

Lucy,

In thinking about what I wanted to say to you tonight, I thought back to your graduation ceremony last week. On that very special night, red caps and gowns filled the stadium. Speaker after speaker delivered inspiring messages, although most messages were quite general - be curious, practice empathy, read books. I tried to think of something that would be more specific to you as an individual, rather than the red cap and gown that you were wearing.

Here is what I came up with

Know yourself.

Be yourself.

Love yourself.

Know yourself. There are many adults who don't really know who they are. What makes them tick. What they love. What they fear. What makes their heart race. It has been a real pleasure to watch you grow over the years - to watch you get to know yourself. And this growth will continue at Villanova and beyond. It is a lifelong journey.

Be yourself. Many people know who they are but don't have the **courage** to be that person. You are your own person, Lucy, and I want you to continue to be that very unique, special person. Don't be the person that your parents want you to be... or the person your friends want you to be... or your siblings...teachers...and certainly not Mr. Boyle! Be yourself.

And love yourself. As you learn who you are and be that person...love yourself for being you. **Be proud. Be confident.** Embrace yourself.

But here is the catch. And this brings to a quote from Mark Twain, which reads: "20 years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

To really know yourself, you must take chance, explore, dream, discovery, fail. This is a beautiful part of the journey.

I would like to propose a toast, not to the generic red caps and gowns, but to the amazing graduates who wear those caps and gowns and here with us tonight.

Know yourself.

Be yourself.

Love yourself.