

00:06

- Good afternoon, everyone.

00:09

Faculty, staff, my family, friends,

00:15

the Sox, if you're out there in the crowd listening,

00:19

but most importantly, the class of 2020.

00:24

(audience cheers) (audience applauds)

00:31

I can't believe I get to stand up here in 2021, no less,

00:36

and address this historic class.

00:39

Even my dad, who's a Yankees fan,

00:42

thinks this is pretty cool.

00:46

As I stand here in the middle

00:47

of this iconic Boston ballpark,

00:50

it makes me think of the first time I swung a baseball bat.

00:56

I played T-ball for a season in elementary school.

00:59

My dad was the coach.

01:02

When he asked me what my favorite position was,

01:05

I told him catcher.

01:07

I loved an outfit change in between innings.

01:11

Or a dugout because I loved singing the cheers.

01:16

Looking on back on my very brief stint as a ball player,

01:20

I realized there's a lot of lessons you can learn

01:23

from the sport of baseball.

01:26

Lesson one,

01:28

you're always going to be a rookie at some point.

01:32

This year is going to be a year of firsts.

01:36

The first time you hug your grandparents in a year,

01:40

the first time you meet your coworkers in person,

01:43

instead of on Zoom,

01:46

and the first time you're going to feel

01:48

like a real college graduate.

01:51

Just remember, you've made it through firsts before.

01:55

You had your first say at Suffolk,

01:57

you failed your first midterm, and you got your first A,

02:01

and look at where you are now.

02:05

Lesson two, you can't steal second with your foot on first.

02:11

In order to achieve something great,

02:13

you need to leave your comfort zone.

02:16

During my junior year at Suffolk,

02:18

I decided I was going to try out

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for every performing arts club.

02:23

I tried out for the hip hop team, salsa club,

02:27

and even auditioned to be the lead singer of a band.

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To say these auditions were unsuccessful

02:34

would be an understatement.

02:37

While I didn't make it to second base, my foot left first.

02:43

Suffolk has given us all countless opportunities

02:46

to take a lot of different first steps,

02:49
and while some of them don't go anywhere,
02:51
like my hip hop career,
02:53
some of them took me down the right path,
02:56
the path that has led me to where I am today,
03:00
standing in front of you
03:02
at the most iconic ballpark in Boston.
03:05
Keeping fouling them off and wait for your pitch.
03:10
Lesson three, hustle until the last out.
03:15
Even if you're down three games to 0
03:17
in a best of seven series,
03:20
even if you're down a run in the ninth inning of game four,
03:24
and even if you're fighting
03:26
the dreaded Curse of the Bambino, never give up.
03:31
You still have more hustle to give.
03:36
Lesson four, be ready for the curve ball.
03:40
If we've learned anything from this past year,
03:44
it's that life comes at you with the unexpected.
03:48
Industries have had to pivot,
03:50
businesses have closed their doors,
03:53
and we've had to transition to an online world.
03:57
At first, what looked like setbacks
03:59
were really opportunities for growth.
04:03
We learned a new skill,

04:04

spent extra time with your loved ones,

04:06

and got really, really good at using Zoom.

04:12

Take that new skill you learned and turn it into a business,

04:15

take the empathy you've grown

04:17

and put it back in to the world,

04:19

and use your new skills on Zoom

04:21

to crush your next interview.

04:24

No one would have thought a pandemic was coming a year ago

04:27

and no one would've thought that Tom Brady

04:30

would win a Super Bowl for Tampa.

04:34

Lesson five, while you may be batting alone,

04:37

you always have a team supporting you.

04:41

We will all go on to apply for jobs, start businesses,

04:45

or go for that promotion.

04:47

It can sometimes feel like

04:49

you're going through these big moments alone.

04:51

Lean on each other, stay connected with your classmates

04:54

and reach out to Suffolk.

04:57

Never forget the people that got you here

05:00

and never forget the community at Suffolk

05:02

who will always be cheering you on.

05:05

Lesson six, there's nothing wrong

05:08

with a little seventh inning stretch.

05:11

Slow down, take a moment, enjoy life.

05:16

This year has shown us we can't take anything for granted.

05:20

Balance is important.

05:23

Work hard, but sing "Sweet Caroline" along the way.

05:27

And finally, lesson seven,

05:30

yesterday's home runs don't win today's games.

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It's time to look forward.

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It's been a difficult year,

05:39

or at the very least an unusual year.

05:42

We graduated with no graduation

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and we went on to jobs with no offices.

05:47

We are ready.

05:49

As Baseball Hall of Famer Earl Weaver said,

05:52

"The key to winning baseball games

05:54

"is fundamentals and three-run homers."

05:57

Suffolk has given us the fundamentals,

06:00

now it's time to hit those home runs.

06:03

The whole world is entering a new chapter together,

06:07

let's make a positive impact on it.

06:09

So, class of 2020, let's play ball!

06:14

(audience applauds) (audience cheers)

English