Commencement 2015
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Print & Online Coverage

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Governor Charlie Baker delivered remarks during Suffolk University’s commencement at the Blue Hills Bank Pavilion in South Boston on Sunday.

By David Scharfenberg | GLOBE STAFF  MAY 17, 2015
Governor Charlie Baker told Suffolk University graduates Sunday to “be constructive, be positive, and try to focus on what works instead of on what doesn’t.”

His speech, delivered beneath the soaring canopy of the Blue Hills Bank Pavilion on the South Boston waterfront, echoed an upbeat, fix-it governing style that has sent him soaring in public opinion polls in his first five months in office.

But his speech to nearly 1,000 undergraduates and postgraduate students was less treatise on government than life advice -- punctuated by aphorism and anecdote.

The governor recalled a meeting with a community activist, years ago, who spoke about all that ailed his community.

After an hour, Baker asked the activist to tell him about something that worked in his community.

At Tufts, Albright praises students for activism

Madeleine Albright’s praise came as students carried out a quiet protest opposing a Tufts plan to cut janitor jobs.

Brandeis grads urged toward public service
“A very awkward silence followed,” he said, pausing for effect.

To this day, Baker said, it is “one of the most illuminating meetings” he has ever had.

There is, he suggested, a better way.

The governor cited a personal hero, the late tennis star Arthur Ashe, who remained positive during a fight with AIDS -- and became an advocate.

He also spoke of his own parents’ lessons.

He talked about his mother’s graceful fight with Alzheimer’s disease. At one point, he choked up when he recalled his father’s insistence that the family care for his mother, just as she had cared for her family.

Baker urged students to learn from failure, referencing his own loss in the 2010 governor’s race.

“Embrace the chance to learn from your mistakes and you grow up,” he said. “Miss that chance and you grow old - before your time.”

Baker received an honorary doctorate in public service before he spoke, bending his 6-foot-6-inch frame, to laughs, to be “hooded” by a much shorter presenter - a light blue sash hung around the governor’s neck.
Graduates watched as faculty filed in during Suffolk University’s commencement.

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Gov to grads:
Focus on what works

By ANTONIO PLANAS

Gov. Charlie Baker told Suffolk University graduates yesterday to “focus on what works” and don’t let failure derail them.

“Be constructive. Be positive. And try to focus on what works instead of what doesn’t,” he said.

Baker told nearly 1,000 students receiving undergraduate and advanced degrees from Suffolk University’s College of Arts and Sciences at the Blue Hills Bank Pavilion yesterday that how they deal with adversity will determine their success.

“Most successful people in life, they do fall,” he said. “Abraham Lincoln lost more elections than he won. ... We live in a time of 140 characters, where we tend to oversimplify almost every story, to make it fit into some short, clean narrative. But as you know by now, life is much messier than that. ... Embrace the chance to learn from your mistakes and you grow up. Miss that chance, and you grow old before your time.”

Baker choked up speaking about his mother’s struggle with Alzheimer’s. He said his parents have shown grace “even when the cards were cruel and unrelenting.”

“You start today as graduates of a terrific institution. Make the most of what you’ve got. ... And most important of all, focus on what works.”

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PHOTO FINISH: Student speaker Crystal Chandler, left, takes a selfie with honorary degree recipient and commencement speaker Gov. Charlie Baker at the Suffolk University commencement yesterday. Graduate Sarah Chasse, top, shows off her custom-designed mortarboard.
Prominent politicians and diplomats urged college graduates to engage in the nation's increasingly dysfunctional but still vital political life in a series of commencement addresses around New England on Sunday.

With concerns about police brutality still smoldering in Baltimore and South Carolina and a presidential primary heating up in New Hampshire, speakers said it was important for a new generation to take part.

"America faces daunting challenges: generational poverty, looming debt, a warming climate . . . and a world that is increasingly dangerous and tumultuous," Mitt Romney, the former Massachusetts governor and Republican presidential nominee, said in an address at Saint Anselm College in New Hampshire.

"Washington appears inept, powerless, and without an effective strategy to overcome any of those," he continued. "America needs your passion, your impatience with inaction, your participation in the political discourse."

The theme, public engagement, sounded from lecterns across the region.

At Tufts University, where students have been protesting plans to lay off janitors, former secretary of state Madeleine Albright praised graduates for engaging. While some people "simply shrug their shoulders," she said, Tufts students have made their "voices heard on behalf of the voiceless."

"You have stood up on behalf of workers, you have spoken out against the scourge of sexual assault, you have made clear that black lives matter, and you have pressed for action on climate change," she said.

Albright told the graduates they now must rely on guidance not from professors but from an "inner compass," a compass that will determine whether they become "a drifter, or a doer — an active citizen."

"All I see are doers," she said to the graduates, adding that "when I tell you the world needs you, I really, really mean it."

At Brandeis University, former ambassador Thomas R. Pickering acknowledged that a life in public service "will not provide a lavish living." But the rewards, he suggested, are great.

"Public service will bring you the opportunity to be part of a mission that has the greater good in mind, and the ability to advocate and make changes, and to support and improve the lives of millions at home and around the world," he said.

The pleas for public engagement come as the rewards of the private sector, which could seem so distant to twenty-somethings during the recession and halting recovery, suddenly appear more attainable.

Students at the Suffolk University graduation, held beneath the soaring canopy of the Blue Hills Bank Pavilion on the South Boston waterfront, spoke excitedly of the jobs they had already lined up.

"Oh, it's awesome right now," said Kimberly Boutwell, 31, who was graduating with a master's in interior architecture and has a job at a design firm waiting for her. "It's definitely been a lot easier than the grad.
uates the years before us.”

For 20- to 24-year-olds with college degrees, unemployment has dropped to about 7 percent. That is the lowest mark since 2008, the first full year of the recession, when it stood at 6 percent. And with millions of new jobs sprouting, the competition for each post is not nearly as intense as it was just a few years ago.

The commencement speakers, to be sure, talked about more than just public life Sunday.

At Boston University, television journalist Meredith Vieira spoke of being a "lost English major" during her senior year of college when she was offered a radio station internship that changed her life.

"So if you haven't found a job or decided on a career path yet, don't freak out," she said. "Don't let fear or frustration or the fact that others around you seem to be all set immobilize you."

It would be boring, she said, if the graduates knew where their journeys would take them. "Listen, you're terriers," she said, referring to the school's mascot. "When terriers go for a car ride, they don't know where they're going. They don't care where they're going. They stick their head out the window and let the wind rush over them and enjoy the ride."

But the public engagement message, nonetheless, was strong.

At Suffolk, Farm Aid executive director Carolyn Mugar congratulated graduates and noted they were entering an "improved labor market that rewards education." But she pivoted quickly, reminding the audience that those without degrees are in a more difficult position.

"Poverty is very real in our country, and the mass incarceration that began with the War on Drugs in the 1980s is a failed policy," she said, to applause.

Echoing the words of Pope Francis, she said "all of you graduates can bandage the wounds of others and heal the world."

And she urged graduates to get involved, even if they do not have a full idea for how they want to contribute.

"It may seem odd to suggest that you just jump in without deep consideration," she said. "Yes, of course it’s important to think ahead and to plan. But often the best thing is to just take that first uncertain step. Life happens when you make choices, when you take action. Get yourself to a place, take a stand, be present."

Governor Charlie Baker, who also spoke at Suffolk, made more oblique reference to the importance of public service.

But he offered up a bit of advice very much in line with the upbeat, fix-it governance style he has ridden to high public approval ratings in his first five months in office: "Be constructive, be positive, and try to focus on what works instead of on what doesn't."

The governor recalled a meeting with a community activist, years ago, who spoke about all that ailed his community. After an hour, Baker asked the activist to tell him about something that worked in his community.

"A very awkward silence followed," he said, pausing for effect. "There is, he suggested, a better way."

The governor cited a personal hero, the late tennis star Arthur Ashe, who remained positive during a fight with AIDS, and became an advocate.

Most of the speakers Sunday seemed intent on encouraging a new generation of advocates, whatever cause they might embrace or avenue they might take.

"Most of you probably won't run for office," Romney said at Saint Anselm. "But the country needs all of you to serve."

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‘Public service will bring you the opportunity to be part of a mission that has the greater good in mind, and the ability to advocate and make changes, and to support and improve the lives of millions at home and around the world.’

THOMAS PICKERING, former ambassador, speaking at Brandeis
Boston University graduates (above) celebrated during commencement ceremonies at Nickerson Field Sunday. Tufts University graduates (left) held up signs supporting the school's janitors during the commencement ceremony in Medford. A graduate listened (below left) while the National Anthem was sung during Suffolk University's commencement in South Boston. Saint Anselm College president Dr. Steven DiSalvo (below) helped Mitt Romney with his gown at the New Hampshire institution.
Names
MARK SHANAHAN & MEREDITH GOLDSTEIN

Gus Van Sant (left), Matthew McConaughey, and Naomi Watts.

At Cannes, boos and cheers for Mass. films

"The Sea of Trees," which "Good Will Hunting" director Gus Van Sant filmed around Foxborough last year, was not the big hit at the Cannes Film Festival over the weekend. In fact, it was booed. After Friday's screening for critics, Emily Yoshida, entertainment editor at The Verge.com, tweeted, "Gus Van Sants SEA OF TREES wins for the first Cannes booing I've ever witnessed. It was magical! (The booing. The movie was very bad!)

Star Matthew McConaughey, who was joined at a press conference for the film by his co-star Naomi Watts and Van Sant, said, of the reviews, "Anyone has as much right to boo as they do to ovate." Worth mentioning: The film did play better at its Saturday-night premiere.

"The Sea of Trees" is about two men who find each other in Japan's "Suicide Forest" at the base of Mount Fuji. Standing in for that site was Massachusetts's F. Gilbert Hills State Forest.

Faring better was Woody Allen's "Irrational Man," which was shot in Newport, R.I. over the summer. Critics were up and down about the film, which stars Emma Stone, Joaquin Phoenix, and Parker Posey, but Allen got a standing ovation at the premiere.

Emma Stone (left), Woody Allen, and Parker Posey at Cannes.
Lander, Kraft at Boys and Girls Clubs gathering

Model-actress Ricki Lander and her boyfriend, Patriots owner Bob Kraft, were among the VIPs gathered for a benefit for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston at Paul and Sandy Edgerley’s home in Brookline over the weekend. The event raised more than $3 million.
‘SNL’ spoofs Brady

Taran Killam portrayed Tom Brady during the “Weekend Update” segment of this week’s “Saturday Night Live.” The sketch poked fun at Brady’s charm, with Killam grinning at the hosts, telling them to call him Tommy, and saying, when pressed about Deflategate, “I do want what’s best for the team and America — and all of you,” to which anchor (and former Harvard Lampoon president) Colin Jost replied, “Ahem.” Killam also played Brady when “SNL” did a Deflategate press conference sketch in January. Meanwhile, the real Brady golfed with Michael Jordan over the weekend in the Bahamas.

Lauer trek begins

“Today” show host Matt Lauer (near left, with Michael K. Durkin, president of United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley), started his bike trek from Fenway Park to New York City on Sunday. He’s riding to promote Red Nose Day, a charity founded in the UK to support young people living in poverty, and is expected to finish May 21.

Clapps honored

Meredith and Gene Clapp (left) were honored with the Charles E. Roger­son Award for Community Service at last week’s Roger­son Communities’ 17th annual Welcome Home! cele­bra­tion. The Boston couple have worked to preserve Beacon Hill’s Beacon House, which provides affordable housing for the elderly and disabled. Friends of the Clapps at the gala included City Councilor Josh Zakim and developer Dick Friedman.

From left: John Nucci, Andrew C. Meyer Jr., Governor Charlie Baker, and Stan Rosenberg at Suffolk University commencement festivities.
Hosts Sean and Rachel Robertson (left) join host Milicent Armstrong and Brian Gault at the ICA's Party on the Harbor.

ICA's big night includes music by Bird

Musician Andrew Bird dazzled guests at the Institute of Contemporary Art's ICA Gala on Saturday night. The multi-instrumentalist singer-songwriter, whose sounds are paired with Jan Schneller's sculpture in the exhibition "Sonic Arboretum," performed for a group that included ICA director Jill Medvedow; writer Ben Mezrich and his wife, designer Tonya Mezrich; and chef Ana Sortun. After the dinner, the ICA had its big Patty on the Harbor, which was hosted by locals such as Harvard's Anna Raginskaya and Artemis Design Co.'s Milicent Armstrong. The night raised more than $950,000, according to the museum.

Honors and commencements

"Reading Rainbow," "Star Trek: The Next Generation," and "Roots" star LeVar Burton gave the commencement speech and was awarded an honorary degree from UMass Lowell over the weekend. Getting the same honors at Fisher College was Patriots captain Matthew Slater. On Saturday, Suffolk University hosted VIPs at its Commencement Dinner at the InterContinental Hotel. Guests included Suffolk's vice president of government relations, John Nucci; board of trustees chairman Andrew C. Meyer Jr.; state Senate president Stan Rosenberg; and Governor Charlie Baker, who was the school's Sunday commencement speaker.

"Pitch Perfect 2" on top

The ladies of "Pitch Perfect 2" hit all the right notes opening weekend, amassing a $70.3 million debut, according to Rentrak estimates Sunday. The Elizabeth Banks-directed sequel to the 2012 sleeper hit cost Universal Pictures only $29 million to produce and was expected to open in the $50 million range. The musical comedy stars Anna Kendrick and Rebel Wilson. George Miller's critically acclaimed "Mad Max: Fury Road" landed a distant second in its debut weekend with a solid $44.4 million. The post-apocalyptic film stars Charlize Theron and Tom Hardy. Holdovers "Avengers: Age of Ultron," "Hot Pursuit," and " Furious 7" claimed the rest of the spots in the top five. (AP)

Lynch returns to direct 'Twin Peaks'

David Lynch's exit from Showtime's revival of "Twin Peaks" turned out to be just another plot twist. Showtime confirmed Saturday that Lynch is back and will direct new episodes of the series, which originally aired on ABC in the early 1990s. Showtime's president, David Nevins, said Lynch and partner Mark Frost will even make more episodes than the nine originally planned. Lynch had tweeted in early April that he was leaving the "Twin Peaks" reboot because Showtime was not providing enough money. Terms of his return were not disclosed. (AP)
So long 'I just always have taken it for granted. Like, I still get to go back in six months and play her again. But not this time.' CHRISTINA HENDRICKS, in Los Angeles Confidential magazine, on saying goodbye to her "Mad Men" character Joan.
Graduation season is here. This doesn’t just mean an influx of families clogging city sidewalks and highways, however. It also means that some inspirational, influential, and entertaining leaders are doing their best to deliver tips to the newest members of the real world, one graduation speech at a time.

Here are a few who offered resonant advice, not to mention some decent one-liners.

**Madeleine Albright at Tufts University**

Albright stressed that the tests of college are over, but the test of real life continues. She explained that being a citizen of the 21st century involves a global outlook. She encouraged advocacy, humility, tenacity, and leadership, and she challenged the graduates to embody these characteristics.
In a quote...

“I insist that you also be a defender and an enricher of [liberty], employing your talents to heal, help, and teach — both here at home and abroad. I insist that you be doers, not just hearers. I insist that you put your opinions to the test, [and] when required, you dare — as Tufts’s motto suggests — to be voices crying for peace and light. Because your choices will make all the difference to you and to us all.”

Best joke:

“I arrived at Wellesley College about halfway between the invention of the Apple watch and the discovery of fire.”

**Neil deGrasse Tyson at UMass Amherst**

Tyson’s speech was really a list of “things you should know,” including the fact that GPA no longer matters (at all) and that science really does. The overall theme was an invitation to question everything from politicians (and the people who elect them) to America’s culture of surveillance.

In a quote:

“It actually takes effort to inquire about the truth of something. Effort!”

Best joke:

“Five books later, I get a letter — mail used to come in paper envelopes — I got a letter from the Educational Testing Service in New Jersey. They are the purveyors of the SATs. Just to show you the kind of grip these institutions have on us, I get the letter and say ‘Gasp! Was there an error in my SAT scores?’ I’m a full-grown adult reacting to this in this way.”

**David Muir at Northeastern University**

Muir used anecdotes about stories he’s covered. He described driving past families in the streets during Hurricane Katrina who shouted “We need help!” at himself and his cameras. He said at the time he felt deeply ashamed, but he later reflected that his reporting gave voice to those in need.
In a quote:

“I simply ask all of you here today to go out there after today, and help me report. Go out there, and discover the world that awaits, find the opportunities. Don’t forget to let others know about the people in need that you meet along the way.”

Best joke:

Muir joked about his hesitation to get off the bus on the first day of kindergarten. His bus driver walked him to the door, promising to drive him home if he really didn’t want to stay.

“I took a few steps into the classroom, and I remember the voices, the hive of activity already. And it wasn’t long before I decided, ‘This isn’t for me.’ I raced back to the doorway, and the bus driver was gone. She’d left me.”

Meredith Vieira at Boston University

Vieira talked through her career trajectory and encouraged the grads to take the first step, even if they couldn’t “see the whole staircase.” One of her strongest points encouraged graduates to be unique. She brought “the left shark” from the Super Bowl halftime show to underscore the importance of dancing to your own beat.

In a quote:

“How boring would the journey be if you already knew for sure the final destination? Listen, you’re terriers. When terriers go for a car ride, they don’t know where they’re going, they don’t care where they’re going. They stick their head out the window, they let the wind rush over them, and they enjoy the ride.”

Best joke:

“So when you take off your cap and gown today, I sincerely hope you have clothes on underneath.”

Gov. Charlie Baker at Suffolk University

Bringing an overall message of optimism, Baker spoke about his wife’s
positivity and his parents’ strength while Baker’s mother suffered from Alzheimer’s. He closed with an anecdote about world-renowned tennis player and AIDS activist Arthur Ashe, invoking the Grand Slam winner’s quote: “Start where you are, use what you have, do what you can.”

In a quote:

“Be constructive, be positive, and try to focus on what works instead of what doesn’t.”

Best joke:

“The State House doesn’t have Wi-Fi. The State House doesn’t have Wi-Fi! And we’re in the process of working to install it. But one of the things that came up in working with the legislators was, I said to them, ‘So what do you guys do?’ and they said, ‘We borrow it from Suffolk.’ So I want to thank Suffolk for providing that unique service to members of the legislature, free of charge.”

2015 Commencement Speakers in Massachusetts

UMass Amherst: Neil deGrasse Tyson, cosmologist and astrophysicist. Date: May 8th

David Gamble
Suffolk University commencement

Charlie Baker stands out in a crowd as he walks to the stage at the Suffolk University College of Arts and Sciences commencement where he was an honorary degree recipient and commencement speaker.

Chris Christie in Portsmouth, NH and Hudson, NH
Suffolk University commencement
Breakers 1, Thorns 0
Women’s Lacrosse: Loyola Maryland defeats Boston College
Red Sox banked by Blue Jays 7-0

Photo gallery: B.B. King - 1925-2015

Photo By: Arthur Pollock

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...are. >> and current governor charlie baker picked up an honorary degree at **suffolk university** where he was the commencement speaker. baker told graduates...

are. >> current governor charlie baker picked up an honorary degree at **suffolk university**, where he was the commencement speaker. he told graduates...
Emily Gillis overcomes physical challenges to graduate from Suffolk Law
WHITMAN — What would you do to make sure your child could follow her dream? Would you, could you, do what Joseph Gillis did?

The retired postal worker left his Maryland home to help his daughter Emily, who has cerebral palsy, make it through Suffolk University Law School. For three years, he wheeled her into a van, then onto the Red Line for the trip to Park Street. He took her to every class, got her settled at her desk, opened up her laptop, put her textbook before her, then headed to the library or the Frog Pond to wait for the changeover.

At the end of each day, he did it all in reverse, then cooked and did laundry so that Emily could hit the books.

Since she took a pre-law course in high school, Emily, 29, has wanted to be an attorney specializing in criminal law. Born with a form of CP called spastic quadriplegia, she has used a wheelchair since she was 3. She has little patience for those who think her disability defines her.

"Being in a wheelchair is part of me, but it's not all of me," Emily said, eating pizza with her father and a friend at her Whitman apartment on Wednesday. Among those other parts of her: her family, including her younger sister Kimberly, now 25, whom she tormented with gusto when they were kids; her beloved Baltimore Orioles; and her big brain. Emily was on the honor roll in high school and on the dean's list at the University of Maryland.

As an undergrad, Emily found plenty of friends in her dorm who could help her with basic things like eating and getting around. Her parents and sister — who lived 90 miles away — visited often to help out, too.

Managing law school, far from home, was more challenging, even though she has extended family in Massachusetts. She couldn’t get a personal care assistant for both home and school, so the family decided her dad would come up with her.

Joseph’s father had worked at the Baker Chocolate factory in Lower Mills when he was a kid, so Joseph knew Boston. More important, he knows what Emily means to him.

Neither Gillis likes the suggestion that they're doing anything remarkable.

“For me, it’s not remarkable,” Emily said. “I don’t want someone to sit there and say I’m inspirational because I got out of bed every day and went outside even though I’m in a wheelchair. I’d rather it be: ‘You’re inspirational, because you did something I’m scared to do, and you found a path.’”

Joseph will not entertain the notion that there is anything inspiring in his decision to uproot himself to help Emily through law school.

But it has to be hard. As Emily was starting at Suffolk, her mother, Mary, was diagnosed with cancer. Kimberly and other relatives have been her support network in Maryland during the academic year. She’s doing better now.

Joseph says he wasn’t bored waiting to ferry Emily from one class to the next, or during the nine-hour study days she put in at home. He read a lot of newspapers, stopped by Faneuil Hall, Paul Revere’s statue, or the Marathon finish line. He and Emily joke that he could be one of those tour guides in bloomers and tri-corner hats leading tourists around the historic sites.

“There’s a lot on the Internet,” said Joseph, who made it through every episode of “The Wire” and “The Sopranos” in the last few years.

The father and daughter spend a lot of time together. Do they ever get sick of each other?

“Mmm, hmmm!” Emily said, before the question was completed.

“We have little disagreements,” Jo-
seph added, chuckling, "where we don't talk to each other for a bit."

It will all be over on Saturday, when Emily puts on her robe to accept her degree. Her whole family will be at the Hynes Convention Center, beaming — not because she is disabled and did it, but because she did it, period.

"Any kid goes to college then goes to law school, you gotta be proud," Joseph said. "Jeez!"

Globe columnist Yvonne Abraham can be reached at yvonne.abraham@globe.com.
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<td>antoinette: good morning. it's 5:10. welcome back. it's a big weekend for college commencements. and one of the most inspiring stories coming right from a suffolk law graduate. emily gillis has had many challenges to overcome in her life. jim: our sera congi shows us, with the help of a devoted dad, she's made her dream come true. sera: a sense of pride for these law students as they graduate suffolk university. emily gillis: a lot of relief. a lot of relief. sera: emily gillis is glad to reach her goal, the journey little tougher than most. the 29-year-old has a form of cerebral palsy with only limited use of her hands and legs. emily gillis: i've had to juggle some obstacles, but it wasn't</td>
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showers/thunder, mainly in the afternoon. highs in the upper 60s. wednesday: dry, mostly sunny. highs in the upper 60s. thursday: sunny, dry. seasonal temperatures. 70. friday: partly sunny, seasonal temperatures.71 (by-3) covering new england... it's a big weekend to celebrate for students graduating college... but for a new suffolk law graduate -- it was a harder road. that's because emily gillis has a form of cerebral palsy -- and only limited use of her hands and legs. she says it was her father who helped her along the way. he got her to class every day for three years -- setting up her books and laptop... and then returning at the end of class to get her to the next. "if i needed somebody, i knew i could count on him." (john gillis/father) "its been a long road and she's worked hard." (emily gillis/graduate) "it wasn't easy, but i had a good support system." (by) dad says he's incredibly proud of what his daughter has been able to achieve... and says it's now time for the newly minted lawyer -- to get a job! (by) a boston city council

but it's an especially special weekend for one massachusetts law grad, as sera congi of our sister station wcvb reports. emily gillis has had many challenges to overcome in her life, but with the help of a devoted dad, she has made this dream come true. >> a sense of pride for these law students as they graduate suffolk university. >> a lot of relief, a lot of relief. >> emily gillis is glad to reach her goal. the journey a little tougher than most. the 29-year-old has a form of cerebral palsy with only limited use of her hands and legs. >> i had to juggle some...not used to." (nats) but this newly minted lawyer said her achievement was not possible without the help of her father. (john gillis/father) "i'm proud of her. we're all proud of her..." john gillis, a retired postal worker, took her to reach class every day for three years, setting up her books and laptop and then returning at the end of class to get her to the next. (emily gillis/graduate) "i needed somebody, i knew i could count on him." the pair would take the t to boston from their apartment in whitman. (john gillis/father) "its a long road and she's worked hard." (emily gillis/graduate) "it wasn't easy, but i had a good support system." a father and daughter team sharing today's proud moment. (john gillis/father) "it is a lot of work, she did the job, and now it is time for her to go in reason some money." (laughter)

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WPTZ-BUR (NBC) 5/17/2015 7:36:59 AM
Burlington, VT
Newschannel 5 Weekend Today
Local Viewership: 18,219
Local Publicity Value: $713.12

WILX (NBC) 5/17/2015 7:42:40 AM
Lansing, MI
News 10 Weekend
Local Viewership: 15,749
Local Publicity Value: $556.53

KFVS (CBS) 5/17/2015 6:45:23 AM
Paducah, KY
Breakfast Show
Local Viewership: 21,047
Local Publicity Value: $540.13

WTEN (ABC) 5/17/2015 7:48:59 AM
Albany, NY
News10 at 7AM
Local Viewership: 772
Local Publicity Value: $17.55

but for one woman in massachusetts, her story includes a very special and dedicated member of her family, who was with her every day to help her achieve her dreams. emily gillis is now a proud law school graduate of suffolk university... what makes her accomplishment even more special that she suffers from a form of cerebral palsy, giving her limited use of her hands and legs. graduation day was made possible thanks to the help of her father, who every day for three years, took her to each class, set up her books and laptop, and then returned when it was finished, to do the same for her next class. "it's been a long road and she's worked hard." it wasn't easy, but i had a good support system."
commencements. ... especially for a massachusetts law grad. emily gillis says she has had many challenges to overcome in her life, but with the help of a devoted dad, she has made this dream come true.

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held in the john c. foley fieldhouse named after james foley's grandfather, who taught and coached at the university. an inspiring story coming from this suffolk law grad. emily gillis has had many challenges to overcome in her life. newscenter 5's sera congi shows us with the help of a devoted dad, she's made her dream come true. sera: a sense of pride for these law students as they graduate suffolk university. "a lot of relief, a lot of relief." emily gillis is glad to reach her goal, the journey a little tougher than most. the 29-year-old has a form of cerebral palsy with only limited use of her hands and legs. emily gillis: i've had to juggle

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"I'm proud of her. We're all proud of her..." John Gillis, a retired postal worker, took her to reach class every day for three years, setting up her book and laptop.

**KLTV (ABC) 5/17/2015 8:50:44 AM**

Tyler, TX

Good Morning East Texas Weekend

Local Viewership: 14,153  Local Publicity Value: $673.65

A sense of pride for these law students as they graduate Suffolk University. "A lot of relief, a lot of relief." Emily Gillis is proud to reach her goal. The journey a little tougher than most. The 29-year-old has a form of cerebral palsy with only limited use of her hands and legs. "I had to juggle obstacles but it was not anything that I am not used to." But this newly minted lawyer said her achievement was not possible without the help of her father. "I'm proud of her. We're all proud of her..." John Gillis, a retired postal worker, took her to reach class every day.

**KESQ (ABC) 5/17/2015 8:25:42 AM**

Palm Springs, CA

Newschannel 3 in the Morning

Local Viewership: 2,559  Local Publicity Value: $464.50

The help of a devoted dad, she has made this dream come true. A sense of pride for these law students as they graduate Suffolk University. "A lot of relief, a lot of relief." Emily Gillis is proud to reach her goal. The journey a little tougher than most. The 29-year-old has a form of cerebral palsy with only limited use of her hands and legs. "I had to juggle obstacles but it was not anything that I am not used to." But this newly minted lawyer said her achievement was not possible without the help of her father. "I'm proud of her. We're all proud of her..." John Gillis, a retired postal worker, took her to reach class every day for three years, setting up her book and laptop and then returning at the end of class to get her to

**WDAF-KC (FOX) 5/17/2015 5:34:38 PM**

Kansas City, MO

Fox 4 News at 5

Local Viewership: 55,220  Local Publicity Value: $2,137.91

One law school graduate is especially proud this weekend. Her journey across the stage symbolized years of hardship overcome. 29-year-old Emily Gillis has cerebral palsy...and only limited use of her hands and legs. In a proud moment, she obtained her law degree from Suffolk University in Massachusetts this weekend. She says she couldn't have done it without help from her father. The two rode a train to the university in Boston every day for three years. Emily's dad would take her to each class and set up her books and laptop for her. Emily Gillis/Graduate "It wasn't easy, but I had a good support system." This father-daughter team finally got to celebrate all of their hard work.

**WGME (CBS) 5/17/2015 6:51:50 PM**

Portland, ME

WGME News 13 Weekend Edition

Local Viewership: 11,373  Local Publicity Value: $597.92

>> Dave would always go the extra mile for a laugh. >> This is a big weekend for college commencements, especially for one Massachusetts law grad. >> 29-year-old Emily Gillis graduated from Suffolk University it's a dream come true who suffers from cerebral palsy and has limited use of her hands and legs. >> She says her achievement wouldn't have been possible without her father who takes her to school every day and sets up her book and laptop in the classroom. >> If I needed someone I knew I could count on him. >> It's been a long road and she worked hard. >> It wasn't easy but I had a good support system. >> She said this is a proud moment for both of them and she can't wait to start her career.

**KHOG (ABC) 5/17/2015 5:57:06 PM**

Fort Smith, AR

40/29 News Sunday

The cause is... This weekend is a big one for graduations. For one Massachusetts law graduate it represented overcoming challenges. Emily Gillis has a form of cerebral palsy that limits the use of her hands and legs. This new lawyer says her achievement wasn't possible without the help of her father. >> It wasn't easy but I had a good support system. >> This father-daughter team finally got to celebrate all of their hard work. Scientists are keeping a close eye on a violent crime in

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This text is a composite of various news updates from different sources, covering the story of Emily Gillis, a law student with cerebral palsy, who graduated from Suffolk University. Her achievement was made possible with the help of her father, John Gillis, who took her to classes for three years, setting up her book and laptop. The story is a testament to perseverance and the support of family.
KOVR-SAC (CBS) 5/17/2015 5:15:49 PM
Sacramento, CA
CBS 13 News 5 PM
Local Viewership: 28,432
Local Publicity Value: $1,790.95

A sense of pride for these law students as they graduate Suffolk University. Emily Gillis is glad to reach her goal.

>> The journey a little tougher than most. The 29-year-old has a form of cerebral palsy with only a limited use of her hands and leg. >> I had to juggle some obstacles but it wasn't anything I'm not used to. >> Emily Gillis, a newly minted lawyer says her achievement was not possible without the help of her father. >> I'm proud of her. We're all proud of her.

>> Reporter: John Gillis, a retired postal worker took her to each class every day for.

KOMU (NBC) 5/17/2015 10:23:22 PM
Columbia, MO
KOMU News at Ten
Local Viewership: 23,262
Local Publicity Value: $3,670.46

(a nat) A sense of pride for these law students as they graduate Suffolk University. (no name provided) "A lot of relief, a lot of relief." Emily Gillis is proud to reach her goal. The journey a little tougher than most. The 29-year-old has a form of cerebral palsy with only limited use of her hands and legs. "I had to juggle obstacles but it was not anything that I am not used to." (nats) But this newly minted lawyer said her achievement was not possible without the help of her father. "I'm proud of her. We're all proud of her..." John Gillis, a retired postal worker, took her to reach class every day.

WGME (CBS) 5/17/2015 11:25:40 PM
Portland, ME
WGME News 13 at 11:00
Local Viewership: 6,833
Local Publicity Value: $531.36

Extra mile for a laugh. >> CBS News, New York. >>> It is a big weekend for college commencements especially for one Massachusetts law grad. 2 time-year-old Emily Gillis graduated from Suffolk University. She has limited use of her hands and legs. "I had to juggle obstacles but it was not anything that I am not used to." Emily Gillis said her achievement was not possible without the help of her father. "I'm proud of her. We're all proud of her..." John Gillis, a retired postal worker took her to each class every day.

WVNY-BUR (ABC) 5/17/2015 11:27:34 PM
Burlington, VT
Local 22 News
Local Viewership: 45,203
Local Publicity Value: $4,592.77

Christinea big weekend for college commencements....and here's one inspiring graduate. Emily Gillis has had a lot of challenges in life, but with the help of her devoted dad, her dreams finally came true this weekend. Sera Congi has the story. A sense of pride for these law students as they graduate from Suffolk University. "A lot of relief, a lot of relief." Emily Gillis is proud to reach her goal. The journey a little tougher than most. The 19 year old has has cerebral palsy with only limited use of her arms and legs. >> I had to