

## **PRESIDENT'S CHARGE TO GRADUATING CLASS**

Brien Lewis (May 14, 2016)

Members of the class of 2016, our newest alumni: We are honored by you, and honored to celebrate your achievements with you. In a few moments, you will embark upon new adventures, new callings. You may imagine what awaits you but you never really know.

Today, I charge you to go forth and pursue a life of purpose and of service. I charge you to go forth and approach every opportunity and every challenge with enthusiasm, persistence and good will. And I charge you to go forth, to pursue excellence and to make your alma mater proud.

Bobby Fong, who was serving as President of Ursinus College in Pennsylvania before his untimely passing several years ago, once said that, “The wisdom of the soul is knowledge of the world filtered through the medium of the heart.” I trust that over these last few years Catawba has imparted some wisdom to you but, more importantly, I trust that we have helped to enhance your capabilities for creating and developing wisdom. I trust that Catawba has not merely provided you with knowledge but that we have strengthened and broadened the capacity of your hearts. After all, it was on this stage just a couple of weeks ago that Catawba alumnus Richard Steinert spoke of what the College meant to him. Richard pursued a career in dance that led him to found his own dance company – and he brought the members of that company here to work and perform with our students. In introducing that

performance, Richard said that Catawba had not taught him how to dream but it did teach him what to DO with his dreams. Our hope today is that we have helped to do the same for each of you. In the words of our Alma Mater:

Rich and glorious be thy future,  
World of influence wide.  
And with us, who bear thy culture,  
May thy precepts and spirit abide.

And so graduates, as you go forth, know that Catawba will watch and support you as you follow your dreams, your hearts and your intuition – and we will celebrate proudly with you as you reach your highest potential. And remember that wherever your road takes you, Our Catawba will always be here to welcome you back home.