

**THETFORD ACADEMY HONORS CELEBRATION 2008  
FACULTY SPEAK CHORUS**

Marc **“To be of use”** inspired by Marge Piercy’s poem of the same title

ALL \_\_\_\_\_ The work is done, in a summer haze.  
Beautiful as a pink petal, a word rolls out to the line.

Emily Carole Clark said that. My name is Emily Silver, and I teach English.

Marc Marc Chabot, chemistry and physics.

Sarah I’m Sarah Allen, the librarian.

Gary Gary Engler, biology teacher

Mary Mary Bronga: I am the Dean of Students

Sally Sally Shipton, school counselor

Martha \_\_\_\_\_ I am Martha Rich, Head of School

Corin Corin Benedict: I teach math and science

Karen Karen Heinzmann: French and Spanish

Meghan \_\_\_\_\_ Meghan Sterling: English

ALL \_\_\_\_\_ The people I love the best  
jump into work head first  
without dallying in the shallows  
and swim off with sure strokes almost out of sight.  
They seem to become natives of that element.

Corin \_\_\_\_\_ **Jesse Chapman**

Meghan \_\_\_\_\_ The librarian in our beautiful castle of a school works without rest. It is her mission to fill the long aisles of fortress-like bookshelves with novels full of knowledge, all meant to fill our minds with endless love. In the silent room, she watches over with her radiant beauty.

Gary \_\_\_\_\_ **Evan Mullen**

Martha \_\_\_\_\_ John Stokes, he is a man like no other – smart, ivy-educated, whatever that means, but most importantly in touch with his own life, with the world. He lives sustainably, and with compassion for all members of the world around him. What sets him apart, however, is his innate love and talent for sharing his gifts and for teaching others the wisdom he has garnered. Indeed, this is a man from whom we all could learn.

Emily \_\_\_\_\_ **Katherine Bishop**

Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ **There are so many people whose work I admire: Jane Austen, Rainer Maria Rilke, Rosa Parks, Ghandi, Coco Chanel, Julie Andrews; and that's just the beginning! I only hope that I can accomplish a fraction of what they have done.**

Marc \_\_\_\_\_ **Jett Choquette**

Sally \_\_\_\_\_ **I admire those who cross life jumping from stepping stone to stepping stone. They don't try to leap across the river, knowing it is wide or seek the way that involves the fewest stones but is sure to wet their feet. Rather, they observe the patterns of the stones, and begin their crossing by following a path that may be challenging but full of opportunity, all the while keeping their mind open to changing course if the current shifts.**

Mary \_\_\_\_\_ **John Webb**

Karen \_\_\_\_\_ **I want to be a person who inspires others, like my brother Mike, my Uncle Jeff, and good guitar players. I want people to be able to learn from me.**

Meghan \_\_\_\_\_ **Henry Levine**

Gary \_\_\_\_\_ **I would like to be thought of as someone you can count on. That I'll always be there to help or support whoever in whatever it is they're doing—like my parents do.**

ALL \_\_\_\_\_ **I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart.**

Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ **Matthew Bach-Lombardo**

Mary \_\_\_\_\_ **I remember Africa and the villagers working, and how they worked really hard even if things didn't turn out for the best. I want to help them do hard work so they can succeed in life.**

Martha \_\_\_\_\_ **Catherine Craig**

Corin \_\_\_\_\_ **In The Prophet I read that "Work is love made visible." I love the way it feels to contribute—so it may be that when I fill a pot with soil and plant a flower in it, that my love comes out of that soil and that flower.**

Sally \_\_\_\_\_ **Molly Mundy**

Emily \_\_\_\_\_ **I love the satisfaction that comes from conveying an image or feeling in my own way. By loving my work I think I will be able to create a more loving world, or at least be able to influence the people around me and help them to enjoy life.**

Sarah \_\_\_\_ **Katie Cawley**

Marc \_\_\_\_ The work I have done for the past sixteen years, from learning to walk, to learning to read, to learning to perform, to learning to adapt to change, to getting an A on a math test has created a person, and despite my ever-present complaints, I like that person.

Corin \_\_\_\_ **Eliza Hoffman**

Meghan \_\_\_\_ I love to be outside working; the garden, the woods. Sometimes I help people with their homework; I kind of feel like its my duty.

The work that feels fun is the work that isn't actually work; it's cleaning up my room with my friends, so that it will never get done. It's taking care of the neighbor's dog that you love, or washing the car on a hot summer's day. It's having someone tell you that, because there's no one else that will take you, unfortunately you have to spend the day at your best friend's. Oh DARN, that's too bad.

Martha \_\_\_\_ **Kylie Cook**

Sally \_\_\_\_ The work that I like the best  
Is the the work that is fun and the work done with friends  
The work done with friends and the work that is fun  
Isn't that hard to get done

Emily \_\_\_\_ **Arianna MacKinnon**

Sarah \_\_\_\_ Most work isn't fun, but it has to be done.  
Don't stall, mope, or complain.  
Every little bit counts,  
So do your part and I'll do mine.  
And we'll make the world be the best it can be.

Gary \_\_\_\_ **Daniel LaRoche**

Karen \_\_\_\_ I'm ready to swim out of the shallow end of the vast academic pool, also known as high school, and go tread in some deeper water. Sure, it's going to be more tiring, and a lot less safe, but at least I'll be able to dive in head first.

ALL \_\_\_\_ I want to be with people who move in a common rhythm.

Marc \_\_\_\_ **Jillian Dusenbury**

Corin \_\_\_\_ My work ethic tastes sweet like a lollipop. It smells like salt from the ocean. Feels like walking on gravel with your bare feet. Work ethic sounds like an old steam engine climbing a mountain. It looks like a tree growing. It takes a long time. In all, work ethic looks like a beaver.

Sally \_\_\_\_\_ **Anna Smith**

Marc \_\_\_\_\_ Last summer I worked picking strawberries and then blueberries every morning. At first I didn't feel like going, but afterward, I felt like, "Yes, I'm done."

Meghan \_\_\_\_\_ **Abby Smith**

Emily \_\_\_\_\_ When I run long distance or when I'm trying to get A's, I want to feel like I'm achieving something better than normal.

Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ **Indie Scopetti**

Mary \_\_\_\_\_ Being a hard worker defines who I am.

What you do in school determines the rest of your life.

Meghan \_\_\_\_\_ **Ben Bauer**

Corin \_\_\_\_\_ In eighth grade we reported on how international groups can help to reduce CO2 emissions. I liked working on that project because I firmly believe in reversing global warming. I always like to work hard on things I believe in, or things I want to work on in my career.

Marc \_\_\_\_\_ **Jennie Meglathery**

Emily \_\_\_\_\_ I'm proud that I'm capable of jumping butt first off a boat in full dive gear without hurting myself.

Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ **Haley Grigel**

Karen \_\_\_\_\_ The new poetry board in the library has inspired me. It's nice to have something so creative to look at when I go to sharpen my pencil. It's also kind of inspiring because all of those people were brave enough to pin up their poems, paintings, and such, for everyone to see.

One thing that I have done this year that has made me proud is when a partner and I recreated a banjo from the slavery era. It didn't actually make any noise, but it took a lot of extra time, and I was satisfied when it went into the display case outside the office.

Gary \_\_\_\_\_ **Ella Flett**

Martha \_\_\_\_\_ I'm proud of the fact that I can blow really big bubbles with gum. I worked at perfecting the art of it. Give me any piece of gum, I'll blow a bubble with it.

Mary \_\_\_\_\_ **Aidan Lopez**

Sally \_\_\_\_\_ Last year my school performed Fiddler on the Roof. It was the perfect bit of acting for us all. You could feel us changing slowly becoming the characters, but what the play taught us was to give our

best at life—to challenge ourselves to do new and great things. It made all of us into better people.

Corin \_\_\_\_\_ **Oriana Pedone**

Gary \_\_\_\_\_ When something pays off, you feel so proud and partly amazed: my eighth grade portfolio—I revised every page, and it turned out to be 170 pages long.

ALL \_\_\_\_\_ The work of the world is common as mud.

Martha \_\_\_\_\_ **India Choquette**

Meghan \_\_\_\_\_ Using the term “work” implies that you have to force yourself to do it. Or at least it does to me. I don’t like work. I like play. Actually, I like plays: dressing up, getting to be someone else. Nervousness. Drama is just a glorified playground game.

Marc \_\_\_\_\_ **Megan Barton**

Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ I love to ride and lead and muck  
It’s only good to work with fun  
So I do not want to waste my time  
in a job that is not fun

Karen \_\_\_\_\_ **Sam Rondeau**

Corin \_\_\_\_\_ The work you love should be in a place that you love as well. Whether it be inside or outside; in warm weather or cold, the place makes all the difference.

Sally \_\_\_\_\_ **Rosie Sharp**

Mary \_\_\_\_\_ Contributing to the world and my community in a way that I love transforms the job from an assignment to an option. “Job Shadow” made me realize I don’t want to get stuck in a job I don’t like.

Karen \_\_\_\_\_ **Emily Kadish**

Martha \_\_\_\_\_ Sometimes it takes work to have fun, like when I went on vacation to North Carolina with a friend. We had to drive 16 hours to happiness!

Emily \_\_\_\_\_ **Alex Crimmin**

Marc \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to enjoy whatever I do as much as I enjoy playing basketball and soccer.

Mary \_\_\_\_\_ **Amanda O’Donnell**

Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ I want to do work that makes me happy all the time

Like going outside on a perfect spring day.  
I want to do something that is pleasing to me  
Like eating ice cream on a hot summer's day.  
to do something that fills my senses  
Like stopping on the roadside and smelling the wild flowers.  
I want to get up in the morning and be excited about the day ahead of  
me.  
I hope my work is filled with wonderful experiences and opportunities.

Corin \_\_\_\_\_ **Jay Wilson**

Karen \_\_\_\_\_ When I grow older I want to be a big mountain ski guide. Skiing is my favorite activity and to be able to do it for most of my life, and make a living, would be a dream come true. I would be giving people a new experience but that wouldn't be my reason for doing it. I would do it because it's fun, and it might be childish, but having fun is what I want to do with my life. I realize that my life can't be all fun and games but being a big mountain ski guide would be pretty close to having a perfect life for me.

Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ **Isaac Alexandre-Leach,**

Gary \_\_\_\_\_ who wrote from the Mountain School,

Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ In believes that work is not for him. He feels confident that the lottery will come through. If all else fails, he will become a pirate.

Marc \_\_\_\_\_ **Kara Ciambra**

Sally \_\_\_\_\_ As long as I'm happy  
and as long as I'm free,  
I don't care where I work  
I don't care what I'll be

Karen \_\_\_\_\_ **Matthew Field**

Martha \_\_\_\_\_ I want to be out of the ordinary. I want to complete school and go on to do amazing things.

Sally \_\_\_\_\_ **Ellis Ganley**

Emily \_\_\_\_\_ A man named Azi sat down next to me on a greyhound bus in the middle of New Jersey and said to me, "Work for yourself, kid. Do what you love, and love what you do." 200 miles later he was gone.

Mary \_\_\_\_\_ **Rozy Isquith**

Marc \_\_\_\_\_ To me, most of the work I have done has been fun, especially the things that involve creative thinking such as short improv in drama

or short stories in English. That is when I get to experiment. That is when I get to really learn.

Meghan \_\_\_\_\_ **Will Wickham** is thinking about climate change  
Wants to set up a CO2 credit exchange  
350 ppm before the world's deranged  
Call him insane, call him strange  
But it's your world he's gonna rearrange.

Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ **Ellie Cramton**  
Emily \_\_\_\_\_ Right now, I'm still trying to figure out what I want out of life.  
I don't know what I'll do, where I'll go, or who I'll become, but I do know  
that I will stay true to myself.

Mary \_\_\_\_\_ **Emilie Vansant**  
Gary \_\_\_\_\_ We all work to achieve something. Whether it's the work of a  
high paid executive striving for order or an unpaid mother raising her  
children. Purpose is work. Difficult is work. Life is work.

ALL \_\_\_\_\_ I want to with people who do what has to be done, again and  
again.

Meghan \_\_\_\_\_ **Holly Buttrey**  
Sally \_\_\_\_\_ I hope to always remember to hold open the door for a  
stranger behind me and to be happy whenever I answer the phone. If  
each day I could make someone's day better, I would be useful in the  
world.

Mary \_\_\_\_\_ **Billy Ulz**  
Gary \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to go into the Army to take what I learned at the  
Academy and give it back to the world.

Emily \_\_\_\_\_ **Lydia Kifner**  
Karen \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to help the hungry,  
the helpless,  
the needy.

Marc \_\_\_\_\_ **Rowan Froelich**  
Mary \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to be able to do something worthwhile. To make  
sure people have food and water. Maybe not something huge, but I want  
to help in what small ways I can.

Corin \_\_\_\_\_ **Jenna Postler**

Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ I volunteered over the summer at the hospital and at Latham Library. I hope my work contributed to the greater good.

Gary \_\_\_\_\_ **Rachel Borst**

Emily \_\_\_\_\_ Late at night, early morning, Thanksgiving dinner, or lazy Saturday- we'll be there. Rain, sleet, snow, heat- roaring inferno, car on its roof, or difficulty breathing. Day in and day out, year after year- firefighting.

Karen \_\_\_\_\_ **Jacob Osborne**

Marc \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to find innovative solutions for the negative changes occurring in our resource-starved and war-ridden world. But if I can't do that, then I would like to assist my fellow humans in achieving a global harmony, in which the principle ideas are tolerance, respect, justice, and peace. But if I can't do that, I would like to be in a speak chorus.

Martha \_\_\_\_\_ **Amos Hine**

Gary \_\_\_\_\_ The realm of my true passion is racing. My ultimate goal is to impact the world in some way in the form of more efficient and safer cars on the roads.

Sally \_\_\_\_\_ **Lizzy Marks, future government representative**

Mary \_\_\_\_\_ The work worth doing  
is making sure the country's strong  
And building her to new heights.  
America is young,  
So don't worry about the future. Leave it up to me.  
My work will be in keeping "the land of the free."

Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ **Regina Melahn**

Corin \_\_\_\_\_ I will be of use to the world by spreading positive thinking.

Martha \_\_\_\_\_ **Sam Williams**

Karen \_\_\_\_\_ There are so many great tragedies in the world I feel like the least we can do is use our knowledge to aid those who are oppressed and must live in constant fear all around the world.

Emily \_\_\_\_\_ **Elizabeth Parenteau**

Sally \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to follow in my dad's footsteps, and help improve and change people's lives by doing little things to protect the one Earth we have, making it a better place for the future in which others will live.

Marc \_\_\_\_\_ **Emily Whalen**

Meghan \_\_\_\_ I want to leave a positive footprint. I want to inspire people to love, to laugh, and to be themselves. In the words of Jimi Hendrix, “When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace.”

Sally \_\_\_\_ **Sarah Kamphuis**

Corin \_\_\_\_ To be of use in a helpful way I will help animals, give them hay. I’ll be a veterinarian to nurse them to health, to give them their shot, to help them when neglected and save them on the spot. To be of use.

Gary \_\_\_\_ **Sara Papirmeister**

Martha \_\_\_\_ I would like to be of use in this world by working along side impoverished children who need better healthcare and living conditions. I would like to set up a modern school in underdeveloped countries like Ghana. I would also like to stop destruction of the rainforests, save the chimpanzees in Tanzania, and put an end to illegal poaching of endangered wildlife, as well as find a way to reverse the global warming issue and make the switch from gasoline to a natural, cheaper, more fuel efficient energy source such as solar power. I know that sounds like a lot, but I think somehow I’ll manage.

Mary \_\_\_\_ **Ian Weider**

Emily \_\_\_\_ I would like people to remember me as a hardworking student who loves a challenge, and the effort I put into my school and sports at the same time.

Corin \_\_\_\_ **Rebecca Norton**

Sarah \_\_\_\_ To take back a stranger’s grocery cart for them,  
to make a friend smile on a bad day,  
to hold the door.

To be of use is to touch another person’s life.

ALL \_\_\_\_ The thing worth doing well done  
has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.

Emily \_\_\_\_ **Seth Norton**

Gary \_\_\_\_ I love to work with the air around me, shaping the world around me. Going places I never dreamed of—the North and South Poles—I would become part of the world around me.

Meghan \_\_\_\_ **Matisse Hack**

Marc \_\_\_\_ I think I should be king  
Lord of everything

It is better than a vagrant  
For they are not very fragrant

Karen \_\_\_\_\_ **Krystyna Mehaln**

Mary \_\_\_\_\_ I understand how everyone I pass is fighting some kind of battle. All I can do is live simply, love generously, care deeply, and laugh unconditionally. The more people I take with me, the stronger we'll become, because we can't do anything worthwhile alone. Realize, life is not about waiting for the storm to pass...it's about learning how to dance in the rain.

Martha \_\_\_\_\_ **Kayla Glazer**

Corin \_\_\_\_\_ I don't know about that person,  
Marge Piercy, was it?  
who wants to be with people who work hard  
to be with those who jump into work head first.  
Then where is the time for fun?  
I want to dip a toe into the water  
And ponder  
And laugh, and think  
As people splash work onto me

Sally \_\_\_\_\_ **Mayellen Matson**

Meghan \_\_\_\_\_ My goal for the future is to lie in the grass and look at the sky every chance I get. To laugh and cry with frequency, to remind myself I'm human and that I can. To love unconditionally and hate as little as possible to know that it's natural to do both. I can't change the world, but I can make a difference. "We are insignificant," they say. I disagree. We are miniscule, and I rediscover this every night with one glance at the stars. I am small, but a drop of rain in a thundering downpour; I have a ripple. That's got to mean something.

ALL \_\_\_\_\_ The people I love the best  
jump into work head first  
without dallying in the shallows  
and swim off with sure strokes almost out of sight.

THE POEM:

To be of use

The people I love the best  
jump into work head first  
without dallying in the shallows  
and swim off with sure strokes almost out of sight.  
They seem to become natives of that element,  
the black sleek heads of seals  
bouncing like half submerged balls.

I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart,  
who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience,  
who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward,  
who do what has to be done, again and again.

I want to be with people who submerge  
in the task, who go into the fields to harvest  
and work in a row and pass the bags along,  
who stand in the line and haul in their places,  
who are not parlor generals and field deserters  
but move in a common rhythm  
when the food must come in or the fire be put out.

The work of the world is common as mud.  
Botched, it smears the hands, crumbles to dust.  
But the thing worth doing well done  
has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.  
Greek amphoras for wine or oil,  
Hopi vases that held corn, are put in museums  
but you know they were made to be used.  
The pitcher cries for water to carry  
and a person for work that is real.

—Marge Piercy