I’m honored to be speaking here this afternoon on behalf of the thousands of
students that were lucky enough to have crossed paths with 2 people that
exemplify the very best of what it means to serve students as a teacher and
member of the college staff.

Today we honor Doug and Evelyne Skopp, 2 people who would have us believe
that they, and what they have done, is nothing more than ordinary. Most of us
here, however, know that by every measure they are truly extraordinary.

I want to thank Dr. Ettling and Anne Hanson for this opportunity, and also the
College Council, for their enthusiastic support for this project.

I’ll start by saying that I will be reading my brief remarks, for 2 reasons. First,
because I chose my words carefully, and second, because I’m afraid that the
gravity of this moment and my affection for Doug and Evelyne will prevent me
from being able to make it through my comments without having to pause
because of what I’m feeling in my heart. So, I’d ask for your understanding as I do
that.

If any subject teaches us to treasure the gift of life every day it is the one about
which this gallery commemorates. And if any 2 people are worthy of recognition
for the positive and profound impact on the lives of so many, it is certainly Doug
and Evelyne Skopp.

Doug is a teacher, mentor, role model and friend to so many. His passion for his
life’s work, which includes the subject of the Holocaust, his kindness to all, and his
commitment to his family, students and work are unparalleled. It’s cliché, yes, but there are no words that could possibly convey the collective gratitude, admiration and affection that exists for Doug, so a simple and sincere thank you will have to suffice.

And although I know Evelyne less so than I have come to know Doug, what I do know through Doug, and about her work and dedication to this institution, especially her unwavering support of Doug as he pursued his work at the college, is simply remarkable.

Thank you Doug and thank you Evelyne, for all you have done, and for sharing your lives with us and this college. We, and it, are better because of you.

This idea behind dedicating this gallery in their names comes from 2 things. First, Doug’s lifelong work on this topic, and second, we knew that connecting the gallery to them would enable future generations to reflect on 2 profoundly different examples of what humankind is capable of -- when it is at its very worst and when it is at its very best.

The German philosopher Goethe said, “Things which matter the most must never be at the mercy of things which matter least.”

Doug and Evelyne exemplify the spirit of this every day, in quiet humility, as husband and wife, father and mother, grandfather and grandmother, teachers, mentors and friends. By lending their names to this gallery, once again, Doug and Evelyne symbolize for this and future generations what it means to serve others with true kindness and selflessness, and in a way that reflects ensuring that we remember the things which matter the most.