

ON THE OCCASION OF PHYLLIS A. ROTH S DEPARTURE FROM THE DEANSHIP

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT JAMIENNE S. STUDLEY

May 2, 2000

I can promise that this will be a pun-free, smoke-free zone.

In September, Phyllis and I announced her plan to complete her tenure as Dean of the Faculty, to surrender the delights and lay down the burdens of office. I promised then that there would be a more appropriate occasion to celebrate Phyllis s contributions to Skidmore. Eight lively months later, here we are.

At that time I said, "Phyllis has been my teacher." In college I took a seminar entitled "The History of Higher Education in America." This year, I have had the remarkable privilege of a yearlong tutorial with Phyllis on the subject of Skidmore College and contemporary academic and faculty issues, not to

And finally, *fore-sister*. That's Phyllis's word. She uses it to describe and then pay tribute to the trailblazing women of Skidmore. The tradition begins with the early faculty who taught, lived in the dorms, shared the college's modest circumstances and, by their unstinting service, laid the foundation for the college of today. Next in her sisterhood are the women of a later generation who shattered stereotypes, pushed open the doors, and then braced them open for others by their courage and mentoring and moral support.

Phyllis herself is clearly one of those fore-sisters. She has opened doors for women teachers, scholars, staff, and students. She has shared the insights and the secrets, she has mentored and encouraged and dared and counseled. And she has interrogated, as only Phyllis can, the institutional patterns, policies and practices that affect the advancement of women and made sure that they changed as fast as humanly possible. We women at Skidmore, and men who care about equity and a vibrant institution owe her an immeasurable