

# Upfront

As you have deduced from our cover, this issue is about grads. Specifically, young people from this magazine's core communities – your neighbors – who successfully completed high school this spring. Just like our first spring in publication (then, the Class of 2004) and every spring since, you'll find the names, faces and fun facts about their futures. These teens are about to turn the page to the next big chapter of their personal stories, and we wish them long and happy lives as they pursue their dreams.

Ten pages (22 through 31) of this issue are devoted to Skidaway Island's Class of 2019. This recurring feature is one of our favorites – its implicit themes are excitement, hope and possibility...happy stuff. And you – our readers – look forward, time and again, so we hear, to our mini-yearbook.

I was "in school" myself for all of 2018, and I have held on to my Boston (studio) apartment through June 30. Last weekend, I flew up to pack (14 smaller-than-anticipated boxes that were bought online, three duffle bags of varying heft, and enough furniture to warrant a truck and two lanky guys born three decades after me). By Saturday evening, the

single room was completely empty, save for my luggage and a comforter and uncovered pillow that I used to try to sleep on the hard, dusty floor.

Transitions are stressful and scary, even if we don't admit so to ourselves when we're going through them. My younger daughter is moving to New York City in three weeks to start her first grown-up job. My Boston furniture is heading to the Lower East Side to meet us. Once it's in place, I'll leave it, and her. I'm caught in a torrent of beginnings that are (sadly) inextricably attached to ends.

The graduates on the pages that follow are smiling. So are their parents, I'm sure. But those smiles come with tears in private moments when progress meets loss. Time has a different density when you're 18 than when you're 54, like me. It's more buoyant in the hands of the young; it floats, endlessly, immune to gravitational pull. To the kids who are celebrating one day and itching to leave home the next, I have a simple wish: Make every day matter and make yourself proud.

*Scott A. Lawrence*



To contact The Skinnie with your ideas, responses, letters and more, email us at [mail@theskinie.com](mailto:mail@theskinie.com)

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