

2011-2012 Convocation

August 30, 2011

By: Ja'el Daniely

Fellow Students, faculty, staff, administration, and the guests of honor, the lovely class of 2012; Welcome to Convocation 2011!

Thinking about life as a college student, there are certain things that come to mind. Meeting new people, taking interesting classes and living within a community of different cultures. We spend at least 12 years preparing to attend an institution that could determine a path for the rest of our lives.

As students, you are seated before me because you want an education, not just to obtain a degree. However, in the midst of all the school work, clubs and organizations, friends, and everything else, take a moment to stand on Front Campus.

Take a deep breath, look around, and imprint it on your memory. Notice the little details. Give yourself time to appreciate it. Close your eyes and picture our school in mid autumn. The leaves are dancing all around you as you walk across the stretch from Martin to Smith and see people coming out of Main Hall with steaming cups of coffee. Paint this picture in your mind, and then think how do you want to remember the school?

Make memories that will last a lifetime. HAVE FUN! Yes first and foremost please study because you are paying for an education **and your education is important**, but remember to enjoy your time spent here. Hours have been wasted trying to regain the past and various members of the community have disagreed upon many things but one thing we share as a school is honoring our past **while looking** forward to a bright future! In order to remember this school in a positive light we must recognize the need for effective communication. This includes communication amongst ourselves as students and how we view each other.

This year I would like make it a goal for our school to make an identity for Randolph College and explore what it means to be Randolph College. The terms "Macon", "male Athletes", "female

athletes”, “theatre kids” are all labels. Who are you? What label have you been called? What labels do you call others? It’s respectful to call me by my name and not see me as the label I’ve been given. I see you all as individuals that have come to this institution with goals and aspirations but learning to live in this shared community is a must. These labels that we have used to define ourselves have caused an unwanted divide in our community. By assuming positive intent, practicing gratitude and committing intentional acts of kindness we can be restored. We all love this school and we all made a choice to be here today. A wise friend once told me that we hold the power to use our past to define our future. This school was founded as Randolph- Macon Woman’s College in 1891; this was a place where women would come from all over the world to receive an education equivalent to that of the top institutions. Now, in 2011, Randolph College is a place where students come from all over the world to compete in outstanding athletics, perform in remarkable artistic endeavors, and most of all, to receive an invaluable education. And in doing so, we live life more abundantly, *vita abundantior*.