015 have been accepted into the ninth semester program leading to Iowa teaching certification. Would these students please stand as recall their names and remain standing into have completed the list? Jazmine. Bethany. Brian. Lucy Parker. Please be seated.

>> With the graduates to the grid degree of bachelor of arts please rise?

>> Greetings to our graduates and parents and families and friends in our guest speaker the McKibbin the honorees in the platform party and trustees and faculty and staff and alumni and members of the renowned community. As want to recognize one of our past on where he degree recipients of the class of 1968 who send Charlie is at a 15 graduate. Today is the Grinnell's 169th commencement ceremony. A good year. And I want to recognize your special day so I will keep my remarks brief. But I also want to recognize all of the effort that went for each of yo to get here and when he to mark this moment sustained with the end of this ceremony and graduates this may be last time here in this transition role and in your at the college. Typically, the presidential commencement addresses go on one

of a few different ways. One is that we look back to the past and anoint our graduates as the standardbearers of timeless values were looking into the future and reassure them that there were prepared to face it or if the mood strikes it we warn them that they are not. That the world is going to the dog so stand up straight and eat your vegetables. In any case, such speeches like the letters of outgoing president supposedly leave in the Oval Office desk for their successes. Here's the job you have inherited and here are a few suggestions on how to do it with good luck and pass it on. My challenge is to say a few words today and I'm not sure what kind of world that we are leaving you. If you read the speeches of my 19th and 20th century predecessors you cannot help but be impressed by their confidence in the future. They did not expect sameness but they did expect continuity. As my predecessor John Maine said in his 1906 inaugural address, we're gathering the fruits today of the seeds that were planted 60 years ago and the rich harvest and only beginning the richer harvest is yet to come. Such optimism. But the on coming to a century brought many radical and often disruptive changes. Will talk much more about James than about continuity. Is certainly talk about change almost constantly since again to Grinnell. But what impact might all of this change have on aspects that may be should not be changed so quickly like some values?

>> The 20th century was an era big institutions in public schools and post offices and banks and government agencies. But our lives have changed Radix -- radically institutions are naturally slow to of all. Consider these questions. And we still have chains of national post offices when so much of our communication happens by email and text and phone? Why do we maintain banks with tellers with such a large share of our financial transactions happen online? Ride we still believe the national governance 100s of millions of people ab and flow across global borders every year? Let me be clear on not an opponent of big government or big institutions or bank so post offices. I worked in big institutions and what we have seen the inefficiencies, we've also seen the potential for good. There is no avoiding it. The world is changing faster than it seems I'm social and political structures can keep up. Why does this matter on your graduation day? Because over the course of many generations we have come to rely on institutions to uphold and defend our values. Big programs like Social Security and public education and public health where we are not just full employment schemes for bureaucrats but mechanisms that enabled us to attend to our shared needs and to care for our fellow citizens. In so many ways, we want the institutions to help us. But if the world has changed so radically that these institutions are no longer suited to our way of life than what? I don't know. This brings us back to our main point that knowing today that none of us were our parents or grandparents or teachers knows what type of world that you are inheriting. Even if we could describe it, it would become different quickly. Will have to function in this fluid environment long after the rest of us are gone. As I considered what kind of note to leaving your desk Turner.. A few suggestions. This not clear which aspects of our way of life will endure in which will change. Eliza be characterized much more by change than by continuity. You have to use all the initiatives at your disposal and perhaps much more than previous generations did to find your way and help others find there's. Instead it may be up to you to revitalize institutions when they are beyond repair to build new and better ones. When you

are already living beyond the end of history. If so maybe beyond the end of traditional commencement addresses as well. Fortunately our staff members are very farsighted with their own surprises in the mental desk stores four years now and the giving analytical and communication skills and it's a how to listen and critique a question assumptions and was carried to vote for your own sake as well as to exercise it for practical value. They showed you that when you use it properly, technology is not just a toy, but it can be a powerful tool. There are do to reach across different understandings and to experience and practice leadership. Rather if you are a physics major or a vision or visual performing artist or maybe both. Your teachers imparted these gifts to you among others. You need to build a new world. Use these gifts well. To guide your work I urge you to remember the college's motto. Trust and humility. Being from Grinnell requires humbling yourself before the truth. That is the charge of the store punny today. Now does also your duty to take it up amidst great great change and uncertainty. I look forward to watching it do so. I leave everyone of you with my warmest wishes and greatest hopes. May continue to flourish bringing with you on your journey visions of excellence, action and the possibility of a greater future. Good luck.

>> At the close of the ceremony, we pray for wisdom and hope for our graduates as they journey forward. Grant them strength as they grow and change and lead in their communities to our world. With leadership what is most important to them with making meaning and being influenced by the experience and seeking to experience others in working for the common good in this global community. For look for the expectations of each graduate in May they fondly remember the Grinnell years and return often to the college home. Peace be upon each of us God on this day and always.

>> [music] [Event concluded]