

Good Evening and Thank You so much for being here tonight. My name is Kit Jackson and I have the honor of serving as the President of the School's Board of Trustees.

SCHOOL PRAYER

Today is an important day on the Garrison Calendar... It is the day **each** year we recognize members of our community who give back.

Earlier Today, members of the Garrison Community were inducted into the **Hall of Excellence** for their significant contributions to the Garrison Community and the broader, global community.

Tonight, we recognize each of **YOU** in this room for your varied contributions of time, talent, and treasure to the Garrison community. Gathered here tonight are:

- Our leadership donors
- Our class fund agents
- reunion chairs
- Marshall Offutt Circle members
- our Hall of Excellence inductees
- Brian Dedy winners,
- the Alumnae Board and Parent Association Leadership
- Members of the Board of Trustees

You are among the School's most loyal and dedicated supporters and we have gathered here to thank you for your service to our school.

Before we honor tonight's two award recipients, there are a few people I want to especially acknowledge:

The first is **Lila Boyce Lohr**, Class of 1963 and current **Interim Head of Garrison Forest School**. Lila stepped up when her Alma Mater called and she has taken on the job of Head of School with unparalleled gusto.

Those of you who have seen her zipping around campus in a golf cart handing out ice-cicles, cheering on our sports teams, and greeting students, parents, and alums, know of what I speak.

I could not be more excited to be working with Lila this school year and I know the entire School Community will benefit from her leadership and her **Garrison Spirit**.

Look out World... we have a **LIGHT** as Head of School!!!

I would also like to take this time to acknowledge the current members of the **Board of Trustees**. I want to ask all board members who are in attendance tonight to please stand.

It is an honor to work with this Board, which has been so thoughtful, so effective, and so collegial in its **stewardship** of the school.

The Board's **commitment to** and **care for** this school is extraordinary and I am personally humbled by the dedication of this group. THANK YOU to **each one of you** for your service to our school and commitment to ensuring that Garrison, in its second century, remains a leader in girls' education.

Finally, I would like to use this occasion to thank two women who have made Garrison a full-time job the last 5 months. **Kim Gordon**, current parent, and **Helen Shafer**, current parent and a member of the class of '93, have worked tirelessly and with unbound enthusiasm on behalf of our school as **co-heads** of the **Search Committee** for the **next Head of School**. They have been exceptional ambassadors for our School wooing candidates from all over the country to our campus.

All of you will have the opportunity to see the results of their hard work in the coming weeks and I urge you, our most dedicated and devoted community members, to find time to participate in the process as we select the next Head of School.

Helen and Kim – you exemplify Garrison Spirit in all that you do. Thank You.

Tonight we will honor the work of two members of our community with the **Brian Dedy Award** and the **Distinguished Alumna Award**. **Steve Sargianis**, parent of Emma class of 2018, and **Sealy Hathaway Hopkinson**, Class of '79, our two recipients, have made “giving back” to their communities and to our School an important part of their lives and I thank each of them for their commitment to service. They embody so much of what we want our Garrison Girls to be.

With that, I would like to welcome **Peter Korzenewski**, Board member and parent of Ava and Kelly, to the podium. If there is anyone who has a hard time containing their enthusiasm for this School it is Peter Korzenewski.