

For Immediate Release

**Hillary Clinton Delivers Remarks in a Surprise Appearance
Before the Class of 2015**

(June 3, 2015, New York, NY) – Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton delivered remarks via video, surprising Macaulay’s Class of 2015. There were cheers from the graduates and their families at the first sight of Clinton’s image. Ten years ago, Clinton addressed Macaulay students when they were the first graduating class in 2005. The school’s commencement guest speaker was CNN host and *New York Times* best-selling author Fareed Zakaria.

“We are thrilled that Mrs. Clinton took the time to address our students and to call out their fantastic achievements,” said Macaulay Dean Ann Kirschner. “Her message, along with the address from our guest speaker Fareed Zakaria, demonstrate how special our students are. They bring the spirit of innovation to everything that they do.”

Clinton, in her remarks to the graduates, urged them to “please use your extraordinary talents to help solve the challenges facing New York City, our nation, and our world.”

The commencement speaker, CNN host Fareed Zakaria of the international program *Fareed Zakaria GPS*, also encouraged the graduates to maintain the energy and optimism that typifies the American spirit. Zakaria urged the graduates to thank their parents at the completion of the ceremony.

The student speaker at Macaulay’s ceremony was **Geoffrey Mercene** (Brooklyn College) who is a Horace W. Goldsmith and Lisa Goldberg/Revson scholar. Geoffrey challenged his classmates in his address: “With the investment made in your Macaulay journey, how will you give back to Macaulay and to your community? If you reflect back on your Macaulay journey and appreciate all that has been done, the answer will surely come to you.”

With a class that included the largest number of prestigious award winners in Macaulay’s young history, including seven Fulbright scholars, the Class of 2015 numbered 450 students. This was also the largest graduating class in the school’s history, and nearly one in five of them were the first in their family to

attend college. More than 2,500 students, family and friends attended the graduation at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

Macaulay's Class of 2015 also included 31 Macaulay students who earned valedictorian or salutatorian honors at seven senior CUNY colleges, and three of them had distinguished speaking roles at their commencement ceremonies.

Clinton's remarks are posted here: <https://youtu.be/vgxzLWkvggQ>

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