



***Remarks from the President of the Delbarton Alumni Association,  
At the Fall Class Reps' Dinner at the Madison Hotel, September 28,  
2016***

I would like to welcome you all here tonight for the Fall Reps' Dinner. Most of all, I would like to thank each of you for taking time away from family and from your professional lives to gather here with your fellow Class Reps on behalf of the Delbarton Alumni Association.

I am very much in awe of this group here tonight. You are the stalwarts of the Delbarton Alumni Association; the regulars who attend this Reps' dinner year in and year out. You are the men who have helped to make the Delbarton Alumni Association what it is today. Many of you here tonight have been Class Reps for decades; you are current and past Trustees, Alumni Board officers and past Presidents. I look out at this group, and I see many faces that I have looked up to over the years, and who I have been honored to serve with as a Class Rep and on the Alumni Board.

As Class Reps and devoted Alums, you have built so much of the permanent foundation of this Alumni Association and put into place

many of the institutions that younger generations of alumni have always known to exist: Homecoming Weekend, the Summer Sizzler, the Day at the Races, the Regional Alumni Clubs and the list goes on. This is what we mean when we say *“We stand on the shoulders of giants.”*

Looking back on this history of accomplishment and progress, and with the recent 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the School raising Alumni participation in the Annual Fund to all-time highs...as well as...ever-increasing attendance in the events on the Alumni Calendar; the questions falls to us, to the officers of the Alumni Board and to the Class Reps, *“what do we do for an encore?” “How do we write the next chapter of the Alumni Association as we look forward to the next 75 years?”*

I learned from my time at Delbarton to derive confidence through preparation. And so in preparing for my time as President, and doing my research so that I may help to answer these questions, I delved deeply into my personal Delbarton history – rummaging through boxes of memories including notes from monks and teachers, term papers, report cards, and yearbooks. I happened across this note from Fr. Giles which had inspiring words for a young sophomore preparing to face the challenges of college placement exams and the application process. It reads,

*“If you think you are finished, you are. You can never plateau. You can never stop climbing, nor stop improving yourself. There’s always more to learn, another talent to develop. If you think you’ve reached the top, you’re on the way down.”*

It occurred to me that these words were as fitting for us today, as they were during my time at Delbarton. These words have become an inspirational theme for us tonight, for this year’s Alumni Board and for you the Class Reps as we look forward to the year ahead with the goal of bringing the Alumni experience at Delbarton to the next level.

I discovered something more through my research and reflection: there was a time before Homecoming Weekend existed, a time when

there was no Summer Sizzler. There was a time when the Regional Alumni Clubs were just an idea, before we began the first club in Boston. Now we have clubs in Chicago, New York, Washington, D.C., Hoboken and the Jersey Shore. And many other events fill the Alumni Calendar. Here's what I learned: *WE NEVER STOP CLIMBING*. This has always been our way of doing things at Delbarton. And this has been the unwritten motto of the Delbarton Alumni Association for years. So with that in mind, this year's Alumni Board will have a special presentation for you tonight that we hope you will enjoy.

## **John Tonzola '95**

*President, Delbarton Alumni  
Association  
(2016-2018)*

