

St. Andrews Commencement Tidbits

The Ceremony: 9 a.m. on DeTamble Terrace, St. Andrews Presbyterian College, Laurinburg, NC

Number of degrees conferred: 170

Speaker: Dr. Hope Williams, President, North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities

What She Said: “This is the day you start the next phase, the next journey in your life. During your years at St. Andrews, you have developed all the tools you will need to make this transition. As you consider your options, which choices to make, and how to decide, think back to this day of celebration at St. Andrews and what you have learned as a student here. Ask yourself ‘What difference can I make?’ This is the day to begin to answer that question.”

Her Hopes For The Graduating Class: “The challenge will be to avoid being complacent or spending your time on the things that are not truly important to you. How will you know when you are spending your time the ‘right’ way for you? Certainly, one way is to use the willpower and determination that helped you get to this graduation ceremony today. Decide you are unwilling to settle for doing less than your best and expect the same of others. Make every day count.”

Loudest laughter: The graduates laughed loudly following a comment by senior speaker Samuel Hemingway III: “I imagine that some of us had to get down on our knees in the early hours of the day and ask the Precious Lord to guide us before tests and exams. Dr. Herr’s history courses, Dr. McConnell’s choir performances, and Bill Caudill’s pipe band gigs made me invest in some comfortable knee pads.”

Nature’s Participation: A brisk wind helped keep more than 2,500 attendees cooler under the sun.

Memorable Moment # 1: Following the completion of the benediction by College Chaplain Jim Ewing, a solitary graduate’s cap flew through the air.

Memorable Moment # 2: While the family members of some graduates shouted or used air horns, one resourceful father of a graduate raised and rang two cow bells when his son’s name was called.

Memorable Moment # 3: The St. Andrews faculty lined both sides of the entrance way, allowing the graduates to walk between them as they made their way into the ceremony.

Memorable Moment # 4: Laurinburg campus speaker Samuel Hemingway the third startled when he realized that he would be one of the two student recipients of the 2008 Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award.

