

2009 Convocation Speech

By Kyla Pillsbury '11

Just two years ago I was sitting out there in the seats that the member of the Class of 2013 and transfer students are sitting in today. The weather was warm, and sticky, and the last thing on my mind was what the people in front of me were talking about. I remember President Galligan said something about his favorite XM radio stations, then there was a long talk about merging, and there was a little bit of talk about our summer reading book, which I had just finished on the way down the highway for move-in day, but that is about all I remember. I was thinking more about the journey that I was about to embark on, my parents leaving me, having to share a room with someone I'd only met that morning, starting classes at college, not having home cooking for awhile, sleeping in a new bed, it all seemed surreal. At that time however, I did not realize that everyone I was sitting around was in nearly the same boat as me. None of them had been through this before at Colby-Sawyer College, and looking back, if I had realized that then, it may have made things a lot easier.

If you are coming from high school you may be used to the little cliques where there are the “popular kids”, “the jocks”, “the nerds”, “the band geeks”, etcetera, you get the point! Or perhaps some of you are coming in from the workforce where there are different levels of people. Remember going into this that all of you are starting off in nearly the exact same situation. Talk to each other, help each other, get to know each other, I challenge you to learn something interesting about the people sitting next to you before you walk out of this tent!

I also encourage you to get to know the faculty and staff here at Colby-Sawyer. They can be a resource for you not only in classes, clubs, and sports, but most of them at some point or another have been through college, so they too have been in the shoes that you are about to put on! They are amazing people who are all here to help you, and to help make your college experience even better.

So, in closing I will welcome you to Colby-Sawyer, encourage you to have fun, and perhaps try something new. Colby-Sawyer offers many clubs, organizations, and club sports, so take advantage of some of them. Obviously being the student body president I am highly involved with the Student Government association, better known as SGA, here on campus. SGA is the porthole for all students to get involved with the governance of the college. One of SGA's roles is to try to bring student issues to the attention of the college community as a whole, and find solutions for them. It is a great experience that will truly enhance your college experience, and I encourage all of you to take the opportunity to get involved in something here on campus!

Thank you, and once again, welcome to Colby-Sawyer!