



14111 Oak Grove Road, P.O. Box 4528  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20775  
Phone (301) 249-5000 Fax (301) 249-3838  
[www.queenanne.org](http://www.queenanne.org)

**QUEEN  
ANNE  
SCHOOL**

*J. Temple Blackwood*  
**HEADMASTER**  
*blackwood@queenanne.org*

May 16, 2009

Welcome, and let us begin by knowing we are again blessed with almost ideal weather, the good company of extraordinary friends and family, and an opportunity to share a milestone event in the lives of our 26 graduates. Regardless of the weather and for this morning the circumstances of the challenges in the world around us, the key to our commencement lies in the warm feelings of all who attend and in the bright futures for the members of the Class of 2009.

Our Queen Anne School graduation ceremonies began on May 1 with the beautifully designed and presented Senior Chapel. Four talented teachers have piloted this class of young people through their experience as their class advisors. In this unusual year, others have picked up many extra duties and responsibilities to reach this day successfully. This morning would seem an excellent time for us all to thank and recognize advisors: Patrick Noel, Kathy Cunningham, Michael Fox-Boyd, Lynn Krahling; and Assistant Head-of-School, Christiana Holyer; and Dean of Students, Jay Somerville.

As the Class of 2009 worked their way through their finals and their AP exams, we came together a week ago for Awards Night where many fine students were honored for their excellence and achievements. I thank the Class of 2009 for their generous class gift soon-to-arrive replacement projection screen for our amphitheater. Their efforts over the years to improve our school leaves us strengthened in academics, the arts, and athletics as well as in our resolve to keep improving, even after their show is over.

Last evening, at our Baccalaureate service in St. Barnabas' Church, our Alumnus of the Year 2009, Arun Rath, Class of 1988, addressed our graduating seniors. Arun celebrated his new connection with the members of the Class of 2009 in a memorable graduation address, and his challenge lies before them to each reach for their dreams with determination, passion, and the critical strength of believing in themselves as a constant in these chaotic times of constant flux. Tough, realistic, humorous, and determined, Arun is an exemplary person: he is a proud son, husband of Raney, father of Arjun and Mira, good neighbor; creative artist, and community leader. Arun stands tall, respected in all communities with his understanding, his thoughtful study, his quick wit and intellect, and his impressive courage. His inspiring words of positive faith in the solid platform of a strong family and a Queen Anne intellectually challenging education resonate in our ceremony today and in a lasting way as the Class of 2009 meets their own new

challenges. I am profoundly impressed by Arun, his dedication to his family, to the lessons of global understanding and especially to the community of exceptional journalism in media. He exemplifies the kind of person without whom no good community can survive, neither can the world.

We thank him for his dedication to QAS and for building on the platform of character that he learned from his family and from his experiences in our school, growing from failures, building on successes and seizing the best of the opportunities as they so randomly appear. Being smart enough to recognize the “dumb luck” of circumstance, having the confidence to trust their own talent and training to move forward in capturing and building on that personal dream, and having the hungry readiness to seize on such a moment to make it work positively to build the personal dream is often what sets Queen Anne graduates ahead. Congratulations Arun. You challenge us all with your thoughtful words. We celebrate your success thus far and anticipate with excitement the new stories and adventures of your future!

And today we welcome you all to the commencement of the Class of 2009 in celebration of their achievement after rigorous study and meeting the challenging tasks, they have each earned the special privilege of a Queen Anne School diploma. Thank you for joining us for this event. I am honored to present Kayla Robinson, President of the Class of 2009, who will open our commencement ceremonies.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Temple Blackwood". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

J. Temple Blackwood  
Headmaster