

**Suffolk University Sawyer Business School
Commencement Sunday, May 19, 2019
Rockland Trust Bank Pavilion, Boston
Graduate Commencement Speaker
Brian Teague**

Where's Malik? Can you do mine? [LAUGHTER]

God, going after him. [LAUGHTER] That wasn't supposed to happen.

Good morning. To all students, faculty, families, loved ones, and distinguished guests, we are united here today to celebrate the effort, endurance, and achievement of our gathered graduates.

While graduation seems synonymous with culmination, today has the ironic distinction of commencement. Now, I won't bore you all by waxing philosophical about the proverbial new chapter of our lives. However, I do wish to pose one question to all in attendance. What now?

Inevitably, we will all leave here going our separate ways. Perhaps some of us will take a stroll through the Seaport. Others will grab brunch with their families and Mom, you're off the hook. Gene is actually going to take care of us today. [LAUGHTER]

Yet after the commotion of the day's events subsides, the "Sunday scares" might kick in, indicating a new day, a new week, and yes, a new challenge ahead.

Well, fellow graduates, here's the sad news I've been grappling with. Having a degree won't make these new challenges disappear. As it turns out, our success is not determined by the absence of adversity. A successful life, rather, is evidenced by one's ability to surmount the obstacles presented.

Here's the good news. Everyone in attendance has already proven their ability to overcome such challenges. Think about all those term papers you thought you'd never finish. Think about how sweaty your palms were before delivering a presentation. Just think about how much anxiety you had waiting for the elevators in Sawyer building. [LAUGHTER]

Adversity is nothing new to us, but we're only getting started. Personally, I'm at a point in my life where I can't figure out whether I'm young or old. My gray hairs mark me as a man with experience, but my mom still does my taxes. [LAUGHTER]

I guess you could say I'm still figuring a few things out, but hey, 30's the new 20 and for the record, I'm 29, so let me have that.

In all seriousness, I am proud to be celebrating today's achievements collectively. Every degree earned is the product of a collaborative effort of eager students, knowledgeable

instructors, and patient families. Although the names on the diplomas recognize student achievement, the credit belongs to all.

Now, we've got Game of Thrones tonight. [APPLAUSE] Let's get our degrees and get out of here.

Go, Rams. [APPLAUSE]