



Broad Scholar I'John Gatewood's Remarks at the 2008 Broad Prize

Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Broad and distinguished guests.

Growing up in a single-parent household with two older brothers and a rough financial situation, one would expect that the standard for success in my life would be relatively low. Maybe just staying out of trouble or finding a job right out of high school would have been enough to be considered an achievement. Fortunately, my mother had higher goals for my life. She worked long nights, cleaning laundry mats and office buildings; wanting, hoping and praying that her own dreams deferred could be accomplished through me.

What made her upset the most was when she felt as if I was taking my education for granted. Early on in my high school career, this was the case. I was a quick-learner, and at times it bred complacency and even laziness. My mom taught me that talent was not a substitute for hard work and should not only be used but also shared. I took these lessons to heart. To give back, I began teaching chess on weekends to students from my former middle school. I also began to excel academically, completing International Baccalaureate as well as Advanced Placement courses in high school. My hard work paid off; as a senior I won the state chess championship for North Carolina, and my high school coursework ensured that I would enter college almost a full year ahead of my freshman class.

Despite my accomplishments, there was still a great deal of uncertainty about my future. I wasn't sure what school I wanted to attend or what I wanted study. The only certainty was that I had a loving family and that we were broke. Financial constraints not only inhibit your lifestyle but also your thoughts. The Broad Prize scholarship allowed me to dream.

With the help of The Broad Foundation, I felt more confident accepting admission to Clemson University, a school that costs over 30,000 dollars a year. It also gave me a great sense of pride and a high academic standard to reach. I was drawn to economics and soon became an endowed scholar, which is a merit-based award given to students who have excelled within the economics department at Clemson. The award gave me the opportunity to present research on economic history to Clemson University's Academic Advisory Board, which oversees course curriculum for the university.

I am currently a senior, and in May I will receive a bachelor's degree in economics with a minor in mathematics. I plan to continue my education and receive a Ph.D. in economics, with the hope of someday teaching or going into public service.

The Broad Prize Scholarship has helped me to imagine this dream and, to the Broad family and the foundation, I would like to thank you for the opportunity that you have given to me and my family.