



With their necessary umbrellas, a group of soon-to-be graduates pose in the rain in Ancient Campus. Rain gear was necessary for the seniors who choose to participate in the traditional Walk Across Campus.



Expectant parents wait for their seniors to appear through the Wren Building's doorway. Parents lined the route of the Walk Across Campus hoping to catch a glimpse of their son or daughter.

The first seniors appear in the Wren Courtyard, signifying their entrance into society outside of the College. Senior Class President Kevin Dua and faculty marshals led the Walk.



Chancellor of the College Sandra Day O'Connor, Board of Visitors Rector Michael Powell, and President Taylor Reveley lead the assembled graduates in the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of the Commencement Ceremony.

A GLORIOUS DAY

MAY 17, 2009

Umbrellas and galoshes accompanied the expected regalia of Commencement for the Class of 2009. However, despite a constant and at times heavy rainfall, the newly graduated class of the College were able to keep their spirits from being dampened on graduation day and managed to enjoy their special last weekend.

The entire weekend was one of memories for many seniors. Senior Christina Bianchi appreciated the many traditions which allowed her to remember her last days at the College. "Graduation weekend was a great culmination of my time at the College," Bianchi said. "I was able to celebrate my accomplishments with my family while partaking in the activities the school planned. I have always loved William & Mary's traditions, and between the Baccalaureate Service, the Candlelight Ceremony, and the Walk Across Campus, the weekend was full of

them. It was great to be able to enjoy the best of William & Mary and Williamsburg one last time before moving out into the world."

Upon arriving in an especially chilly Kaplan Arena on Commencement day, seniors took their seats and began to search for their families in the stands, waving program books, scarves, and wet umbrellas. President Reveley welcomed the soon-to-be graduates and their families before Chancellor Sandra Day O'Connor greeted the assembly. Chancellor O'Connor quoted one of the College's famous alumni Thomas Jefferson in referring to the importance of their education as the "chief instrument" in affecting change.

It seemed as Tom Brokaw gave his address, that the message to the new graduates was one based on the need for change. Brokaw told the group that they were entering a world full of economic despair, uncertainty and anxiety, but

that as long as they leaned on each other and took responsibility for their world, they would make a difference.

"We may not have given you a perfect world," Brokaw said, "but we have given you dynamic opportunities for leaving a lasting legacy as a generation fearless and imaginative, tireless and selfless in pursuit of solutions to these monumental problems, a generation that emerged from this financial tsunami and re-built the landscape of their lives with an underpinning of sound values and an eye for proportion, knowing that in fact less can be more."

The conferral of degrees soon followed Brokaw's speech, and seniors officially became alumni of the College. Their memorable day might have been ruined by the rain, but as President Reveley reassured them, "rain or shine, it is a glorious day."

>Meredith Howard

