Good afternoon/evening. My name is George Cahen, Chair of the SEAS Trustees Awards Committee.....it is great to see all of you here today. I know that you are all delighted to be here to celebrate the spring semester of your final year as an undergraduate student.....it has been an amazing time in your life, full of challenges and successes. I would also like to offer my congratulations to all of you!

Tonight, as part of this 4th year garden party celebration, we have an opportunity to applaud a student or sometimes more than one student who has demonstrated outstanding academic performance, leadership and service.

This year out of the many stellar nominations we received we were once again unable to pick just one student for this award. Today we will acknowledge two students as the SEAS outstanding students of the year.

I’ll share a few highlights about the first award winner:

• She is a Rodman Scholar and a member of Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society and the Chi Epsilon Civil Engineering Honor Society.
• In 2013, she received the Townsend prize for the best paper written by a 1st year student.
• She was a TEDx Student Speaker Competition Finalist.
• She has a passion for research, a sharp intellect and compassion for others.
• Her Environmental Research efforts have produced 3 peer reviewed publications and 5 conference proceedings and abstracts.
• She resides on the Lawn.
• She is a member of the Raven Society and received both Jefferson Public Citizens and Raven Society Fellowships.
• Last year, she was most notably named a 2015 Astronaut Scholar and a 2015 Truman Scholar, both received after national competitions.
• She will graduate this spring with a major in Civil and Environmental Engineering and a major in Environmental Sciences.
• Her nominator for this award had this to say about her, “Lia is truly a model of what UVa students should embody: Curiosity, Critical Thinking, Well Roundedness and a Strong Desire to make the world a better place.”

Please join me in applauding and congratulating your fellow student Lia Cattaneo.

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Our second winner for the Outstanding Student of the Year is equally impressive. Here are a few highlights of her UVa SEAS experience:

• She is a talented and focused student, with an impressive academic record and a passion for Public Health Policy.
• She is a member of Tau Beta Pi and the Raven Society.
• She already has 2 publications in the Healthcare Field.
• She has been a member and leader in Engineering Students without Borders where she is now the Academic Chair and formerly President of the local chapter.
• She has served as the leader of a new organization at UVa called “Health Unbound” where she and fellow students provide support
and training for undergraduates interested in developing medical
innovations and technologies outside of a faculty research
laboratory.

• She is a 4th year Trustee.
• She resides on the Lawn.
• This year she was selected as a University Innovation Fellow by
  the National Center for Engineering Pathways to Innovation.
• She will graduate this Spring with a major in Biomedical
  Engineering and an Engineering Business Minor.
• To quote her academic advisor, “We in the Biomedical
  Engineering Department think that Angela exemplifies the
  qualities of the citizen-scholar that Mr. Jefferson hoped his
  University would inspire in its students, and she is a credit to her
  School and University.

Please join me in applauding and congratulating Angela Liu.