

GREETINGS FROM ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

Not only does Esa speak and write beautifully about the experience of elevation, he lifts our spirits with his own sparkling presence. He greets us at the doors to his lectures, reminding us that the ideas he is about to offer have a familiar human source. He is a philosopher of the people, using his ancient discipline, which lately has become technical and distant from our most important concerns, to connect deeply with ordinary people. Through his infectious energy, Esa enables those he touches to bring their lives to a higher level of vitality, unity, and wisdom. Esa does all this in a fun, bold, captivating way that is easy to notice and hard to forget. Thank you, Esa, for sharing with your own unique embodiment of good work, good thinking, and good life, broadening our horizons and stirring our imaginations.

- *Bill Damon and Anne Colby*

*Professor of Education at Stanford University and the Director of the Stanford Center on Adolescence
Consulting Professor at Stanford University*

Every once in awhile, one meets a person who affects you deeply in a personal way and also alters your thinking significantly. When I first met Esa a few years ago, his personal and intellectual charisma was manifest. Since then I've had the chance to read some of his writings and the honor of editing an important essay on achieving a sense of elevation, as it is manifest in his Paphos Seminar. We renewed our acquaintance recently when Esa joined us in the Boston area for a conference on GoodWork. And there, my colleagues and a hundred plus audience members had the opportunity to meet, listen to, and interact with Esa for a few days. He touched us deeply – and when he shook the hands of every audience member, he began a tradition that several attendees, including me, have since adopted.

I wish I could be there in person to offer congratulations and give a loving hug to the incomparable Esa.

- *Howard Gardner*

Professor of Cognition and Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education

It came to be agreed years ago that Richard Tauber was an “unforgettable” singer and, very similarly, those who know Esa Saarinen all agree that he is an unforgettable person – in every good sense of the term. Esa embodies the vitality, the generosity and the vision of a life of richness that we want for ourselves. And he, more than anyone else around, encourages us to exercise and develop those qualities in our interactions and collaborations with one another. I am grateful that he came into my life.

- *Edmund Phelps*

Professor of Political Economy at Columbia University, Director of Columbia's Center on Capitalism and Society, and the winner of the 2006 Nobel Prize in Economics