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"BOREDOM IS THE \textbf{SHRIEK} OF UNUSED CAPACITIES."

THESE ARE WORDS WRITTEN BY THE AMERICAN AUTHOR, SAUL BELLOW, WHO WON THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR LITERATURE IN 1976.

THEY ARE SPOKEN BY HIS CHARACTER, AUGIE MARCH, A FELLOW WHO IS CAPABLE OF GREAT INTELLECTUAL ACTIVITY AND OF HIGH IMAGINATION.

IN \textit{THE ADVENTURES OF AUGIE MARCH}, AUGIE GETS HIMSELF INTO A NUMBER OF "FIXES," AND SOME OF THOSE DON'T TURN OUT SO WELL. HE HAS MORE TALENTS THAN HE HAS DREAMS TO ACHIEVE.
STILL, AUGIE'S ABILITIES ARE WORTH FOCUSING UPON--MORE THAN HIS FOIBLES--BECAUSE HE TEACHES US THAT BOREDOM COMES ONLY WHEN WE HAVE FAILED TO TAP OUR FULL POTENTIAL.

THERE ISN'T A PERSON IN THIS AUDIENCE WHO DOESN'T KNOW THAT ALREADY

YOUR PRESENCE HERE TODAY CONFIRMS THAT ALONG WITH YOUR GIFTS OF INTELLECTUAL ABILITY, YOU HAVE PROVEN TO USE THEM WISELY, AND PRODUCTIVELY

YOU ARE, MOST LIKELY, STRANGERS TO BOREDOM. AT LEAST, IF IT BEGINS TO MAKE A PEEP, YOU KNOW HOW TO STIFLE IT QUICKLY!

YOU ARE THE TOP OF THE CLASS. YOU HAVE ACHIEVED ACADEMIC SUCCESS ALREADY IN YOUR YOUNG LIVES; THIS PUTS YOU AMONG THE BRIGHTEST OF AMERICA'S YOUTH.

SINCE 1980, MORE THAN SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND STUDENTS HAVE BEEN THROUGH THE DUKE UNIVERSITY TALENT IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM, -- TIP, FOR SHORT. MORE THAN TEN THOUSAND OF THOSE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN HONORED HERE ON WESTERN'S CAMPUS IN THE LAST 16 YEARS.
AS YOU KNOW, THE TIP PROGRAM IS A RICH RESOURCE FOR WHETTING THE ACADEMIC APPETITES OF ENERGETIC YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE YOU, AND FOR OFFERING PROGRAMS THAT BOTH CHALLENGE AND SATISFY YOUR THIRSTS FOR LEARNING MORE.

YOU HAVE SCORES ON COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS THAT MANY HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WOULD ENVY.

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY WOULD BE HONORED TO HAVE YOU ENTER ITS FRESHMAN CLASS IN A FEW YEARS. WE WILL FOLLOW YOUR PROGRESS THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL. WE WILL APPLAUD YOUR SUCCESS. WE WILL ENCOURAGE YOU TO SHARE YOUR CREATIVE TALENTS THROUGHOUT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL AND YOUR COMMUNITIES. SEEK PROGRAMS WHICH NURTURE YOUR INTELLECTUAL GIFTS.

YOU KNOW, TOO, THAT BEING INTELLECTUALLY GIFTED IS NOT A DORKY THING. BEING SMART DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE A NERD. IT DOESN'T MEAN YOU DON'T SOCIALLY FIT IN. IN FACT, YOU'RE LIVING TESTIMONY THAT GOOD GRADES ARE COOL! THAT SERIOUSNESS AND FUN CAN HAVE A HIGH CORRELATION. LEARNING TAKES PLACE IN ALL KINDS OF SETTINGS.

AUGIE MARCH WAS HARDLY A WALLFLOWER, AND HE SOMETIMES DIDN'T MAKE GOOD CHOICES, BUT HE TAUGHT US A LOT ABOUT HUMAN NATURE. AND SAUL BELLOW TAUGHT US ALSO A LOT ABOUT CONTEMPORARY LIFE THROUGH HIS NOVELS.

YOU WILL ENCOUNTER HIS INSPIRATIONAL WISDOM NO DOUBT, WHEN YOU ENTER COLLEGE, OR PERHAPS EVEN IN HIGH SCHOOL. AND NUMEROUS OTHER AUTHORS, SCIENTISTS, AND INDIVIDUALS FROM WHOM YOU CAN LEARN, SIMPLY FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF LEARNING.
BESIDES THE FUN OF JUST LEARNING, HOWEVER, AN EDUCATED PERSON CONTRIBUTES TO HIS OR HER COMMUNITY. IT'S A QUESTION OF SIMPLE MATHEMATICS. THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE MORE YOU ARE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE-- TO THE WELL-BEING OF THOSE AROUND YOU.

THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF EDUCATION ON KENTUCKY'S ECONOMIC FUTURE IS GREATLY ENHANCED BY BRIGHT YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE YOU.

BUT FEW UNDERSTAND THAT THE CONNECTION --BETWEEN EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC SUCCESS-- CAN SOMETIMES BE SUBTLE.

OH, YOU CAN LEARN A TRADE AND GO INTO THE WORKFORCE AND MAKE MONEY. THAT'S SUCCESS, AND IT IS ECONOMIC SUCCESS.

TO BE A SUCCESSFUL CITIZEN, HOWEVER, YOU MUST POSSESS MORE THAN JUST THE KNOWLEDGE TO SOMEDAY DO A JOB.

YOU MUST POSSESS A WELL-ROUNDED COLLEGE EDUCATION, WITH EXPOSURE TO ALL KINDS OF SUBJECTS, IN BOTH THE LIBERAL ARTS AND IN THE SCIENCES. APPLY YOUR GIFTS IN ALL OF THE SCHOLASTIC, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL SETTINGS POSSIBLE. LISTEN, PROBE, QUESTION, PERSIST, CHALLENGE THE STATUSES QUOD, AND, PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANTLY, ENJOY YOUR ACHIEVEMENT, ENJOY YOURSELF, ENJOY YOUR FRIENDS. AS AMERICA'S ELITE YOUNG PEOPLE, YOU HOLD IN YOUR HANDS THE KEYS TO A MAGNIFICENT FUTURE, WITH MINDPOWER YOUR CENTRAL, DRIVING FORCE.
I am honored to be with you today as you receive the recognition you well deserve for your scholastic efforts.

I'd like to be the one who hands you your college diploma in just a few years! I also hope to see many of you here at Western in our Gifted Studies Program during the summer. It's a magnificent program.

In the meantime, continue on your quests for learning, and never let unused capacities cry out for your attention.

Maintain a ravenous appetite for learning, and you will be able to share in the vision of human greatness that Saul Bellow tells about in his stories.

Your life will be rich if you continue to be an educated person, even long after you've left school—even when you are old.

There's a Chinese proverb that says:

"Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere."

All of you here today are truly gifted. Share your gifts. Fulfill your dreams.

Thank you.