

Thank you, Heidi

Students, FAthers, Guests, mothers, faculty, sons and daughters----

Welcome to Father's weekend.

This is an exciting time, a time to which many students look forward all year long. It is a time, though, which is somewhat sad for other students, for those whose fathers cannot be here. Let us include them in our thoughts, as well as ^{my} the activities of the weekend. In sum, dear fathers, you have just acquired a few more daughters than you expected.

M. Nason
M. Falke
To ~~the parents~~ of Heidi Nason, I would like to offer my congratulations.

Heidi is the student most responsible for this weekend and its events.

You will observe over the next two days that she is a young woman of enormous talent and commitment. ~~The Nasons should be very proud.~~

as are the
members of the father's weekend
committee - we thank
all of you

THE LEGACIES OF FATHERING.....

pretentious

The subject tonight is Fathers, fathering, worldwide. [^] What are the legacies of fathering.. And what does it mean to be a father in the diverse societies of today's world? For we are celebrating here this weekend, the diversity of Wheaton's student body. ^{*a foundation for cult. develop*} We are to learn about each other -- about our similarities and differences.

To the students I would like to say that whether or not your father is here with us, let us reflect upon his influence ~~upon~~ your life -- by his absence, by his presence, by his ^{*weaknesses*} negative attitudes, or by his ^{*strengths*} ~~understanding~~. Here, tonight we ^{*commence*} are going to ~~start~~ a dialogue about how your fathers' generation can be helpful to you, as you leave Wheaton and take up your responsibilities as young women ^{*and*} citizens of a complex world.

In so doing, remember that Parents Are People Too. ~~That is it~~ ^{*It is*} all right to discuss each others' weaknesses and strengths. We must communicate our feeling with one another so as to move on ^{*together*}. We must speak and we must listen to each other. And, as many students have ^{*ed*} pointed out to me, we parents are not always very good at that....

My father, for example, talked little with his two daughters. He found it difficult to express his love or emotions. When I held his hand as he lay on his death bed, he smiled at me and I thought of the thousands of conversations ~~that~~ we never had.. of all the occasions we neglected.

To the fathers I would point out that this weekend is an occasion for talk and for listening. Being the modest people you are, I doubt if you fully understand

the depth of your influence upon your daughters...or how very crucial your influence is, in shaping her view of the world and of her responsibility to it. Daughters want to please their fathers (that goes without saying). Daughters want to live up to their parents' expectations. And we all know that is a very heavy responsibility.

For the past two years I have lived on the Wheaton campus and have listened ^{ed} to the concerns of our daughters. I have also talked with women and girls in many other countries. What are their concerns? And how can we help our daughters ~~to~~ address those concerns? I hope that my comments will commence ^{a discussion} ~~the dialogue~~ ^{of these issues} ~~between us~~ all this weekend.

I A few years ago I was asked to travel to six nations in Africa, Asia and Central America to interview women of diverse backgrounds: illiterate peasants, managers, factory workers and ministers of state. We discussed at length their perception of the changes taking place in today's world and in their immediate surroundings. We spoke of families, work, aspirations -- of many issues. But of each I asked the same question: Who was it that influenced your life the most as you were growing up, or as a young woman --- your mother or your father?

Regardless of background and culture, in the majority of cases, the reply was somewhat like this: My mother taught me how to behave, how to be a good woman and wife -- BUT --- it was my father whose decisions made the difference in my life. It was my father who said I must go to school --OR--it was my father who held me back in ignorance.

Because their fathers were the ultimate authority in the family, the fathers' influence governed the woman's life, for better or for worse. The mothers were