



**Remarks from the President of the Delbarton Alumni Association,
at the Hall of Honor Dinner on Friday October 13, 2017**

What we know today as the *Hall of Honor* began in 1984 as the “Outstanding Alumnus of the Year Award”. The first recipient was Jules Spada from the Class of 1948 – Jules is here with us tonight, so let’s please give Jules a warm round of applause.

The early and enduring criteria for this award was that it be awarded to “an alumnus who has brought great credit to the School through their service to their community, through distinction or leadership in their chosen field or calling, or through their great service to their alma mater Delbarton School.”

In 1989, under the leadership of our Alumni Director Craig Paris ’82, then Headmaster Fr. Bruno and the Alumni Association, and in conjunction with the celebration of the school’s 50th anniversary, the Outstanding Alumnus of the Year Award became known as the *Hall of Honor*. And the recognition was expanded to include non-Alumni or Honorary nominees “who through dedication and service to Delbarton have made a great contribution to the school.”

We have now celebrated our wonderful Hall of Honor inductees for 33 years since that first night in 1984.

Earlier this week, as I sat to collect my thoughts for this evening, I questioned just what makes the Delbarton Hall of Honor so special?

Namely, what is “Honor” in the context of Delbarton School and its incredible alumni body? And what distinguishes these “honorable” inductees tonight?

First the notion of Honor.

The Ancient Greeks thought of Honor in two ways: there was *ascribed Honor* which literally meant one's worth or value, their property or the family into which they were born. And there was *achieved Honor* which referred to honor earned or bestowed upon a person during their life due to their service to the State, their good works in their community or even their victories on the battlefield. This latter example was like a "Theory of the Conservation of Honor: Honor could neither be created nor destroyed, it could only change forms." One might imagine an Ancient Greek General gaining honor through victory on the battlefield, but only at the expense of their vanquished foe who had exchanged his honor for shame.

Tonight in the Fine Arts Center of Delbarton School, the honor that these three inductees have brought to themselves, to their families and to Delbarton is not Finite and distinguishes these men in ways worthy of our recognition. In fact, these three men fit perfectly into the long tradition of Hall of Honor inductees who have brought honor to our school and to themselves through the way they have led their lives, the service they have performed within their communities, the distinction they have achieved in their fields and the many and lasting ways in which they have given back to Delbarton. They share these gifts with us, and the credit they bring to the school only grows as we induct new deserving members into the Hall of Honor year after year.

And one of the inductees we honor tonight deserves a few extra words from me, for I probably would not be in my current role if it were not for him.

So I have a brief story to tell.

Having heard or read the stories of the lives of our inductees, we know now that one of them spent 14 years on the Delbarton Alumni Board and in his two years as President he made a point of attending every event on the Delbarton calendar, near and far. Every. Single. Event.

In doing so, he expanded and reinforced our notion of Brotherhood. But what it does not say in that biography is that perhaps no member of the Delbarton Alumni Association in recent memory has done more to reach out and to connect with fellow alumni of all ages. This inductee continues to attend every event he can make it to despite living down in Red Bank (which is not that close!), he is one of the most active participants on our newly rolled out Alumni web community (everybody please sign up, we have an iPad set up in the back of the room...), and he sends Facebook messages to every alumnus on their Birthday saying "Happies!" – I still don't really know what that means.

Years ago when I first joined the Board, he sought me out and went out of his way to be extremely supportive of me and the work that I do. As I became President of the Board, this treatment has only continued as I receive regular messages after events from this alum thanking me for my words or for my service or leadership. It is because he takes the time to connect in this way that, to me, he is a living embodiment of the Brotherhood he has done so much to foster.

A few months ago, I had a call with this alum because I wanted to ask him to co-chair one of the newly formed committees of the Delbarton Alumni Association. As I prepared to get into my typically longwinded explanation of why this committee was *so important*, and why it was critical to have him as the Chair, he said "I'm in." "Wait, what?" I had hardly begun to explain, and I had prepared so much to say! "I'm in. Just tell me what you need me to do. I would do anything for Delbarton."

I WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR DELBARTON.

At a time in his life when he had many other, more important things going on he said "I'm in."

This was one of the most profound lessons I have learned about Brotherhood and what it means to give back to this school. Thank you, Wiggy. (Or is it Sir Wiggy now?)

And thank you to all of our inductees for sharing your stories with us tonight. You bring honor to yourselves, you bring honor to the School and we in turn honor you for this.

