Thank you Dean Danos. Friends, Family, Faculty, Administrators, and Overseers, Welcome & Thank you. Mom, Dad, & my beautiful wife Laura, thank you for your love and support, which has put me in the position to be standing in front of everyone today.

As students, we have been asking a lot of questions over the last two years.

How did I get into Tuck? Now that I’m here, how am I going to fit in? How am I ever going to understand global economics or management statistics? How will I find the right job or career?

Now, as we’re leaving, we are asking a different set of questions.

How does a single class leave a lasting legacy on an institution that was founded over a century ago and steeped in history and tradition? What can our class give that would have permanence and relevance 5, 50, or 100 years from now?

These two questions were posed to the Class Gift Advisory Committee when we first started to brainstorm ideas.

While a variety of ideas were discussed, one stood out above the rest to fulfill OUR desire to create a sustainable legacy: A Teaching Award.

Tuck is known the world over for its outstanding faculty and the incredible dedication of professors to teaching. Everyone from the Senior Associate Dean to the newly hired, newly minted PhD teaches in the MBA program – something unique among schools of Tuck’s caliber. In addition, faculty are incredibly generous with their time, holding open office hours, meeting with students in off terms, advising independent studies and involving themselves in the broader Tuck community. By choosing to teach at Tuck, they have dedicated their personal and professional lives to the pursuit of business learning and being involved in a variety of ways. From the Tuck GIVES Auction where, where faculty donate dinners, concerts and invite us into their homes, to the time our esteemed social chair iced one particular statistics professor at scavenger hunt.
However, in spite of all this connection between the faculty and the students, in the 111 year history of Tuck, there has never been an opportunity for graduating Tuck Students to celebrate the teaching environment at our school.

With that in mind, we have established the Class of 2011 Award for Teaching Excellence. This award will be nominated and selected annually by the graduating class and given to one core and one elective professor. The two award winners will be announced during Friends and Family Day each year and, just as was the case yesterday, the award winners will have the opportunity to give “Last Chance Lectures” to the graduating students and their families.

After going through the selection process for the very first time, what has been most remarkable is the amazing variety of teaching styles and the meaningful impact so many teachers have had on OUR class. It is notable that 17 different core professors and 39 different elective professors received at least one nomination. The great teaching that has occurred throughout our 2 years at Tuck has not gone unnoticed by the students.

While the choice was not easy, the Class of 2011 Award for Teaching Excellence in the core is awarded to Professor Phillip Stocken.

[Stocken stands, wait for applause]

And the Class of 2011 Award for Teaching Excellence in the electives is awarded to Professor Ron Adner.

[Adner stands, wait for applause]

This year, our class raised nearly $20,000 in order to ensure that this award is funded well into the future. Thank you to each and every one of you who has helped to fund our class legacy at Tuck.

Also, a big thank you to Dean Danos, Dean Jaeger, Dean Hansen and Dean Slaughter for all of your advice and guidance in the development of this class gift. Without your sage insight and counsel, we never could have created this award.
Additionally, I would be remiss if I did not thank the 12 members of the Class Gift Advisory Committee –

Sarah Austrin-Willis
Tyler Azzarelli
Andrew Brown
Brian Casebolt
Ali Connolley
Denis Kinnally
Dan Knup
Hieu Le
Chakrapani Mandava
Alex Nee
Sarah Smith
Ryan Vess

Without your hard work and dedication, this gift never would have gotten off the ground – I’m deeply grateful for everything you’ve done to make this possible.

In addition, a big thank you to J Lewis, our outstanding Academic Rep for the last two years. Without his willingness to step up to design the selection process and run the very first selection meeting, we could never have created something that will stand the test of time. Thank you J.

[hold for applause if it comes]

On a more personal note, I’m very thankful to the entire Tuck community for the way I’ve seen it pull together through times of adversity. Over these last two years, members of the class of 2011 have lost a number of family members,
friends and loved ones – people we wish could be with us here today to celebrate the accomplishments of this extraordinary group of individuals.

In recent months, each loss has reminded me of my greatest lesson from Tuck – being present.

By choosing Tuck, we self-selected into a very unique situation. YES, we CHOSE to be two hours from a major city. But I’m sure that NO ONE in this audience decided to spend 2 straight years without cell phone reception.

In fact, the #2 most cited gift idea was better cell phone coverage at Tuck, no joke.

However, I have come to love Hanover for its faults.

When we’re sitting at Murphy’s, the cell phone doesn’t ring and the email doesn’t connect – because it can’t. So instead, we put our phones away and we concentrate on what really matters – one another.

Hanover forces us to be present for one another, forging relationships that would be much harder to develop in shallower settings. It is the depth and length of these enduring relationships that will ultimately be worth more than any other asset we take away from Tuck. It is what contributes to the unparalleled alumni giving rates. Ultimately, it is the way we care for one another that defines our 2 years the Upper Valley.

From the unintentional/intentional “Reply All” inviting the entire student body out for a beer, to the intimate embrace of a Raether dance party, to the creation and funding of Small Group Dinners, to hockey games played into the early morning hours, to standing in long lines waiting for perfectly cooked beef at any one of the 35 asados we’ve had, to the email line that reads “Please forward this on to anyone – everyone is invited”, to the “ah ha” moment in class when a classmate crystalizes a concept that didn’t make sense 20 minutes prior.

Those things don’t happen by accident. [pause] They happen because people are present [pause] – they are in the moment and they are engaged in the community and with the people around them.
It is my greatest hope that the level of engagement and genuine caring that I have seen out of this group of people over the last 2 years continues for our lifetimes.

And now, with so many distinguished colleagues and guests in the audience, I have the distinct honor welcoming a classmate that has always been present for us, whether he is entertaining us in the Frosty Jester, demonstrating his amazing Venn Diagrams, or securing global domination as part of the greatest trivia team known to mankind, Tom is someone that has always been there to share with us.

Before coming to Tuck, Tom Housley graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in East Asian Languages. He spent five years in sales at ICG Commerce, a Philadelphia-based consultancy, where he worked on projects that redesigned the firm strategy, expanded the company into four continents and grew business by over 30% every year. He is an avid advocate of the gun-finger motion.

Tom leaves us to follow his life-long passion in non-profit ventures, specifically investment banking. He’ll be joining Jefferies and Company in New York City with his beautiful wife Angela. Please join me in welcoming our class speaker, Tom Housley.