



## **2005 HOF Induction Speech**

## **Thomas R. Haus - Inductee**

I am honored to have my father introduce me tonight. My parents have been my biggest supporters and considering I come from a large family, it was amazing how many road trips my parents made to Chapel Hill over the years. I would also like to thank all the family and friends that could join me for this special celebration.

There are so many people along the way that influenced me and helped me grow as a lacrosse player. I have fond memories of my early years of playing lacrosse and being coached by Mrs. Mary D'Ambrogi, my cousin Charlie Waesche and Mr. Joe McFadden. These people not only taught me how to play the game but taught me to love playing the game. These early coaches were also the ones who helped me come to the realization that I didn't have the stamina to run up and down the field and that is how I became a defensive player!

It is difficult to accept an individual honor while playing a team sport because the sum of the parts is always greater than the achievements of one individual. In 1986, the North Carolina Tarheels were the lowest seeded team to ever win an NCAA title game. While Coaches William Scroggs and Dave Klarman built the foundation for the success of the program, my predecessors who won back-to-back National Championships instilled in us the belief that not only could we win but we would win. That, combined with the player's determination, propelled that unlikely team into the National Champions we became. To achieve the ultimate success for the University of North Carolina is something none of us will ever forget.

The University has given me so much. It is a place that gave me coaches and teammates that have become lifelong friends, wonderful memories of my lacrosse playing days and ultimately my family, as it is the place where I met my wife Molly. Some of the best family times we have spent with our two sons Jack and Sam have been in Chapel Hill. We can spend a beautiful spring day watching the current lacrosse team, under the leadership of my brother John, play on storied Fetzer field, a fall day watching the football team in Kenan stadium, or a winter's night at the Dean Dome watching one of the most successful basketball programs in the country. And how could I not mention heading to Franklin Street after any of those events to celebrate in true Carolina fashion.

Everyone in this room tonight shares a common bond. You have all had your lives touched in some way by the game of lacrosse. Since leaving college it has been an honor to help spread the love of lacrosse to my two sons and other youths and teens in the state of North Carolina. My hope for the future is that the great sport of lacrosse will be able to positively affect other lives as it has mine.

Thank you.