

Letter From The SGA President

Congratulations, Class of 2009. We did it. Through thick and thin, we stuck it out and reached our goal. We can now call ourselves alumni of St. Francis College. We have all made friends and memories here that will last a lifetime. I liked St. Francis so much that I stayed an extra year. On a serious note, though, I want to take you down memory lane.

I remember Terrier Tuesday like it was yesterday. Just like many freshmen, I was nervous; and thought I had everything planned out: play college basketball, pass my classes, and graduate. Then I realized SFC had more to offer. St. Francis offers you the chance to form friendships and the chance to become part of something special. There are so many clubs, activities and organizations to be a part of.

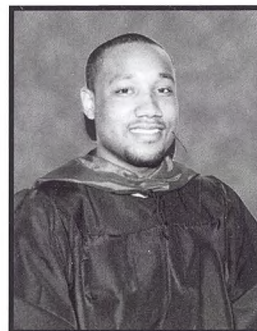
On behalf of my fellow graduates, I would like to thank all of the people that helped us accomplish our goals and dreams. First, Thank You to our parents, who sacrificed their time, resources, and lives to make sure we succeeded. Thank you. We love you and appreciate everything you have done for us. To the administration, faculty, and staff, who dealt with the million questions we had, all of the late papers, and so on. We thank you for your patience, kindness and consideration. Thank you for preparing us for a world that is not always as kind as you were.

They say when you graduate it's the end of a journey, but I see it as the beginning of a bigger journey. This is a journey of using the tools given to us here at St. Francis and applying them to our everyday lives. We will show the great education that we have obtained and the Franciscan values that we have learned. The biggest lesson we learned was from the administration and staff. On a daily basis, they showed us what it means to have Franciscan values and how to show them. Giving is one of the most important things we can do in our lives and lets us show the world what we are made of. Life will have speed bumps for us, but we must adjust to the ever-changing road and hold onto our unchanging principles that were acquired at St. Francis.

It has been my honor to represent you as your Student Body President - something I will cherish forever and miss dearly. The energy you gave me is second to none; and we have the best student body any President could ask for. With that being said, I challenge you to one last thing. I challenge you to give your best in whatever you do - whether its volunteering at a youth center to handling million dollar accounts do it to the best of your ability. More importantly, I challenge you to give back to this great institution. It is our time to share with others what we've learned from the best. Now let's show the world what we are made of.

Good Luck, God Bless and remember who we are... Saint Francis College ...Class of 2009.

- Jamaal Womack, SGA President '08-'09



Highlights From The Valedictorian's Address

Good Afternoon, members of the Board of Trustees, President Dugan, members of the Faculty, Administration, Staff, Family, Friends, and my fellow graduates. It is truly my honor to address you today.

Graduates, our day has finally arrived. I'm sure many of you feel that today is a bittersweet day. There is a readiness to embark on new journeys and start our new careers. I'm sure many of you have a feeling of sadness about leaving St. Francis College. We all have stories about St. Francis and why it holds a special place in our hearts. I would like to share with you my bittersweet story of the moment I knew just how special this place really is.

My senior year started off with a small course load making me happy, but it seems that tragedy strikes during the best of times. In the beginning of October, my 28-year old cousin Kevin died. Fellow classmates, professors, and staff from the Education Department provided me with words of comfort during a time of shock and sadness. During this time, I received a voicemail from none other than the Education Department's very own Dr. Leibman. He was my student teacher supervisor and had noticed that I wasn't myself in class and appeared to be carrying a heavy load. Dr. Leibman reminded me that a successful teaching career was in the near future and encouraged me to keep moving forward.

After receiving that voicemail, I thought of how rare it is to have a professor who cares enough about his students to make a simple phone call. I'm sure that all of us can share a similar instance of receiving a phone call or email or being stopped by a professor to simply be asked "Is everything ok?" Most professors at St. Francis truly care about their students both academically and personally. Professors embody the Franciscan Spirit by providing the students with academic and emotional support in order to succeed. We develop unique relationships with our professors, because our college is like a small community. Our slogan, "The Small College of Big Dreams" is truly fitting.

As you embark on new journeys in life, I hope that all of you will utilize the experiences and education that you have received. Your experiences and education will shape the rest of your life and define the person you become years from now.

Gandhi once said, "You must be the change you want to see in the world." We all have the ability to make a difference in the world if we set our minds to it. Life will present us with many obstacles, but don't let them stand in the way of your dreams. Learn and grow from these challenges, because they will make you a stronger person. Remember to love what you do, because happiness is an essential part to a successful life.

Good luck, Class of 2009! As we graduate from "The Small College of Big Dreams", I'd like you to always remember what my friends at the Red Star say... "Don't Stop Believing!"

- Amanda Krol
Valedictorian, Class of 2009

