

## **The Stole of Gratitude**

### **New Tradition for Commencement**

How does a graduate demonstrate appreciation for a person who helped turn the dream of a college education into a reality? Hasn't every graduate had a special person who, through moral or financial support, made a big difference in his or her life? This special person could be a parent, relative, spouse, sibling, mentor, professor or classmate.

The Robert Morris University Stole of Gratitude offers graduates an opportunity to say "Thanks for helping me make it through" or "Thanks for making it possible for me to succeed" or "I didn't do this alone". The Stole of Gratitude is a lasting symbol of gratitude. The graduate presents the Stole of Gratitude to someone who provides extraordinary help or support by offering wisdom, words of support, or financial assistance.

A graduate should present the Stole to the recipient prior to the Commencement Ceremony so the recipient may wear the Stole during the Ceremony. The Stole may be placed around the neck of the recipient with the words of "thanks" and possibly a toast. Stoles of Gratitude may be decorated. Presenters often write a few words of love and appreciation on the back of the Stole using a permanent, fine tipped marker.

A graduate might give a Stole to multiple people who have been a support system during the graduate's college career. At the Commencement Ceremony, recipients will see other recipients wearing a Stole and will know they are all part of a distinguished group. The fact that the recipient gets to wear the Stole during the ceremony adds a very special element to an already touching gesture. Recipients will never forget the kindness inherent in the recognition and sentimental feelings connected with being presented the Stole of Gratitude.

The Stole will be white with a navy embroidered university seal on one side. The cost to the students will be \$15.00. The stole will be available for purchase during Senior Salute March 30, 31, 2009.

#### **Stole of Gratitude**

