Class of 2006 Commencement

Johnny Isakson
U.S. Senate

Repository Citation
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As always, commencement is a special time for graduates, their friends and families as well as faculty and staff. Photographs of this wonderful day follow.

Soon-to-be graduates (back, l. to r.) Taylor Chamberlain, Megan Haley, Dean Taylor, Elizabeth Barganier, (front, l. to r.) Staci Scott and Rakhi Dalal gather for a photo before lining up to join the graduation procession. Photo courtesy of Professor Robert Brussack (J.D.’76).

Jon Gunnemann helps his son Josh with his tam prior to the ceremony. Photo by UGA Public Affairs’ Nancy Evelyn.

All graduates learn that putting on their hoods is tricky business. Civil Clinics Administrative Assistant Nancy Watkins aids Terri Stewart with hers. Photo by UGA Public Affairs’ Nancy Evelyn.

The Class of 2006 Legacy Gift Co-chairs M.J. Blakely (right) and Shannon Shipley presented Law School Association President Robert Freeman (J.D.’72) (left) and Dean Rebecca White (center) with a check totaling $25,200, the most ever donated by a graduating class. Sixty percent of the class contributed to this gift. Photo by UGA Public Affairs’ Nancy Evelyn.

During the ceremony, Andrew Thomas proudly applauds his fellow classmates. Photo courtesy of Professor Robert Brussack (J.D.’76).
Isakson’s message to graduates included six “silent” secrets to living a happy, successful and fulfilling life. They are:

**LEARNING** - “I challenge you to treat [your diploma] like a passport, to take it through life and have it validated over, and over, and over again by learning and improving yourself.”

**RESPECT** - “… [T]he man that underestimates his fellow [man] is the man that loses. We’re all different sizes, shapes, races, ethnicities and creeds, but everyone has something to offer our fellow man. Greatness in this world is the power of each individual collectively, not the superiority of any one.”

**ETHICS** - “It’s called the Golden Rule. You do unto others as you would have them do unto you. … Doing right is sometimes the most difficult thing a human being can do, but it is always the best thing a human being can do.”

**LOVE** - “It’s that passion that you have for the people and the institutions that have made you what you are and will carry you to the next level. … [M]ost importantly of all, remember this, that love is the common denominator of a successful, happy and fulfilling life.”

**FAITH** - “… I would never make an address like this without telling you that faith is a series of disappointments held together by singular moments of joy and success. You will lose cases in your life, and you will lose loved ones in your life, and you will have tragedies that you can put in the bank. And how you will endure them, to put them together to learn from them and grow is going to depend on what kind of faith you have.”

**DREAM** - “… [L]uck as defined by me and anyone else in here that has ever had a success is when opportunity meets preparation. … There are as many successes in life … as there are graduates here today, if you are willing to dream.”

In closing, Isakson said, “You can be anything you want to be and you can do it. … And if you don’t believe me think about this: today is a special day for not only for you, but for your parents and loved ones, because you are their dream.”