THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT WILLIAM DILL

October 2, 1981
TO THE CLASS OF 1982:

This year I have been simply another freshman, awed a bit by how well you seem to have your lives organized, and appreciative of how much your efforts and enthusiasm do for us all. You've demonstrated leadership, not only with your own projects such as the Babsonian, but in many other ways. It is a great experience to come from a college where competitive athletics is mainly jogging around the park to one where many of its intercollegiate athletic teams have qualified for post-season tournaments. We have only sampled a few of the campus events (much to your relief, I'm sure, for some occasions); but from the informality of Jane Kelley's inaugural reception and the zaniness of Superfight I, to the music of the jazz band and the elegance of the ball on Winter Weekend, we have enjoyed being with you.

As students, you have done well by Babson, and I hope that as alumni you feel that Babson has done well by you. We wish you the very best in the years ahead and look forward to your continued involvement in the activities of the College.

Sometimes this letter has been used for sober presidential advice about the challenges ahead. But I don't remember ever leafing through my college yearbooks for uplift and inspiration. If your families and professors didn't already have some impact, even casual attention to the media and to what you can observe day by day in the world around you tells you more about your future than I can possibly summarize here.

I would rather note that in much darker and more confused days than these, the depths of the depression years of the 1930's, the tone of the president's messages was one of optimism and encouragement. And the record of the graduates of those years -- including one who was honored with you at your Commencement last spring -- has justified that optimism.

Good luck!

William R. Dill
President