

00:06
- So how nice is it to finally be off mute?
00:10
(audience laughing)
00:13
Members of the Board of Trustees, President Kelly,
00:16
Dean Zeng, distinguished faculty, invited guests,
00:21
fellow graduates, and most importantly, families,
00:26
wow, what a year,
00:29
and yet, here we all are in solidarity,
00:34
united as students by our tenure
00:37
in the classroom and bonded as individuals
00:40
by endurance of this past year,
00:43
and so while we may be in these seats a year late,
00:49
we are far from a year behind.
00:53
As the graduating class of 2020,
00:56
we're blessed with being equipped
00:57
with tools like no other class,
01:00
armed with knowledge bestowed on us
01:02
from one of the finest institutions this city has to offer,
01:06
but we're also fused by an exclusive camaraderie
01:09
in the very reason why our diplomas were mailed to us.
01:13
We received a Suffolk education that was complemented
01:16
in a way we could never expect.
01:18
We, together, if we are open to it,
01:23
experienced an extraordinary education in personal strength.
01:28
I believe that every adversity is truly an opportunity,
01:33
and so here, in the most challenging of years,
01:36
in the very cause why smiles of celebration
01:40
are shielded by facial protection,
01:43
we have grown exponentially.
01:47
A year of loss and uncertainty, injustice and confusion,
01:52
but if there is nothing more that we carry
01:54
from our unison at Suffolk, let it be this:
01:58
that fear and inequality are vanquished by knowledge
02:01
and love and integrity and, of course, solidarity.
02:07
It's finding the opportunity to collectively be better
02:10
and stronger and wiser in the face
02:13
of bias and sickness and terror.
02:15

Our time at Suffolk, combined with our personal,
02:17
individualized growth experiences of 2020,
02:20
has taught us to be beacons of hope and truth
02:24
and equity and to seek to understand seeing
02:28
every adversity as opportunity, opportunity.
02:34
See, I'm a hospice administrator.
02:36
In my work, I have the unique privilege to be
02:38
with the terminally ill in their final moments,
02:41
and if I can share with you in that sacred time
02:44
that I've been humbled to be a part of so many times,
02:48
no one has ever told me about what they wish they didn't do,
02:53
only what they wished they had done.
02:56
They wished they took that trip.
02:57
They should've made amends with that person.
02:58
They should've got that degree.
02:59
They shoulda said what they felt.
03:01
They should've started that business.
03:02
They should've told that person they loved them.
03:05
They should have told that person they loved them.
03:11
As I think of all these scenarios and all these individuals
03:13
whose time, like all of us, was limited,
03:17
I've learned that one of the greatest tragedies
03:19
in life is missed opportunity.
03:23
If 2020 teaches us anything, it's that our greatest gift
03:26
of all is time, and it's only enhanced
03:29
when we cherish it together and use it
03:31
for the betterment of one another.
03:34
The time is now to choose the kinds of leaders we wanna be,
03:37
leaders who choose inclusion, leaders who choose kindness,
03:40
who choose to open our hearts, leaders who choose
03:42
to love unconditionally and unforgivingly.
03:47
So here we are as graduates from the most Boston
03:51
of all schools in the most Boston of all places,
03:54
hallowed ground here in the Commonwealth,
03:57
a place where greatness is celebrated nightly
03:59
under these very lights, a place like Suffolk
04:03
that has helped to forge the heart

04:04
and craft the Boston-strong fabric of this fine city,
04:08
a place that has exalted the gods of the game
04:10
and teaches us that in every day of our lives,
04:13
just like the game, no matter the odds,
04:15
you can come back to beat the Yankees
04:17
after being down by seven in the seventh.
04:20
(audience laughing)
04:21
(audience cheering and applauding)
04:25
(Robert singing)
04:27
I'm not gonna do the whole song.
04:28
It's just too hard.
04:29
(audience laughing)
04:31
Here under the CITGO sign, we learn
04:33
that sometimes, if you time it just perfectly,
04:37
the right play at the right fraction of a second
04:40
can change the whole course of fate,
04:42
and like this place has showed us countless times,
04:46
sometimes we have to go into extra innings to be victorious,
04:50
but it's in those late hours of darkness,
04:53
when we're physically exhausted and emotionally taxed,
04:56
that we summon the fire deep in our hearts
04:59
and see that's the very time where champions are crafted.
05:02
This field is proof that in times like we find ourselves
05:05
in now, in this light of dawn after 2020,
05:08
when we need one another the most,
05:10
that we can rise as a team and make a pledge
05:14
of hope to each other, and so I implore you
05:18
to savor this moment and this day.
05:20
Savor your accomplishment and your victory
05:22
from a socially distant 2020, but also see
05:25
the opportunity before you to share the empowerment
05:29
that this year has afforded you.
05:31
You have learned to find comfort in uncomfotability
05:34
and to find the light inside you to benefit others.
05:36
The Class of 2020 has learned to find cohesion
05:39
amongst confusion, and through each other appreciate
05:43

the most precious of all commodities: time.

05:49

And so now here, a year late but far from a year behind,

05:54

may we find solidarity further and the opportunity

05:56

to serve this fine city, this Commonwealth, and beyond

06:00

as proud members of an elite group of honored professionals

06:03

fortunate enough to have spent this time together

06:06

in the greatest city in the world,

06:08

and blessed to bear a common alumni name of Suffolk,

06:12

and oh yeah, most importantly, in every opportunity,

06:17

virtually and especially not, don't forget

06:21

to always take yourself off mute.

06:25

(hand tapping) Thank you for this honor.

06:26

Congratulations, everybody.

06:27

(audience cheering and applauding)

English

AllLiveRecently uploadedWatched