

Suffolk University College of Arts & Sciences Commencement
Sunday, May 20, 2018
Blue Hills Bank Pavilion, Boston
Undergraduate Commencement Speaker
Adrian Lambert

Thank you Dean Toyoda. Good afternoon everyone.

I'm incredibly proud to have been a member of this class for the last four years. In writing this speech, I've tasked myself with trying to think about what makes Suffolk such a great institution to be receiving our degrees from today. It would be almost too easy to recite all of the things I've said as a tour guide for three years. The downtown location, the connections made, or all of the wonderful people here today who care so deeply for the University. The more I thought about it, though, the more I realized like so many things in life, it's the intangibles that made me fall in love with this school.

For four years, hearing next stop, Government Center, or Park Street, doors opening on the left, has meant the time has come for you to battle for every inch of space in that MBTA station. And I'm willing to bet that at least once, everyone here has made the mistake of carrying a now broken umbrella in the wind tunnel that is Ashburton Place. And nowhere else in the world do college students and professors alike seriously consider climbing 12 flights of stairs because they can't bear to read the phrase, unable to allocate a lift, one more time. Suffolk University is a special place because of its ability to combine these unspoken experiences that we've all shared with personal adventures that make up your own Suffolk story.

For me, my Suffolk story has meant sprinting to catch the 6:50 a.m. train into North Station and running for the 12:15 a.m. train home, often on the same day. It's meant orientation and ambassador teams, alternative spring breaks to Colorado and Mississippi, and courses in biology,

chemistry, English, economics, politics, American Sign Language, photojournalism, and so many more. It's meant getting an internship because of one of my best friends and landing a job in the same department at the Massachusetts General Hospital a few months later, working in a clinical environment just as I had hoped to for four years. And it's meant crossing paths with and making friends with people from all over the globe. If you had told me four years ago that by the time I graduate college I would be speaking at my commencement, I actually wouldn't have been that surprised because who wouldn't want to give a speech in front of thousands of people!

All kidding aside though, we've all been brought together by something. All of those things that are almost too easy to recite as a tour guide and that you can hear from any of the students on campus. But even more than that, we've all been drawn together by the collective desire to make something of our lives. We all came here to take a chance on ourselves, all of us willing to bet that there's something special inside of us just waiting to be drawn out by the right city, the right major, the right class, the right people. Looking out at all of you today, it's clear that we made it. Some of us know exactly what's next. Some of us aren't entirely sure of our next move, and some of us have no clue what's around the corner. And in each of those cases, that's okay. We're not the first group of graduates with our whole lives ahead of us, and we certainly won't be the last. But if there's one thing I'm certain of, after getting to know even a subset of all the individuals receiving degrees today, it's that this group of people is going to make their mark and make Suffolk proud.

I'd lastly like to sincerely thank all of the family, friends, and loved ones who have supported today's graduates unconditionally through all of life's ups and downs. You have helped to shape us into the people we are today and you are the shining examples of who we hope to become in the future. Thank you everyone and congratulations to the Class of 2018.