



May 29, 2009

Dear Heathwood Hall Episcopal School Community:

I had been told that our Commencement ceremony is an occasion that celebrates the essence of who we are as a community. It is a day in which our very best is put forward in a way that affirms and strengthens what it means – and what a blessing it is – to be a part of Heathwood Hall. I have discovered this to be true, and I was honored to be a part of this ceremony for the very first time this morning.

Today we send forth into the world 68 graduates. They will leave and scatter to colleges across the U.S., Canada and South Korea. Collectively, our Class of 2009 has earned \$2.5 million in scholarships. Three of our graduates are National Merit Scholars and one is a National Achievement Scholar. One is a Thomas Jefferson Scholar, another a Cornelius Vanderbilt Scholar and yet another is a Joseph G. Gordon Scholar.

Our graduates were challenged today by speaker Derreck Kayongo, a refugee from Uganda, to make good of all that they have been given in this world, to appreciate the bedrocks that form strong character, and to personally advance these ideals in order that they might keep America the great country it is. It is my most sincere hope that all of our students – not just our graduates – would find these threads shining brightly within the Heathwood Hall tartan, but I have no doubt that this class will live the words so engagingly provided this morning by our guest. I know this because they have proven themselves again and again in nearly every arena schooling can provide, and they will take with them the lessons taught by the finest and most recognized faculty in the region. They will take with them the spirit of Heathwood Hall.

My best wishes not only to the Class of 2009, but to everyone from our community who gave of themselves selflessly for our graduates so that the Class of 2009 could reach this shining milestone in their lives. May your summer – and your future – be blessed.

Respectfully,

Charles H. Jones III
Head of School