Good morning fellow Mawryrs! I am proud to stand with you this morning as we celebrate May Day 2016. I am happy to report that this year’s 7:00 am serenade at dawn surpassed even last year’s serenade. I cannot express how relieved I am that you don’t sound at all like geese. I think you have lovely voices and that makes the awakening even more pleasant than usual.

Let me begin by saying that May Day is one of my favorite traditions because it always provides me with an opportunity to address the entire student body and to thank all of you for choosing to be a part of this community. I am so privileged to be your president. I am so proud of all of you and I love May Day because it is a celebration of friendship and accomplishment and its fun, too. You have worked hard and you deserve to enjoy yourselves. So if you are in the library, COME OUTSIDE FOR AN HOUR and enjoy yourselves!

This tradition also gives us a chance to bond, and to wonder— together— what the heck those Morris Dancers are really thinking with the bells and the swords and the sticks around a horse in a crowd. I embrace May Day, but this has to be the horse’s worst nightmare!

But May Day is also the beginning of a very long goodbye. And so it begins… it is my duty and my pleasure to send off the greatest class ever, the sky blue class of 2016! So let’s give them a round of applause and let them know how much we care about them and how much we are going to miss them, and send them into the world with our best wishes! Let’s hear it!

So, the first thing I considered when I thought about this year’s theme of SPACE was Neil DeGrasse Tyson. The truth is, Neil DeGrasse Tyson is the hottest thing about space right now. He’s got the whole nerdy-cool thing down. He wears cosmological themed vests; he visits with Stephen Colbert, Larry Wilmore, and President Obama; he knows amazing things about the universe; he is a brilliant researcher; and he’s funny. And I think that on May Day, I can admit to all of you that I may actually have a kind of O.M.G., He’s-so-smart-I-hope-he-sits-next-to-me-5th-grade-type crush on Dr. Tyson. We all do. WE ALL DO. In any case, May Day is about Bryn Mawr and I had to put Neil aside and focus on us.

Let’s talk about MAWR WARS and how the Force Awakens on May Day.

When I think of Bryn Mawr, I think of it as part of the Rebel Alliance. It is small, scrappy, smart, and on the side of good. Even as the Deathstar model of an impersonal education bears down on us, we stand firm in our belief that our mixture of tradition and innovation in the liberal arts makes us stronger. We know that blending the humanities and the social sciences with STEM makes for more thoughtful scientists, more insightful artists, and more strategic decision makers. And, we also know that our swim test, while quirky, reminds us not to flail in uncertain circumstances, but to breathe, relax, and float instead.

Our values make us strong in the face of the Empire and as with ALL things at Bryn Mawr, this can be proven through our class colors.
Let’s start with our first-years, the Class of 2019— the GREEN CLASS — and the ways in which green stands for sustainability, for spring, for health and happiness, and flexibility. When I think of green I think of that small, ancient, wise, nimble, and brilliant Jedi — Yoda. Talk about a force to be reckoned with, the Green Class represents the very best of the Force!

And then there is our sophomore class, our Dark Blue Class. When I think of dark blue, I think of the depth of the universe and the element of surprise. With depth comes wisdom, and when something comes from Out of the Blue, get ready for a surprise. I think the Class of 2018 embodies the attributes of wisdom and surprise. So get ready for a wild ride over the next few years. Let’s hear it for the Class of 2018!

When I think of the color red and the Class of 2017, I think of strength and boldness. I think of the way that red stands out in a field of sameness. In fact, according to the website The Universe Today, the color of stars is directly related to their temperature. Not surprisingly, red stars are the coolest stars. So let’s just say from now on, the Class of 2017 is made up of the coolest stars.

And finally, what can I say about Light Blue Class of 2016? This color represents the color of water, the color of our atmosphere, the wide open promise of a clear blue sky. And for the record, as stated before, stars get their color from their temperature and blue stars are the brightest and the HOTTEST STARS. I think that is all I really need to say. Congratulations to our HOTTEST STARS, the Class of 2016!

Before I go, I have just one more insight about stars. I was sitting on my patio and thinking about the theme of space, when I looked up I saw the Seven Sisters, Pleiades. The Pleiades or the Seven Sisters is a constellation of very, very bright stars which are visible from almost every vantage point on Earth. In fact, if you can locate Orion, you can locate the Seven Sisters.

But what struck me as I stared up into the sky and looked at those impressive and bright stars, was this very important fact: as hard as I look into the night sky, there is no constellation of bright, impressive stars named “The Ivy League.”

Happy May Day!!!