Order of remarks:

- Introduction of NPJ by Ramon Guzman Jr., Executive Director for the 2016 Class Gift Campaign
- Provost Jones speaks

Thank you, Ramon, for your kind introduction. I am excited to be here today to celebrate the announcement of the Class of 2016’s Gift to Penn State.

Never fear: This gift isn’t for me. I already have a lot of Penn State swag, including a signed Penn State men’s lacrosse helmet.

No, this is your class gift, to your University. And it means a lot.

Beginning with the Class of 1861, Penn State seniors have a long and rich tradition of giving back to the University. From the Allen Street Gates to the Nittany Lion Shrine, and the HUB Aquarium to the Victory Bell, the gifts represent the legacies of Penn State seniors who had passion for and believed strongly in the core values of this institution.

The Class Gift Campaign’s mission is simple: to promote a philanthropic spirit among the graduating class by providing students an opportunity to leave their legacy at the University they call home. Through a collective effort, the senior class can give their
time and financial resources in order to leave their mark on Penn State and take their first step toward becoming proud alumni.

The long-standing tradition of the senior class gift is one of the most meaningful and memorable at Penn State. The gifts go well beyond providing a symbol of the loyalty and pride of a class; the gift connects your class to every Penn State class before you. One recent example is the new 'We Are' sculpture, the gift of Penn State’s Class of 2013, which quickly has become a favorite spot for photos on the University Park campus.

I’m very pleased your class has selected as its gift a permanent, annual source of funding for Penn State’s Center for Counseling and Psychological Services, also known as CAPS. CAPS provides vital services every day by helping students manage a range of personal and mental health challenges. College is an exciting time for students, but the challenges of college life and young adulthood can be stressful. The need for additional funding is growing as more students recognize the essential support that CAPS is able to provide to them. By creating an ongoing, yearly source of funding to support CAPS, the class of 2016 can help ensure that accessible and timely care is available to all students if and when they need it.

CAPS staff members work with thousands of Penn State students each year in group therapy, individual counseling, crisis intervention, and psychiatric services, as well as providing prevention, outreach, and consultation services for the University community. Common individual concerns include anxiety, depression, difficulties in
relationships; lack of motivation or difficulty relaxing, concentrating or studying; eating disorders; sexual assault and sexual abuse recovery; one’s sexual orientation and/or gender identity; and uncertainties about personal values and beliefs. As specialists in working with undergraduate and graduate students, staff at CAPS can help them address their concerns in a caring and supportive environment.

Your class gift demonstrates your genuine care for and concerns about future students and their health. It is a thoughtful, meaningful, and impactful gesture. In addition, promoting health and wellness among Penn State students is a large part of Penn State’s forthcoming strategic plan for the five years comprising 2016 to 2020, so your gift will contribute directly to delivering on that promise.

On behalf of the Penn State community, thank you for your participation and support. I’m proud of all you do for Penn State, and I’m pleased to celebrate this wonderful gift from the Class of 2016.

Thank you.